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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : *718* SAC, NEW YORK (92-632)

SUBJECT: TOP HOODLUM PROGRAM
AR

DATE: 9/27/58

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On 9/10/58, an anonymous caller contacted the NYO and advised that he had information of value to furnish to the FBI and wished to be interviewed by an Agent in the lobby of the Belmont Plaza Hotel, 49th Street and Lexington Avenue, NYC. The caller declined to furnish information as to either his identity or the nature of the information he wished to divulge.

On 9/10/58, SA RICHARD F. KEEFE contacted this individual at the Belmont Plaza Hotel, and the individual identified himself as being SEYMOUR POLLACK, 362 Washington Street, Hempstead, Long Island. *Cub3* *Wid* He advised he was publisher of the trade publication, statewide publishing company, Incorporated, 119 West Columbia Street, Hempstead, Long Island. It developed that Mr. POLLACK also contacted Mr. DANIEL MC MAHON, Chief of the Criminal Division of the US Attorney's Office, SDNY, and had arranged for Mr. MC MAHON to also be present during the interview at the Belmont Plaza Hotel. The following is the information furnished by Mr. POLLACK, concerning which, POLLACK's identity must be protected, and no dissemination should be made available outside the Bureau.

6 - Bureau — *2 ea Legats*
4 - Miami (Info) *Rome + Havana*
4 - Newark
2 - New Haven
1 - New York (92-660)
1 - New York (92-673)
1 - New York (92-674)
1 - New York (92-658)
1 - New York (92-687)
1 - New York (1379)
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FOR REVIEW AT FBIHQ BY
HSCA RE *428* REQUEST.
(SEE BUFILE #62-117290)

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N.Y. POLLACK resided in Monticello, NY, throughout his childhood and adult life until about 1954 when he moved to Hempstead, Long Island. At this time he became publisher of the Statewide Publishing Company, Inc., which was engaged in organizing and printing an annual building trades magazine. In July, 1957, POLLACK was experiencing some minor financial difficulty in this business venture and at this time was approached by one JOE GENNA and was asked by GENNA to meet two individuals in the bar at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, NYC, for the purpose of discussing a business transaction. He advised that he met these individuals who introduced themselves as being SALLY BURNS and GEORGE LEVINE. He had never met these individuals before and at the time of the meeting had no indication as to their background or business enterprises.

N.Y. It is noted ~~SALLY BURNS~~ is the main alias used by ~~SALVATORE GRANELLO~~, well known to the NYO and to the Bureau in connection with the ~~CARMINE DI BIASE~~ Top Ten Fugitive case. It is known that ~~GEORGE LEVINE~~ is closely associated with GRANELLO in mutual gambling interests in Havana, Cuba.
N.Y., Cuba

BURNS and LEVINE requested POLLACK to cooperate with them in setting up a Ready-Mix Cement business in Havana, Cuba. Their suggestion was that POLLACK "front" the enterprise, which they indicated would necessarily be successful due to political connections which these individuals had in Havana. POLLACK stated this venture did not ultimately materialize due to difficulties which arose in obtaining a second hand ready-mix plant from the United States. However, during the time plans were being made for setting up this business, POLLACK made three trips to Cuba between July, 1957 and November 1, 1957.

POLLACK advised that he made each trip with GENNA, and that on each occasion they conferred

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with GEORGE LEVINE, who at that time resided at the Hotel Rosita de Horanodo in Havana. On the first trip LEVINE took them to a proposed plant site and assured them that they would have no difficulty obtaining an option on this land or any problems during the setting up stages of the plant due to his excellent connections in the Cuban Government. On what POLLACK believed to be the second trip, LEVINE, GENNA and POLLACK arranged for corporation papers to be drawn up in order that the business could be instituted when they were able to obtain the necessary equipment in the United States. LEVINE assured them that he and SALLY BURNS would guarantee contracts from the Cuban Government which would insure a profitable operation. They expected 50% of the proceeds of the operation for the use of their influence in establishing this business. However, as mentioned above, the business never got into operation due to GENNA's difficulty in obtaining the correct equipment stemming from a financial problem on GENNA's part.

While in Havana on these three trips, POLLACK accompanied LEVINE to various gambling casinos in Havana and to the Oriente Race Track near Havana, which LEVINE told POLLACK he and BURNS owned. POLLACK remarked that the horse races at the track did not seem to be set up with the idea of a large profit being made on the racing end of the business, inasmuch as most of the races involved only a \$50 or \$100 purse. Instead, LEVINE indicated that they made their money from two gambling casinos, which they operated at the track site. During his visits to various Havana casinos, POLLACK advised that he met a large number of individuals who appeared to be connected with these casinos, whom LEVINE appeared to know very well.

POLLACK mentioned that LEVINE introduced him to an individual identified only as LEFTY CLARK, who was a pit boss in one of the casinos. It is noted that this individual is probably identical with WILLIAM BISCHOFF, with alias LEFTY CLARK, Miami top hoodlum. In addition to LEFTY CLARK, POLLACK advised that he met MEYER ~~LAN~~SKY and SANTOS ~~TRAFFICANTE~~, who was introduced as Mr. SANTOS.

Cuba According to POLLACK, on the last day of his most recent stay in Havana with LEVINE, POLLACK remarked that he and GENNA were waiting downstairs at the Hotel Rosita de Horanodo for LEVINE who planned to leave for the United States with them by air. According to POLLACK, when LEVINE failed to appear in the hotel lobby after a considerable wait, he left GENNA in the lobby and went up to LEVINE's hotel room to hurry him up. He advised that he walked in without knocking and LEVINE seemed quite upset about his bursting into the room in this manner. POLLACK stated that there were approximately six men in the room besides LEVINE, one of whom he recognized as the individual previously introduced to him as Mr. SANTOS. LEVINE referred to one of the men seated apart from the others as "JOEY A.". From subsequent discussion with LEVINE and from observing a newspaper photo, POLLACK advised that the individual referred to as JOEY A. was JOE ADONIS, well known NY hoodlum who had been deported to Italy in 1956.

Inasmuch as this Ready-Mix Cement deal fell through, POLLACK indicated that he had no further dealings with SALLY BURNS until a time which he believed to be in January, 1958, when he became in a serious need of money in connection with his business. In about January, 1958, POLLACK contacted BURNS and received a \$5,000 loan to be repaid in six months with \$1,000 in interest. \$2,000 of this loan

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was to be used as a deposit with the Telephone Company on a number of telephones installed at the Statewide Publishing Company, Inc.. BURNS stipulated that this deposit with the Telephone Company be placed in the name of ~~JOE QUAGLIARELLO~~, whom POLLACK came to know as both ~~JOE QUAGLIARELLO~~ and Little Joe, a close associate of BURNS. *NY*

In about February or March, 1958, BURNS contacted POLLACK and unexpectedly demanded that the \$5,000 loan and interest be repaid immediately. POLLACK told BURNS he did not have the money at the time and would experience difficulty in obtaining such a sum at the time. BURNS became very insistent and threatened POLLACK with a beating if he did not repay the money immediately. During the next month, POLLACK contacted close friends and from these individuals borrowed the \$6,000 which was repaid to BURNS in about four installments. After paying the balance of the loan, BURNS told POLLACK that he had decided that \$4,000 interest was owed on the loan in addition to the \$1,000 already paid. During the next three or four months, POLLACK paid the additional \$4,000 due to the threats and pressure exerted by BURNS. POLLACK advised that during the time he was repaying the loan and interest to BURNS, he was subjected to three beatings by BURNS and two of his musclemen identified only as BABE and CHICK. POLLACK said that two of these beatings took place in BURNS' apartment at 215 Mott Street, and the other beating took place in an unmarked office maintained by LEVINE and BURNS on the 20th floor at 40 Exchange Place, NYC. He stated he had no choice in his estimation, but to come to the instant address when requested to do so by BURNS.

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During the course of visits to BURNS' apartment at Mott Street, POLLACK related that he also became acquainted with a young muscleman referred to only as BUDDY, who appeared to be closely connected with BURNS. From POLLACK's description of this individual, he may be identical with BUDDY ~~COPPOLLA~~ known to the New York Office as being associated with GRANELLO. POLLACK added that during his visits to Mott Street, he often met BURNS and his associates in a small cafe located on the West Side of Mott Street near Kenmare Street, which seemed to be a regular hangout for BURNS and his underlings. According to POLLACK, during various visits to BURNS' apartment, he observed VITO ~~GENOVESE~~ in the apartment on one occasion, an individual referred to as TONY BENDER on another occasion and an individual referred to as JOHNNY B. and JOHNNY BATHBEACH on another occasion. N.Y.

POLLACK identified photographs of ANTHONY STROLLO and JOHN ODDO as the individuals referred to as TONY BENDER and JOHNNY BATHBEACH, respectively. He also remarked that on one occasion at a time when he had \$1,000 to pay BURNS on the interests BURNS claimed to be accumulated, BURNS, during a telephone call instructed him to drop off the \$1,000 with JOHNNY BATHBEACH at the Club 13 at Avenue U and 13th Street, Brooklyn, New York. POLLACK continued that when he appeared at the Club 13, ODDO introduced him to an individual referred to only as MINX or MINXIE. ODDO then left the club alone with POLLACK and directed POLLACK to a late model Cadillac automobile parked outside the club where he actually turned over the \$1,000 to ODDO. POLLACK advised that the above was the extent of his contact with ODDO.

Both STROLLO and ODDO are top hoodlums of the NYO. The individual introduced as MINX or MINXIE may be identical with JOE LIVOTO, wa., MINX, a close associate of ODDO. N.Y.

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Concerning STROLLO and GENOVESE, POLLACK related that he once accompanied SALLY BURNS to the Erb Strapping Company at what he believed to be 180 Thompson Street and upon entry into this company's office, BURNS inquired of a receptionist where GENOVESE was. According to POLLACK, she replied that Mr. GENOVESE was in conference to which BURNS replied to the best of POLLACK's recollection "To hell with him", and proceeded directly into GENOVESE's office. From what POLLACK observed, GENOVESE did not appear disturbed by this and BURNS and GENOVESE proceeded to converse in the inner office in a friendly manner.

POLLACK noted that at that time GENOVESE appeared to have been in conference with an individual referred to as being from New Jersey who he believed was called "Gyp The Blood" or RAY, and an individual referred to only as Johnny The Bug.

~~NY~~ POLLACK identified a photograph of JOHN STOPPELLI, with alias, Johnny The Bug as the individual referred to above. It is noted that STOPPELLI is known to the NYO as a close associate of STROLLO and GENOVESE.

POLLACK also advised that on one occasion when he was told to proceed to the above-mentioned unmarked office at 40 Exchange Place, NYC, that he observed VITO GENOVESE leaving the office as he entered. He advised that he had no conversation with GENOVESE, and that GENOVESE did not acknowledge his presence at the time.

Another individual POLLACK advised he met through contact with SALLY BURNS was a hoodlum from Greenwich Village referred to only as Joe The Wop

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and JOE C. POLLACK remarked that this individual appeared to own or manage TONY PASTOR's Night Club in the Greenwich Village Section, NYC.

NY This individual appears to be identical with ~~JOSEPH CATALDO~~, with alias Joe The wcp, who is known to the NYO as an associate of STROLLO and as the behind-the-scene owner of TONY PASTOR's night club.

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POLLACK related that a short time after he had completed his payments to SALLY BURNS, aggregating \$10,000, that he was contacted by BURNS and instructed to come to BURNS' apartment on a business matter. Upon arrival at his apartment, BURNS explained to him that he was taking over an interest in a New York night club, the Cafe de Paris, at 53rd Street and Broadway, New York City, a club featuring a big name entertainment policy. It was explained to POLLACK that LOU WALTERS, well-known New York City night club impresario, was in a financial jam in this club which he had opened, and BURNS told POLLACK that he, POLLACK, was to assume duties as front man in the club. According to POLLACK, when he complained to BURNS that he had no particular interest in entering such a venture, BURNS reportedly instructed him in no uncertain terms that he was to take the job that he had no choice in the matter. In view of the physical violence inflicted on POLLACK during previous contacts with BURNS and his group, POLLACK related that he saw no alternative but to follow BURNS' instructions. According to POLLACK, he served as manager at this club for about four or five weeks until the club folded and went into bankruptcy. During this period, he related that SALLY BURNS contributed a total of about \$13,000 to the operation of the club and he, POLLACK, figured he personally contributed close to \$30,000, which he had been able to borrow from close friends. When asked why he contributed his own money in a venture in which he had no choice at the outset, POLLACK explained that once he became connected with the club, he figured that if they could survive the comparatively slim summer night club trade, that he was convinced the club would be a success once the winter season began. POLLACK noted that the club featured such entertainers as BETTY HUTTON, JERRY LEWIS, and BOB HOPE. N.Y.

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POLLACK explained that while the club was in operation, BURNS gave the indication that the \$13,000 he contributed was as an investment in this venture. However, when the club went into bankruptcy, BURNS then informed POLLACK that he was responsible for the \$13,000 as a personal loan from BURNS to POLLACK, and thereafter, once again began demands on POLLACK not only for the principal \$13,000, but for exorbitant interest on this "loan," which to date amounts to a total of approximately \$16,000, according to POLLACK.

Though BURNS took no active part in managing this club, POLLACK remarked that he was often there during the evening hours as were some of his underlings, specifically, the individuals referred to previously as BABE, CHICK, and BUDDY.

POLLACK also noted that a part of the \$13,000 contributed by BURNS was raised in the following manner:

At a particular time when POLLACK was having difficulty meeting the payroll, BURNS instructed him to accompany JOE QUAGLIARELLO to New Jersey, where they were to pick up \$2,500 from the RAY previously mentioned as having been in the office of VITO GENOVESE on Thompson Street. POLLACK accompanied QUAGLIARELLO to New Jersey, to a roadside club where they met RAY who turned over the \$2,500 to QUAGLIARELLO. From POLLACK's description of his trip to New Jersey, and the layout of this roadside club, together with his description of RAY, a group of photographs including that of ANGELO DE CARLO, Newark top hoodlum, was exhibited to POLLACK. POLLACK identified the photograph of DE CARLO as the RAY who furnished the \$2,500 and as the individual from New Jersey he had previously observed in the office of GENOVESE in New York City. POLLACK stated that this was his only contact with DE CARLO.

The roadside club where this money was obtained appears to be the Martinique restaurant, operated by DE CARLO in Mountainside, New Jersey.

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POLLACK advised that following the closing of the Cafe de Paris, his only contacts with BURNS and his element have been at times when BURNS has demanded payment plus interest on the \$13,000 he put into this club.

During the discussion of individuals he came into contact with during association with BURNS, POLLACK mentioned that at one time during early 1958, while he was with BURNS at a tavern in Atlantic Beach, Long Island, an individual identified by BURNS as Mr. ORMENTO came over to their table and said hello to BURNS on his way out of the tavern. POLLACK noted that this appeared to be a chance meeting, and that there was no discussion between BURNS and this individual.

Subsequently, POLLACK identified a photograph of JOHN ORMENTO, New York top hoodlum, as the individual he observed in the above tavern.

POLLACK also mentioned that while in Havana, Cuba, on one of his visits to GEORGE LEVINE, that LEVINE introduced him to a casino manager identified as JOE RIVERS, with whom LEVINE seemed to be very friendly. It is probable that this individual is JOSEPH SILESI, with alias, ~~Joe Rivers~~, well-known gambler presently operating a casino in Havana, Cuba.

During the above interview, POLLACK furnished the following telephone numbers relating to SALLY BURNS and/or his associates:

Worth 6-1559

Residence of SALLY BURNS,
215 Mott Street, New York
City

Canal 6-9667

Cafe on Mott Street, where
BURNS and associates hang out.

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Greenwood Lake,
New York 7-2168

Telephone at summer residence
of SALLY BURNS.

Whitehall 3-9033

Located at office utilized
by BURNS at 40 Exchange
Place, New York City.

Walker 5-9389
GRamercy 3-9644
CAnal 6-4822

Telephone numbers at which
BURNS could often be located
when not at home. Location
unknown.

Havana, Cuba
BO-9655

Telephone number in Havana
where GEORGE LEVINE could be
reached.

CLoverdaly
2-9021

Residence telephone of JOE
QUAGLIARELLO, 1559 East 33rd
Street, Brooklyn, New York

New Jersey,
~~CHestnut~~ 1-0022

MICKEY ~~WEINER~~, lawyer utilized
by ANGELO DE CARLO

General 1-5508

ROCKY GRAZIANO, former boxer
said by POLLACK to be god-
father of SALLY BURNS' youngest
child.

BE 3-2592

Home telephone of JOHN ~~DE~~ MAO, N.Y.
who according to POLLACK is
employed in Purchasing Depart-
ment of City of New York, and
close friend of BURNS.

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POLLACK stated that he was furnishing this information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), inasmuch as he felt that matters had reached the point where SALLY BURNS and associates had no intention of leaving him alone regardless of the amount POLLACK paid to them. He feels that BURNS now feels he has POLLACK "hooked" and will continue to bleed him for money. He further advised that BURNS intimidated POLLACK will be subjected to further beatings and suggested that POLLACK's wife and three children might also be subject to inconvenience and mishap if POLLACK were to be "uncooperative." POLLACK further related that he expects to gain a one-third interest in the Victoria Acres Race Track at Winnipeg, Canada, within a couple of weeks. He advised that because of his familiarity with the construction business, and race track matters, he was called upon by the prominent people backing the track to give them advice and assistance in developing the track. For this, he was offered one-third of the stock in the track, which stock POLLACK expects will be issued within a couple of weeks. He advised that the track is for trotters and that there has already been approved by the Canadian Government. He advised the entire track transaction is entirely legitimate. From a portion of the proceeds of the stock from this track, he expects to repay SALLY BURNS a total of \$13,000 and clear up numerous personal loans.

On September 15, 1958, the records of the Credit Bureau of Greater New York, reflected that POLLACK has approximately ten judgments and suits pending in the New York City area for amounts of approximately \$200 or less with the exception of one judgment in Nassau County, New York, which is in the amount of \$1,559.50. All of these judgments were filed in either November and December, 1957, or May, 1958. The credit records further

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reflected that on November 12, 1957, POLLACK filed a voluntary petition of bankruptcy in the Eastern District of New York, in the name of the Nassau Advertising Agent, address unknown, in which he declared the instant firm had \$19,762 assets and \$188,292 liabilities. The records reflected POLLACK owns a home valued at \$18,000 and listed his employment as the Building Trades Council, 104 Perry Street, Trenton, New Jersey. However, the Credit Bureau determined that POLLACK was unknown at the Building Trades Council which is located at 151 Mercer Street, Trenton, New Jersey, and not at the address furnished by POLLACK.

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POLLACK again contacted the NYO on 9/12/58 and furnished the following information:

He explained that while attempting to make arrangements to leave town until he could raise the amount mentioned above, he contacted one LEO BLANK whom he described as a good friend who has various interests in trotting tracks in New York and Florida. He mentioned that BLANK was from Liberty, NY, and he hoped to arrange to obtain accommodations through BLANK in the vicinity of Liberty, NY, until he could raise sufficient money to get himself out of his difficulties with SALLY BURNS. He mentioned that if he is successful, he will probably be out of town for from ten days to two weeks.

N.Y.
POLLACK also mentioned during this contact that he had been in touch with one HARRIS ~~X~~ OSMAN, a friend of his who is in business in Orange, Conn., supplying traffic light and other traffic equipment to various communities both in New York and New England. He related that OSMAN, together with others, is presently attempting to obtain a New York State license to operate a flat racing track in the vicinity of Rochester, NY, and that OSMAN has been making use of POLLACK'S knowledge of race-track promotion in his attempts to obtain this license and set up the track.

POLLACK advised that he was to meet OSMAN earlier that afternoon, 9/12/58, at the Belmont Plaza Hotel in NYC and that when he was unable to locate OSMAN in his room at the above hotel, he located him in the restaurant in that hotel at a table with the individual he mentioned previously in this letter as "JOE C." or "Joe the Wop". It is noted that from information furnished by POLLACK this individual may be identical with JOE CATALDO, mentioned above. According to POLLACK, OSMAN proceeded to discuss the new race-track venture and it became apparent that "Joe the Wop" had a definite interest in this venture.

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N.Y. POLLACK added that also present during portions of this discussion was a young man he knows as JACK MAGUIRE (ph.) whose father is supposed to be a millionaire in banking and investments in NYC. Also present was an individual referred to only as LOUIE, whom the informant believed to be a Cuban.

N.Y. POLLACK related that OSMAN is dealing with a WALTER JEFFORDS, JR., in connection with this race-track venture, remarking that JEFFORDS' father is Chairman of the Board of the Greater New York Association which, according to POLLACK, controls all NY State flat racing tracks. POLLACK noted that WALTER JEFFORDS, JR., is connected with the Brooklyn Union Gas Co.

POLLACK also noted that OSMAN'S lawyer who is handling his interests in connection with attempts to obtain this license is an individual he knows as RED FRANCIS who has been identified to POLLACK by OSMAN as an ex-FBI Agent. *Carroll* POLLACK stated that FRANCIS maintains an office either in New Haven or Hartford, Conn.

Also in connection with past discussions with OSMAN concerning this venture, POLLACK related that OSMAN told him that the individual who would be most instrumental in obtaining the license is CARMINE DE SAPIO, well-known NYC political figure. POLLACK stated that OSMAN told him that DE SAPIO had told OSMAN to clear any negotiations on this matter through "Joe the Wop". *N.Y.*

POLLACK added that this new track has tentatively been named the Finger Lakes Park Association and OSMAN and associates reportedly have an option on a track site near Rochester.

POLLACK advised that OSMAN told "Joe the Wop" that they must get together again concerning this matter during

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the latter part of September, 1958. According to POLLACK, "Joe the Wop" replied that this would be impossible since he was leaving NYC for Havana, Cuba, on 9/27/58, and must be in Havana on the morning of 9/28/58 for a very important conference with SALLY BURNS and a number of other important people. "Joe the Wop" also mentioned that he expected to see a number of his friends in Havana at that time.

The NYO will attempt to identify individuals mentioned above in addition to determining the subscribers of telephone numbers furnished by POLLACK in an attempt to evaluate POLLACK'S reliability in his extensive discussions of his contacts with upper echelon of the NYC criminal element.

In connection with attempts to determine the reliability of POLLACK'S information, extra copies of this letter are being furnished the Bureau to be disseminated to Legats in Havana, Cuba, and in Rome, Italy. Legat, Havana, is requested to determine the subscriber to Havana, Cuba, telephone number BO 9655 which was furnished by POLLACK as a number in Havana where GEORGE LEVINE could be reached. Legat, Havana, is also requested to advise if information furnished concerning LEVINE'S residence and activities in Havana is consistent with information available to Legat, Havana, concerning his activities.

Legat, Rome, is requested to make appropriate inquiries in an attempt to determine if it was known that JOE ADONIS had left Italy and may have been in Havana, Cuba, during the latter part of 1957.

Copies of this letter are being furnished Miami in view of information concerning top hoodlums in their area.

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Newark is requested to determine subscriber of telephone number Chestnut 1-0022 which was furnished as the telephone number of one MICKEY WEINER reportedly a lawyer utilized by ANGELO DE CARLO. Newark is also requested to advise if it is known whether WEINER is associated with or has been utilized by DE CARLO.

Newark is also requested to advise if there has been any previous indication of an association between SALVATORE GRANNELLO, wa. Sally Burns, and Newark Top Hoodlum ANGELO DE CARLO. Photographs of GRANNELLO will be furnished separately to Newark in connection with this request.

New Haven is requested to identify HARRIS OSMAN, Orange, Conn., who, according to POLLACK, is in the traffic equipment business there.

New Haven is also requested to identify RED FRANCIS, New Haven or Hartford, Conn., attorney, who POLLACK states is an ex-FBI Agent.

It is noted that POLLACK came to the attention of the NYO in Sept., 1945, in a case entitled "SY POLLACK; BRIBERY". This matter involved an allegation that POLLACK was attempting to bribe certain U. S. Army Officials at Fort Slocum, NY, in connection with the outcome of a court-martial of one HAROLD SCHWARTZ who at that time was incarcerated in the Rehabilitation Center at Fort Slocum, NY. POLLACK was interviewed at that time and although he admitted receiving \$96.50 from the parents of HAROLD SCHWARTZ for his personal expenses incurred in attempting to intercede for HAROLD SCHWARTZ at Fort Slocum, he denied that there had been any attempt to bribe any officials. This matter was referred to the office of the appropriate U. S. Attorney in NYC who declined prosecution inasmuch as there appeared to be no violation in this matter.

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The above is the only reference to POLLACK in the NYO files.

A PCI case is being opened in the NYO, and any additional pertinent information from POLLACK will be furnished the Bureau and interested offices.