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Confidential

Investigator in Charge, San Francisco
Criminal Investigator W. G. Whitfield

Sept. 11, 1950

INV-1010 (SF)

Examined, approved and forwarded this 12th day of September, 1950.

F. L. MYERS

Investigator in Charge

The following report relates to the illegal activities, during 1943, 1944 and 1945, of a combine in Kansas City, Missouri, who, at that time, were allegedly engaged, on a large scale, in the dealing in and passing of counterfeit money, selling narcotics, and interstate transportation and sale of liquor which they had previously highjacked and rectified with cheap grades of liquor.

This information was received from an undercover informant, who, during a portion of 1943, 1944 and 1945, was a confidant of the leaders of this combine, and had first-hand knowledge of their activities. She has been assured that her identity would not be disclosed in any manner, and it is urged that this be given top consideration in any action taken on this information, due to the fact that leaders of the gang, in the past, made veiled threats against the safety of her young daughter. She fully believes that this danger still exists should the gang discover that she has exposed their activities. She appears to be a person of normal mind and intelligence and unprejudiced.

While it is realized the activities alleged in this information are several years old, the informant states that she is positive the Kansas City gang are still enraged in the same illegal activities as during 1943, 1944 and 1945.

The members of this combine, and their relationship to it, as disclosed by the informant, are as follows:-

THOMAS MANZELLO, also known as "Tommy", is partner of Peter and co-owner and operator of the "Jungle Club", 313 E. 10th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, "The Supper Club", located in the county, outside the city limits of Kansas City, and the "400 Club", 400 Grandel Street, St. Louis, Missouri. He also owns, or has an interest in the American Cab Company, the Woodland Cab Co., and another cab company, the name of which the informant could not remember. He is also engaged in gambling on a large scale, and maintains six or eight suites in the Pickwick Hotel, Kansas City, for that purpose.

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PETER RICHE, alias "Rich", also known as "Bully", who, in addition to the co-partnership in operations of the interests listed above with Thomas Manzello, handles the traffic in narcotics.

EVA WADDELL, operator of the "Devil's Den", 3675 Olive Street, St. Louis, Missouri. This woman alleges that she married an Internal Revenue officer for the purpose of insuring Federal protection for the gang.

JOE GALLUCI, an attorney, whose address the informant believes is 561 Cherry Street, St. Louis. The informant describes this attorney as very smart and very able.

LLOYD MILLER, also known as "Boots", ex-warden of the Missouri State Prison, is the pay-off man for the combine and makes frequent trips into adjoining states, including California, in the interests of the operations of the gang.

JOHN HUNT, disbarred attorney, at one time auditor and accountant for the combine. He is now believed on the "skids" from excessive use of liquor.

CHIEF OF DETECTIVES WILLOUGHBY of the Kansas City Police Department.

In addition to illegal operations in counterfeit money, narcotics and prostitution, the combine was engaged in highjacking Pendergast liquor trucks under the direct supervision and protection of Willoughby, who was often present, in person, when the trucks were highjacked. The gang maintains informants in the liquor warehouses to tip them off when the loaded trucks depart, and also truck drivers who spot the loaded trucks on roads for the highjackers.

The highjacked liquor consisted mainly of high-grade bonded whiskey, bottles of which were opened and partially filled with brandy, whereupon the bonded whiskey, removed from the original containers, was transferred to relabeled bottles. The cut whiskey was then recased and transported in large automobiles to Wichita, Joplin, Tulsa and Muskogee.

The informant stated that she was told by a member of the gang that the net income from the operations of the Manzello-Riche activities showed a net of \$85,000.00 in 1943, \$160,000.00 in 1944 and \$160,000.00 in 1945.

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The informant further stated that this combine is a part of the old "Tom Pendergast Political Machine", which machine they have now taken over and control, and that they do not, hesitate to throw thousands of dollars into political channels to elect local and national officials whom they can influence to protect them in their illegal activities. She further stated that she has seen

leaders of the gang distribute valises full of counterfeit money arriving from Eastern cities, to their agents, for distribution.

It is recommended that the foregoing be transmitted to the District Supervisor at Kansas City for his information.

W. G. Whitfield
Criminal Investigator

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