

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

DEPARTMENT OF LIQUOR CONTROL October 9, 1944

Mr. Jerome Walsh, Attorney Commerce Building,  
Kansas City, Missouri.

In re: State Supervisor and Tudie Lusco

My dear Jerome:

One of the first things I did on entering this office was to take a look "behind the curtains" for alter egos, commonly called by the Honorable ex-Senator David M. Proctor, "false faces".

I found the Lusco brothers, Joe and Tudie, both hoodlums, Tudie having been fined for keeping a bawdy house, hiding behind Frankie George, son of J. P. (John) George, at the Casa Fiesta on East 39th Street. Charges were filed against them and they quit without a struggle, like it is said in the good Book, "The guilty flee when no man pursueth, but the righteous is as brave as a lion." In fact, they gave me the name of a Lusco, who I did not know as connected with the place.

Tudie applied to me for a license. I sent him to Captain Tobener, but instead he went to the superintendent of field service, Captain Van Trump, who told him it would be okay. Tudie then went to Jefferson City, and he found he was not eligible for a license, having committed an offense against the prohibition law since the adoption of the 21st Amendment. Not being eligible himself, he got a permit in the name of his niece, Rose Barba. Previously, he had bought out Harry Boettcher. I refused to give Tudie a permit and license, even though represented by Jimmy Daleo. Rose is now running the place without the assistance of Tudie.

In re: Jungle Club. This place is a "clip Joint". It is run by Tommy Manzella of the old Chesterfield Club, and an Italian hoodlum, Bully Rich. Recently, one of the owners of the Pickwick chain, an old fool, came to the Pickwick. Seeking relaxation from business cares and worry, he sought the Jungle and Bully. Bully picked him a nice girl. He was nicked for \$650. Some say more. A confident on the police department gave me this amount as the correct amount. The girl has left town. The last reports were that she had not yet returned.

Your friend, Sheriff Richart, can tell you something about this joint. His deputy, Pat

Brennon, arrested one of the bartenders, an ex-convict, and caused the bartender to be sent to the pen at Jefferson City for taking a cattle man from the Jungle to Melody Lane (Mike Manzella's place in the county), where he was robbed of \$300 and his watch.

I revoked the permit at this "dive" for conducting a disorderly place, October 19, 1943. As you already know, this place is a resort of Boots Miller, Republican head of the penal institutions of Missouri, and Stanley Ginn, head of the state highway patrol department. My action was nullified by Judge Cook in the local circuit court by injunction and in which action, Manzella was represented by none other than Joseph K. Owens, Democratic lawyer, and fixer extraordinary from the 15th Street crowd, and his Republican cohort and fixer extraordinary(?) John S. Cannon, who loudly denounces Pendergast and all his works and pomp.

In January I refused Manzella a new permit for the new year, 1944. This was again nullified by Judge Cook.

The Republican state supervisor of liquor control under our two-Bible governor, has had the transcript of the record in this place (276 typewritten pages) since November 9, 1943.

Senator Proctor, eminent Republican candidate for various offices, and who helped try the case before me, and Brig. Gen. (state guard) Gambrel, former Republican chairman of the police commissioners, were going to go to the governor concerning this place.

Mr. Henderson, the state supervisor of liquor control, has never lodged any charges of any kind against this place, although he has had the transcript since last November. On July 4, 1944, the state supervisor issued to Tommy Manzella State License 602, for the period covering July 4, 1944, to July 4, 1945.

And yet the Republicans cry — Pendergast! Gang! Machine! Oh, yeah?

Very truly yours, Joe

JFK:B