

#### 4.19.2

To: Jeremy Gunn

From: Kevin Tiernan

#### DEA Background

The DEA predecessor we should be most concerned with is the Federal Bureau of Narcotics under the Department of the Treasury. The FBN was extant from 1930 until 1968 when it was folded into the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs under Justice. In 1973 the DEA was created.

The FBN was the first Federal law enforcement agency to track a nationwide organized crime syndicate. As early as the 1930s its Director, Harry Anslinger, had his agents tracking the Mafia. Anslinger constantly promoted the idea of a national syndicate while others in the law enforcement community denied its existence. It was primarily the FBN which provided information to the Kefauver Committee. They were mostly concerned with narcotics trafficking, but they were in contact with the rest of the intelligence community. Sometimes the CIA even used FBN agents. And the FBN regularly shared information with Central Intelligence when something of political interest was discovered. Anslinger had known William Donovan from their days in the Diplomatic Corps during and after WWI.

FBN agents interviewed Jack Ruby in 1947 in connection with an investigation of Paul Rowland Jones. One of Ruby's brothers was also interviewed. They had met Jones through their sister Eva Grant. Both interviews are in the Warren Commission exhibits.

The Archives has custody of FBN records that date to 1940. The

other FBN records are held in the Records Center in Suitland, and we would have to go through channels at the Justice Department to look at them. The office at the Records Center has "135s" which are lists of series, and they would give us some idea of what is in the records.

As to the DEA, they must have some internal records which relate to the HSCA. Certainly there was contact between the two. And from that pile of RIFs which we got from Steve Tilley, plenty of records were referred to them in the summer of '93.

There are two contacts that might be useful: James Green is the Records Officer at Justice who oversees DEA and predecessor's records. His number is (202) 307-7712. The contact at the Records Center is Velicia Chance, and her number is (301) 457-7010.

All of my background information on the FBN comes from The Protectors by John McWilliams.