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TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (29-31889)

FROM: *max* SAC, CHICAGO (29-1999)(RUC)

SUBJECT: JAMES RIDDLE HOFFA;
DOMINICK EDWARD BARTONE, Aka.,;
ET AL
FRA; Etc.
OO:DETROIT

R. L. Goffe

Enclosed for the Bureau, Detroit and Memphis are 4, 2 and 2 copies respectively of a letterhead memorandum containing information furnished by ROBERT C. MEISSNER on 2/18/64.

- 3 - Bureau (Encl. 4)
 - 2 - Detroit (29-1432)(Encl. 2)
 - 2 - Memphis (72-43)(Encl. 2)
 - 1 - Chicago
- GTJ:Jel
(8)

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REC-114

29-31889-222

ENCLOSURE

Criminal Division
Attention: Mr. Walter J. Sheridan
Room 2509

5 FEB 21 1964

C. C. Wick

*1 retained Spec Lab Desk
2/2-24-64. LK/Ker*

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58 FEB 26 1964

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Special Agent in Charge

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Chicago, Illinois
February 19, 1964

**JAMES RIDDLE HOFFA;
DOMINICK EDWARD BARTONE;
ET AL.**

Just
Robert C. Weissner, 312 Princeton, Hinsdale, Illinois, appeared at the Chicago Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on February 18, 1964 shortly after he had a brief meeting with Joseph Verhelle, in Chicago, and furnished the following information:

He has been talking to Verhelle by telephone on an average of two or three times a week for the past month or so. During these conversations, Verhelle mentioned that four people would probably testify for the defense at the Chattanooga trial of Hoffa and if these people testified he, Verhelle, would also probably have to testify. The testimony was believed to introduce in the Hoffa trial that the Justice Department would stop at nothing to get Hoffa, and as an example, would refer to the situation at the Public Bank of Detroit which was ruined by the fact that a horde of examiners came into the bank which caused Verhelle to leave the bank with the result that the inefficient new management caused the bank's downfall. Verhelle blames the Justice Department for ruining the Public Bank.

Verhelle mentioned today that a State of Michigan Banking Commissioner went to Washington, possibly recently, and visited the Justice Department and talked to the Attorney General and let it be known that he believed the Justice Department was carrying on a vendetta against Hoffa which, in turn, caused the persecution of the Public Bank of Detroit.

No identities of new potential defense witnesses were mentioned by Verhelle, however, Verhelle stated that it was decided that he now would not testify in Chattanooga.

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(JFIC)

Re: JAMES RIDDLE HOFFA; Etc.

Meissner got the impression, however, that someone will probably testify as to the Public Bank of Detroit situation to show that the government is going all out against Hoffa and it could be possible the above mentioned Banking Commissioner will be the person to testify.

JH He and Verhelle met with ~~Robert Cole~~, of the Chicago realty firm of Hogan and Farwell, in Cole's office, today, regarding the possible purchase of the Sinclair Building in Chicago. Cole told them that the New York Life Insurance Company could not take a parellel mortgage on this building, therefore, it appears there will be no further action on the purchase of the building by Verhelle or himself. Cole also mentioned a New York City building which he did not identify in which Verhelle expressed an interest and Verhelle is to recontact Cole in the next week or two. Verhelle also mentioned to Cole that if other properties having a good yield were located, that he, Verhelle, would buy them.

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