[redacted]

nonpublic source material

RE CHARLES "CHUCKIE" O'BRIEN (COB):

COB APPEARED ON THE CBS PROGRAM "60 MINUTES" ON NOVEMBER 7, 1976. HE WAS INTERVIEWED BY MORLEY SAFER, WHO INDICATED COB REMAINS A PRIME TARGET OF THE FBI INVESTIGATION. DURING THE PROGRAM, COB CALLED DETROIT SA JAMES C. ESPOSITO, THE AFFIANT ON A SEARCH WARRANT FOR JOSEPH GIACALONE'S CAR, A LIAR. COB CHALLENGED SAFER TO SET UP A LIE DETECTOR TEST FOR

SA ESPOSITO RELATIVE TO STATEMENTS MADE IN THE AFFIDAVIT AND IF DONE COB INDICATED ESPOSITO WOULD FAIL SUCH A TEST.

COB FURTHER STATED HE NEVER PICKED UP ANYONE IN GIACALONE'S CAR AND THAT IF HOFFA WAS IN THAT CAR "THERE ARE NO STEERS IN TEXAS AND TEXAS IS A BIG COW COUNTRY".

COB STATED HE DOES NOT KNOW WHO KILLED HOFFA.

[redacted] non-public source material

ON NOVEMBER 9, 1976, COB WAS INTERVIEWED ON A LOCAL RADIO TALK/TELEPHONE CALL SHOW IN DETROIT ON STATION WXYZ FROM 10:30 PM TO 1:00 AM. (A COMPLETE TAPE OF THIS SHOW BEING FURNISHED THE BUREAU UNDER SEPARATE COVER).

THE FIRST HOUR WAS A PRETAPED INTERVIEW WITH WXYZ REPORTER JERRY STANECKI, TAPED THE DAY AFTER COB WAS CONVICTED OF HIS TAFT-HARTLEY VIOLATION. PRESENT DURING THIS INTERVIEW WAS COB'S DEFENSE ATTORNEY, CLYDE B. PRITCHARD. THE REMAINING PORTION OF THE PROGRAM WAS AN INTERVIEW WITH PROGRAM HOST DAVID NEUMANN, WHO WAS SPEAKING TO COB BY TELEPHONE FROM FLORIDA. SEVERAL LISTENERS CALLED IN QUESTIONS DURING THE PROGRAM.

AT THE FIRST SEGMENT COB SAID AN EVIL MIND HAS CREATED A MYTH AND HYSTERIA ABOUT HIM. HE SAID HE DID NOT PICK UP HOFFA OR SEE HIM ON JULY 30, 1975. HE INDICATED THE FBI KNEW HE HAD TOLD THE TRUTH. HE STATED FURTHER HE DID NOT KILL HOFFA, NOR SET HIM UP AND FURTHER WAS NOT USED TO DO SO. HE SAID HE WOULD BE EXONERATED THROUGH TIME.

[redacted] COB STATED HE HAD INDICATED HE HAD BEEN SILENT UNTIL NOW BUT HENCE FORTH WOULD PUBLICLY SPEAK OUT ON HIS INNOCENCE.

[redacted]

ET. Non public source material

#

PLS HOD

FD-36 (Rev. 2-14-74)

FBI

Date: 11/15/76

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____
(Precedence)

[redacted]

Enclosed for the Bureau is one copy of a radio interview on Detroit Station WXYZ (ABC Affiliate) of 11/9/76. The interview was broadcast on the DAVID NEUMANN "talk-interview-call in" program. The program is aired from 10:00 PM to 1:00 AM. During the first half hour segment, NEUMANN took a call from their reporter JERRY STANECKI who had previously interviewed CHARLES "Chuckie" O'BRIEN. From 10:30 to 11:30 PM this pre-recorded interview was aired. From 11:30 PM to 1:00 AM O'BRIEN, by telephone hook-up from Florida, was interviewed by NEUMANN and several listeners called in.

[redacted]

Also enclosed for the Bureau is a copy of the CBS "60 Minutes" program interview of O'BRIEN by MORLEY SAFER broadcast nationally on 11/7/76.

[redacted]

(6)

REC-33 9-60065-2231

NOV 17 1976

"ENCLOSURE IN BULKY ROOM"

non public source material in brackets

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

55 DEC 3 1976

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 11/10/76

On November 7, 1976, CHARLES LENTON JOSEPH O'BRIEN, also known as Chuckie O'Brien appeared on the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) television network show "60 Minutes". He was interviewed on this program by Mr. MORLEY SAFER. This Agent taped this program from local Detroit CBS affiliate WJBK, on November 7, 1976.

The attached verbatim is a transcription of this interview.

Interviewed on 11/7/76 at Detroit, Michigan File # Detroit 79-359

by SA [redacted] Date dictated 11/10/76

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

60 MINUTES INTERVIEW

MORLEY SAFER:
...one name quickly comes up - Chuckie O'Brien - who legend has it was as a son to Jimmy and Josephine Hoffa. It's difficult to believe that O'Brien, raised by Hoffa since he was six, could have anything to do with the kidnapping of his own father but the suspicion persists. Jimmy Hoffa only a few years ago was the most powerful labor leader in America. He was trying to regain the presidency of the Teamsters Union when he disappeared. The theory, and it's still only a theory, is that Hoffa was kidnapped and murdered by criminal elements who feared his return to power. It must be remembered that whoever controls the Teamsters controls the two billion dollar Teamsters Pension Fund. Chuckie O'Brien like Jimmy Hoffa has spent his adult life in the Teamsters. The day of Hoffa's abduction he was seen in the neighborhood of the restaurant parking lot where Hoffa himself was last seen. Chuckie O'Brien is also a friend of two principle characters in the Federal investigation - two men it's been alleged Hoffa was to have met at that restaurant - Anthony Giacalone, a figure well-known to the Detroit underworld, and Tony Provenzano, a Teamster leader from New Jersey who had served time with Hoffa at Lewisburg Prison. And Chuckie O'Brien is also close to Frank Fitzsimmons, the present head of the Teamsters Union, and the man Hoffa was trying to depose in his bid for the presidency. It's no secret that Hoffa had accused O'Brien of disloyalty when O'Brien continued to support Fitzsimmons and thus Chuckie O'Brien has become a prime target for the FBI investigation. The FBI says that wittingly or unwittingly you had something to do with the disappearance of Jimmy Hoffa.

CHUCKIE O'BRIEN:
There is one Agent and his name is James Esposito. Uh, he wrote an Affidavit relative to the car that I had borrowed that particular day. Uh, I said publicly to you and I said publicly in Detroit I believe that it's, it's without a doubt he's a liar.

SAFER:
Let me just read what he says. He said, Esposito says "I feel that probable cause exists to believe that Charlies O'Brien (you) has used Joseph Giacalone's automobile to facilitate an abduction of Hoffa".

O'BRIEN:
Well again I say he's a liar and I say to you Mr. Safer that if you wanna set up a, a lie detector test with three of the best experts in this country and you can get Esposito to get on your show and give him a list of questions relative to his statements in that Affidavit and my statements where I was that day and where I was with that car, that I'll be willing and ready to do it anytime.

SAFER:
What you're saying is that at no point you went to the airport and picked up two or three men.

O'BRIEN:
Never happened, uh, that I ever picked up anybody in that Mercury and I say to you that if Jimmy Hoffa was ever in that Mercury there's no steers in Texas and Texas is big cow county and I wanna, and I wanna again say to you, you get Esposito and I together and you put on the lie detector test and I guarantee you'll see somebody flunk it and it won't be O'Brien.

SAFER:
Who killed Jimmy Hoffa?

O'BRIEN:
I couldn't answer that 'cause I don't know. If I knew, if I knew, if I knew and I cooperated, as long as I cooperated with the authorities, uh, we'd find out.

SAFER:
Will they ever find him?

O'BRIEN:
I don't know.

SAFER:
Jimmy Hoffa disappears that day, the next thing we hear is that Chuckie O'Brien disappears too.

O'BRIEN:
The first thing I did when I found out was immediately to call young Jim Hoffa. I said what's up? What's happening? And knowing him uh, uh my whole life like I have and realizing that he was under a terrible fear uh and never been involved in any type of pressure like that uh I said

look here's what you do. You go on out to the cottage, stay with your mom she's told me that Barbara was coming in and I said fine. I said where are your two children and where is your wife? He says they're here at the house because I had thought they were up north. I said fine I'll shoot from here out to your house, I'll stay with your wife and your children. Now if that is disappearing then that's a funny kind of a disappearing act.

SAFER:
Well why would young Jimmy, Jimmy Hoffa's son, his real son, why would he say Chuckie O'Brien's involved?

O'BRIEN:
Well at that point uh he, his emotions were running high and I said look Jimmy I said there are different kind of people that are gonna talk to you and there are people who are gonna accuse people and they're gonna say things. He continued to argue with me and he said I think you know more about this than what you're talking about. I said Jimmy I said I'm gonna pretend like I didn't hear that, I'm just gonna pretend like I didn't hear it and I'm gonna pretend like you're just tired. Don't start openly accusing people it's, it's not right. And what'd they say? I don't want you to come here. So I felt that uh at that point I was hurt and I kept it inside from the point that uh I just couldn't believe that uh someone who you devote your life to and your love could even start to think this way. And course I knew his mother didn't think that way because I knew that she was under physical strain because I don't think there was anybody closer to his mother than myself.

JOSEPHINE HOFFA:
Chuckie, he's here today and gone tomorrow. Could never find him when you needed him.

SAFER:
You say you're very close to the family and there's Josephine Hoffa at home distraught that uh, and yet when he disappeared you didn't show up to see her and when - I spoke to her and she said well you know Chuckie, here today, gone tomorrow.

O'BRIEN:
Well don't forget you were talkin' to uh, a fine lady who was under a tremendous stress and I watched her on your program and I think I know her well enough that uh, uh

within herself she knows that Chuckie was never here or never there because Chuckie was there at any instant that she needed me. I could stand up and face the world and I can know that I have paid my dues from my love and loyalty. Jimmy could never doubt my loyalty despite what certain individuals would like to slander us with.

SAFER:
Okay did you, did you help uh Jimmy Hoffa in his bid...

O'BRIEN:
Well...

SAFER:
to, to, to take over the Teamsters?

O'BRIEN:
The first place he couldn't take over the Teamsters - number one.

SAFER:
He believed he could.

O'BRIEN:
Well...

SAFER:
He said so publicly. He wants to, to be the boss of the Teamsters again. There's Chuckie O'Brien the loyal union man loyal to the new President Fitzsimmons, but is there not a greater loyalty to, to Hoffa, Hoffa the father, to Chuckie O'Brien? What does that do to you? Where do you feel that your main loyalty go?

O'BRIEN:
Well my loyalty, my loyalty as far as my loyalty is concerned is that my one obligation was to carry out what he asked me to do. He said I want you to do your job and to support Fitz one hundred percent. Which I always had done. But Jimmy got, really became obsessed with the idea that he could run and if you told him your thoughts about whether he could run or not and whether he was right or wrong this got him into position where he felt you know right away you, you weren't, you weren't agreeing with him so you, you have to be wrong. But I said to him what I felt and uh and my, what my thoughts were and you know there was just no way

and you know it, the media knows it, that he was gonna be able to run for the presidency of this union.

SAFER:
You know what still puzzles people is there you are the son of this man in every way, he disappears and instead of cooperating in every way possible finding out who did it you're out there protecting your own backside, you're there with Fitzsimmons and what people, what some people would say his friends in organized crime.

O'BRIEN:
Well me say to you. One - when you talk about Frank Fitzsimmons and his friends, that's an unfair statement to make. Fitz runs the largest union in the world the same as Jimmy Hoffa. You meet all people in this, this walks of life and this business and I'm gonna say to you how I feel if I had to deal with Kruschev to get my members a contract I'd deal with him.

SAFER:
There's a lot of things said and a lot of confusion really about your relationship with Jimmy Hoffa. Uh was it more than a foster son, were you like a real son to him?

O'BRIEN:
He was, could, was like a father to me. Uh there's no question about that. That he saw through me a son that was in the labor movement because young Jim was never interested in labor movement.

SAFER:
That be...

O'BRIEN:
My relationship was as a foster son. Okay? When he went away Morley, when he, when, even before he went away, one of the things he wanted to, to me to do was to think about becoming legally his step-son. Uh I thought about it for a long time and uh I told him fine, I'd be more than happy to do that.

SAFER:
Well that being the case that, that, that closeness uh, uh Hoffa disappears, you get called in front of the grand jury, and you take the Fifth Amendment, you don't want to talk about

it. It's your, your constitutional right but I would think that, that the, the forefront in the mind of a son was to solve the, the mystery of the abduction and the murder of his father. Now...

O'BRIEN:
Well for two reasons. Number one - and you can well recognize it because you're in the media - at that point the hysteria of the media, and I'm talking about the newspapers and et cetera was so rampant and so wild. Nowat this particular time you had an individual running these grand juries who was a crazy man. I mean he was running around, Ozer was running around you know threatening everybody.

SAFER:
O'Brien is referring to Robert Ozer, the U.S. Attorney who led the investigation into the Hoffa disappearance.

O'BRIEN:
And I went to Detroit on my own. They didn't have to come with me with a subpoena. I spent over nineteen hours with the authorities. Now if in spending nineteen hours with the FBI, the state police, and anybody that wanted to come into that meeting, if by me trying to cooperate and help if I was part of anything relative to the disappearance of Hoffa why don't they indict me?

SAFER:
Who would benefit from Jimmy Hoffa's disappearance? Frank Fitzsimmons, Chuckie O'Brien, Tony Giacalone, Tony Provenzano?

O'BRIEN:
No one, no one and I'm speaking for myself uh, who benefited? Uh, uh what, what, what, what created uh this terrible thing has created unfair, unrealistic publicity on innocent individuals. I mean it you know it's just like you know to me what they're doing to myself, what they're doing to Tony Provenzano, what they're doing to uh Frank Fitzsimmons and our organization is totally unfair to, to him and all of us. I mean it's just ridiculous. Nobody would tain anything. Who would gain anything? There's always been that outside force that have only one thing in mind and one thing only - to destroy the Teamsters Union because we are strong, our leadership is the best there is, we get the best for our members as far as contracts and conditions and you know

yourself what's being happened today uh to our organization is totally unfair and I don't believe that anyone really believes that the disappearance of Mr. Hoffa was created by anybody in this movement or the people that are being accused. Now you talk about Tony Provenzano, you talk about Anthony Giacalone, you talk about enemies. That's ridiculous. Listen I went to that prison for fifty-eight months. I went there and many occasions stayed with Mrs. Provenzano and her family, a wonderful family and again I say that it's the imagination of the wildest people because there were never anybody closer in that, in that institute than Jimmy and Tony Provenzano and you talk about Anthony Giacalone and people say well he's this, he's that and as far as I'm concerned I, people don't like what I say, as far as I'm concerned he's a fine family man, he's a friend of mine, he's got a lovely family and I think that he's being accused as well as Tony has been accused by a lot of accusations.

SAFER:
So what you're saying is that the government's harassing Chuckie O'Brien, that they're trying to, that they're saying privately that, that probably unwittingly Chuckie O'Brien had something to do with the disappearance of, of Jimmy Hoffa and all of this is really designed to make you crack.

O'BRIEN:
Well there's no question in what they're trying to do but you know unfortunately uh I was born of heritage of half being Sicilian and half being Irish. That's a tough combination in this world to, to really get it going because they both get together there's a lot of trouble. They're not gonna crack me. They're gonna hurt people I love.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 11/16/76

On November 9, 1976, CHARLES LENTON JOSEPH O'BRIEN, also known as Chuckie O'Brien, was an interview guest on a local Detroit radio program on WXYZ Radio, the ABC affiliate. The program was "The David Newman Show" which is aired from 10:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

The first portion of the program consisted of a "live" telephone interview by NEWMAN of WXYZ Reporter JERRY STANECKI who gave background of his earlier interview with O'BRIEN. Following the playing of this interview, NEWMAN had O'BRIEN on the telephone "live". He answered questions from NEWMAN and several "call-in" listeners.

The attached verbatim is a transcription of this program.

Interviewed on 11/10/76 at Detroit, Michigan File # Detroit 79-359

by SA [redacted] Date dictated 11/12/76

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

WXYZ INTERVIEW

DAVID NEWMAN:
Good evening and welcome to our Tuesday night program. It is Tuesday night isn't it Jim Murray? Yeah Tuesday night. First this cryptic reference. Fran are you listening? Fran of the Secretary of State's Office, that really was me. So much for cryptic references. No we proceed with more important business. In a half an hour or so we will play for you WXYZ newsman Jerry Stanecki's interview with Chuckie O'Brien who may or may not be a central figure in the Hoffa disappearance. Chuckie of course maintains he is not a figure in any manner, shape or form. This interview by the way by Stanecki even though it comes after O'Brien's innocuous and unsatisfying appearance on 60 Minutes Sunday night actually pre-dates the 60 Minutes interview with Morley Safer. I'm told that the Stanecki interview with O'Brien was in fact the first interview that Chuckie O'Brien has granted since the Hoffa disappearance. Now after this taped interview, at least the first broadcast interviews I recall there may have been a Detroit News interview. Anyway after this taped interview is aired Chuckie O'Brien will talk with us from his home in Florida. He has already agreed to that. So obviously to get the whole picture you're gonna have to stay with us for most of the show tonight. Once again, Jerry Stanecki's interview with Chuckie O'Brien begins immediately after the 10:30 news and after that Chuckie will talk with us live around about 11:35. In the first half hour of the program tonight we are open and we invite your calls and comments. The number to call as you probably know is 353-3030.

(Irrelevant)

We'll talk to I guess it's Jerry Stanecki, WXYZ radio investigative newsman. Jerry how are you?

JERRY STANECKI:
Fine. How are you David?

NEWMAN:
We are uh anticipating a conversation with Chuckie, Chuckie O'Brien that is, around about 11:35 tonight.

STANECKI:
I thought I'l uh just mention to you I, I was listening to the uh introduction of it. Uh this interview was done the day after he was convicted on the misdemeanor charge.

NEWMAN:
Yes which was couple weeks ago.

STANECKI:
Yeah about two and a half weeks ago.

NEWMAN:
Okay so this pre-dates the Morley Safer interview on 60 Minutes.

STANECKI:
Oh absolutely, absolutely.

NEWMAN:
So this is the first time that he has broken his silence for any length of time.

STANECKI:
Well it, it's, we have reported in the past year uh statements from him but not specifically his voice. Uh he's been in touch with me. Uh he's been very vehement in many occasions and uh and other occasions very angry at, at reports and publications and the stories written about him that he uh claims are total fabrication. And I said alright Chuckie put up or shut up. You'll have to excuse me 'cause I have a very bad cold.

NEWMAN:
Sorry to hear it.

STANECKI:
And he said uh okay we'll put up and he did, he showed up with his attorney Clyde Pritchard. Uh his attorney was present in the studio through the entire interview. Uh I wanted that, I specified that uh that he would not uh, uh put himself in a very precarious position but he still uh in the interview uh says some very interesting things. Uh for the first time he explains a lot of things and he is very convincing but uh there are also other parts of the uh interview that uh are contradictory.

NEWMAN:
Um hmm.

STANECKI:
It's a very intersting interview and I'm, I'm really anxious to hear what the listeners want to ask Chuckie O'Brienand they'll have their chance uh at 11:30.

NEWMAN:
Yeah. I, I, I have not heard the interview myself, all I have heard are little bits and snatches of it of course, the little bits and snatches that you played for me a few days ago in which I wrapped for promo purposes here at WXYZ. So I will be listening with as keen an ear if not keener an ear than, than anyone else 'cause I haven't heard it before.

STANECKI:
Yeah he's very clever including, including uh throwing you off show and he, he brought up the Time magazine ad and uh it, it revolved around a, a wiretapping, a Federal wiretapping whether it was legal or not and whether they were doing it or not. But uh shortly after Hoffa disappeared I flew to Tennessee uh to talk with Chuckie who was in West Memphis, Arkansas, and uh, uh a few weeks after I left the home of a friend there uh the Federal Agents showed up at the uh home wanting to know uh what conversations took place et cetera and et cetera. Now either they had to do that through toll call records from the phone company or wiretaps. I uh frankly suspect it was wiretaps not toll call records. And uh when I brought that up at Chuckie's says well I you know I took a survey, I showed people this Time magazine ad with your picture and I asked them would you let this man in your home? (Laughs) So he's very (unintelligible) uh he's very uh, uh put together. He's got his story down, down straight if it is a story and he may be just totally opposite. He may you know be, he may be completely innocent involved in this but somehow his name got into it.

NEWMAN:
Um hmm.

STANECKI:
Somehow uh Tony Giacalone's name got into it.

NEWMAN:
Well what do you think Jerry? Maybe I'm asking that prematurely. I, I, let me retract the question because...

STANECKI:
No I'l like to answer the question you asked. Uh I frankly don't know. Uh Chuckie O'Brien is very convincing.

NEWMAN:
Um hmm.

STANECKI:
Very convincing. I think that uh, uh I don't know if this is editorializing as a journalist and we practice it it's my own opinion.

NEWMAN:
Sure.

STANECKI:
No the opinion of XYZ. I think he should never have been convicted on the charge that he was in the misdemeanor.

NEWMAN:
Um hmm.

STANECKI:
And that strictly is a neophyte uh with the law but uh it appears to me that if he was convicted uh for allegedly taking, well I don't even have to say allegedly now, he was convicted for, for taking a gift of the car, uh they could convict him for taking a dinner, a cup of coffee, uh anything, any kind of thing that's worth an amount of money.

NEWMAN:
Well yeah I, I don't get the connection though. You are suggesting then that there is a pattern of uh law enforcement harassment directed toward Chuckie...

STANECKI:
They want Chuckie, the want Chuckie O'Brien badly.

NEWMAN:
Yeah.

STANECKI:
Want him bad. They feel they can squeeze him. I think uh...

NEWMAN:
And they're squeezing him with this misdemeanor case of which he is now convicted.

STANECKI:
Well that's part of it, sure. That misdemeanor case uh points in fact uh the authorities that I talked to, the U.S. Government, all told me and they were unanimous in their decision it should have never been an, an indictment. It should have been a point of information filed with the government saying blah, blah, blah, we have this which could be an indictment

but uh you know shouldn't be. Because you know it was, it was a move to force and to put pressure on O'Brien.

NEWMAN:
Jerry let me ask you a quick question I know you have to get back to uh, to get off the phone I should say you know because of your cold I don't want to prolong your you know your appearance on, on the phone and strain your voice. But uh it seems to me the whole business of wounded innocence...

STANECKI:
I'm sorry go ahead.

NEWMAN:
What were you saying Jerry?

STANECKI:
Said I'm not Dick Purtin.

NEWMAN:
Okay.

STANECKI:
He makes the big bucks.

NEWMAN:
Yeah I got ya.

STANECKI:
He's now working for peanuts.

NEWMAN:
Peanuts?

STANECKI:
Jimmy Carter.

NEWMAN:
Ah yes, yes he's working...

STANECKI:
(Laughs)

NEWMAN:
I'm lost. Anyway where was I going with that?

STANECKI:
You were gonna ask me a question.

NEWMAN:
About, about Chuckie O'Brien.

STANECKI:
Yeah.

NEWMAN:
He's convincing.

STANECKI:
Very much so.

NEWMAN:
And yet there are all kinds of contradictions apparently or implausabilities. Is it possible that he was set up himself, that he let his name and his closeness to the Hoffa family uh unwittingly and is able now to maintain a certain degree of wounded innocence because he was partly set up? You see what I mean?

STANECKI:
You're looking for the word betrayed.

NEWMAN:
Alright betrayed yeah.

STANECKI:
Uh I asked him about it. It's in the interview. Listen to it. Uh I can't get it out of my mind. Uh he won't admit to it.

NEWMAN:
Yeah but see by, by virtue of his being betrayed if he was betrayed that would involve his lying about it now. That's what I'm trying to say. So on the one end his wounded innocence is genuine in that he was wounded. On the other hand he's not so innocent because if he was betrayed he's not telling the whole truth about what happened on that day.

STANECKI:
If indeed he can tell the truth.

NEWMAN:
If he can tell the truth.

STANECKI:
You know?

NEWMAN:
What do you mean by that?

STANECKI:
Exactly what I said, If indeed he can tell the truth.

NEWMAN:
If he is allowed to tell the truth or if he is capable of telling the truth?

STANECKI:
Uh we were supposed to do this a long time ago and he had to search out permission.

NEWMAN:
Um hmm.

STANECKI:
To do the interview and when I pressed him on permission from whom uh he wouldn't tell me.

NEWMAN:
Yeah. Jerry thanks for talking with us. We'll talk later.

STANECKI:
Bye bye.

NEWMAN:
Thank you Jerry.

(Irrelevant)

Now Jerry Stanecki with Chuckie O'Brien.

STANECKI:
Chuckie O'Brien, described as a central figure in the Hoffa probe, the disappearance of Jimmy Hoffa, July 30, 1975. Why? Why a central figure?

CHUCKIE O'BRIEN:
Well I, I don't know the question why, question why to me has uh been very, very important in my, my everyday life since this tragedy happened. I just think that uh the imagination of a certain individual and today with the, the magic of um the media, magic of television, the magic of uh the writing press, I think that when an individual has a, a, an evil mind or thinks evil such as the individual who created this,

this myth of uh Chuckie O'Brien being a central figure, uh did what any script writer in Hollywood could do uh with a few facts and some people's names and uh I think that uh the hysteria that was created uh about myself uh got such attention from the press, that once it got started it's like anything else uh it couldn't, it, they couldn't stop it and uh imagination ran wild. Imagination ran wild with a lotta people. And fortunately again I say when that imagination runs wild you can think a lotta things and I still think that uh when it's all over with and the real facts are, are brought forth that myself as an individual will be completely exonerated from charges that are unfounded.

STANECKI:
Alright lemme ask you this now. Do you think that Hoffa is dead?

O'BRIEN:
Well that's a tough question to ask me because number one I've never given up hope uh that uh that he isn't. Uh as time goes on and uh and as uh the uh months pass, the days pass, uh I'll never give up hope. I, I'm just, just hoping that uh whoever created this instant or whatever happened to him that, that he is still alive.

STANECKI:
We know that Jimmy Hoffa is missing. He is presumed dead, uh missing since July 30, 1975. Allegations have been made that you were used to set him up, to pick him up.

O'BRIEN:
Well Jerry if you believe that then you oughta go out of this studio and get yourself a job on a dock because I feel that you have uh the ability as a street reporter and lotta more experience thatn I have and you know me and I think every person in this city that's ever dealt with me knows my affiliation with Mr. Hoffa. And I say it publicly for the first time because I've said it publicly before and nobody's ever printed it but before I would ever let anything happen to him whoever would do what they tried to do to him or whatever happened they'd have to do it to me first.

STANECKI:
I'll correct you. It was printed, it was printed in the Playboy article that I did.

O'BRIEN:
That's right. You did...

STANECKI:
Quoting you that you say you'd go first.

O'BRIEN:
That's right.

STANECKI:
Alright let's get down to the facts of the thing. The allegations around the entire disappearance, uh the allegations that you set him up, you were used to pick him up. What did you do that day? You haven't said publicly what you did. Did you pick Jimmy Hoffa up that day?

O'BRIEN:
Well the reason I haven't said publicly what I've done because I, I learned uh over my short span in, in life and I, I learned probably everything I, I owe uh as far as knowledge is to, to Mr. Hoffa, that when something like this happens he always said that if any tragedy happens or anything that happened is instead of running around beating your gums you should sit down and try to figure out what happened and try to find out how you get to the meat of the coconut. Uh, I volunteered uh if you're well aware to come to this city uh to talk to the authorities. I sat down and I talked with people who I thought were sincere and were doing a job not because of the name of Hoffa but because an individual had disappeared. I couldn't have been anymore thorough or more, anymore honest in the two appearances I made before those people and I say those people I'm talkin' about the FBI, the state police and a lieutenant from Bloomfield Hills and I tried to explain to him uh and to all of them as best I could what my movements were and unfortunately uh the trust that I, I put into the people that were interviewing me was a mistake because they weren't concerned about the truth that I would say to them that day or the following time I was interviewed by 'em but would misrepresent what I was saying, uh leak things to the press, uh in, in one or two sentences and not the total question to what O'Brien did that day and they know full and well that that particular day and they know full and well that particular week that uh I was in the process of, of moving to my new assignment. Uh I didn't have any transportation. Uh I was putting my schedule in a, in a position that uh, that uh I was getting a ride from where I was staying with some friends to my office and then after I got through with my duties at the office uh in the evening I would work out some type arrangement to get a ride back to uh where I was staying until I left the city. And unfortunately the, the,

the place that I was being picked up for probably a period of ten days happened to be the shopping center uh where Red Machus' Restaurant is and uh I think that with me being there if I were to said I was at uh at Twelve Mile and Telegraph at uh the Ramada Inn Drive-In I don't think that uh Chuckie O'Brien woulda had the type of publicity that uh was generated by me being in the particular area where they found Mr. Hoffa's car.

STANECKI:
Back to my question. Did you see Jimmy Hoffa that day?

O'BRIEN:
No I did not.

STANECKI:
Did you pick him up that day?

O'BRIEN:
I, I did not pick him up. If I had did, if I had picked him up uh Jerry and I say this to you and to the whole world, Jimmy Hoffa would be sitting in this studio today talking to you.

STANECKI:
Rumors and reports, allegations - Charles "Chuckie" O'Brien was used to set Jimmy Hoffa up.

O'BRIEN:
Well again I'm gonna say to you uh unequivocally as I said to the FBI and to the state police and if they don't believe Chuckie O'Brien then it's about time they go to a grand jury, they submit whatever I said to them and they should indict me.

STANECKI:
What did you say to the grand jury?

O'BRIEN:
I, I didn't talk to the grand jury.

STANECKI:
Why?

O'BRIEN:
For two reasons. I, I felt that uh I spent some total of nineteen, nineteen hours with the FBI, with that state police and with any other authority who wanted to talk to me and I felt that I was sincere and honest because at that point I

didn't have to talk to anybody. I coulda said to the FBI look I don't wanna talk to you and went about my business and rightfully under the law I didn't have to talk to no one, I didn't have to volunteer anything. And then after I did that and after I was subject to the, the type of press, type of television, the type of news writing and every journal in America writing about how I set up Jimmy Hoffa I was subpoenaed to a grand jury. Now I found out one thing about a grand jury - a grand jury are a bunch of citizens sitting there who know nothing about the law. It's to me like a Kangaroo Court. You go in there, you sit down, and you've got one prosecutor or two prosecutors representing the government and if you try to be honest with that grand jury the only thing that's gonna happen to you is that they're gonna tell the grand jury that you're a liar and that uh this, this individual whether it be myself or anybody else should be indicted because they broke the law under this section and the grand jury's gonna say okey we'll indict him.

STANECKI:
Did you borrow Joey Giacalone's car that day?

O'BRIEN:
Yes I did.

STANECKI:
For what reason?

O'BRIEN:
Well sitting in my office minding my own business I, I get a call on the intercom and girl said uh Chuckie can you come here a minute? I said yeah. I went outside and one of our drivers from an air freight company was standing there with this large huge box and it was dripping and uh I said what do you want? He said uh I have a delivery for M. Holmes. So I said well he's not here but I'll accept delivery. I said what's in there? He said there's a, there's a fish in there. So when I got this, received this box and signed for it I told Mr. Holmes' secretary I said uh what are we gonna do with this thing I said it's, it's startin' to get wishy washy I could hear the water goin' back and forth and I said uh, uh I guess we oughta take it to his house. So I called around, there was nobody available and the only thing that came to my mind is I knew that uh Joe being uh very close to me and uh office was maybe uh ten, fifteen minutes away. I called him and I said uh what are you doin'? He said well

I'm, I'm tied up I've got some meeting and so forth and uh I said can I use your car? He said yeah he said but uh you gotta bring me right back to the office drop me off. So he came over and as he, I looked for him uh from the second floor and he pulled up in front of the building and I started down the stairs with this large box and uh with water drippin' and red stuff was comin' out and it got all over my shirt, got all over my pants and you know you, it happen to you you'd say gee-manee Christmas ya know what's ya know how am I gonna get this off? So when I got outside he uh well I'll put it in the trunk. I said no let's put it in the back seat and I got some newspaper and, and put it on the floor and there's a hump in the car as you know in the back seat where the transmission is and the box was sitting that way. He said what's in there? And I said fish and uh he said oh okay and that was the end of that and I dropped him off and I then proceeded to deliver this fish to Bob Holmes' house.

STANECKI:
Okay you're at the Holmes' house now talking to his wife. What happened next?

O'BRIEN:
She opened the box and she said to me what am I gonna do with this thing? You know I looked in there and here's this great big salmon weighed about sixty pounds. I said well I said you know you're gonna have to cut it up and I, she said I'm not, I can't cut that thing up so I said well all the insides are out of it. I said just chop the head off and then make steaks out of it. So I took the head off for her and most women you know they don't like to fool around with the head of a fish and I took that off for her and I started slicin' it for her and she was wrappin' it and, and she said I'll put it in the freezer. That, that when I said well I'm gonna leave and I left. And after I...

STANECKI:
Do you know what time that was?

O'BRIEN:
Uh that had to be 1:15, in about that area there, 1:20.

STANECKI:
Alright.

O'BRIEN:
And when I left I said uh I looked in, in the car and I said God I got this car all screwed up in the back. So I took

the car and I went down Farmington Road uh or Old Grand River not Farmington to a car wash and I went took the car in the car wash and car was almost empty you know with no gas in it so I said fill it up and I said clean it out and I said clean out that back real good because I spilled some, some fish blood in the back of the car. And the car came through and uh I went inside and I talked to assistant manager of the, of the establishment uh, uh who I previously had known when he worked over at another Jack Car Wash and we were just talkin' about normal things and after the car was clean I left.

STANECKI:
Again what time?

O'BRIEN:
Oh it had to be quarter to two, two o'clock in, in that area there.

STANECKI:
Where'd you go from there?

O'BRIEN:
I made one more stop at the uh, at uh the Southfield Athletic Club and uh from there I spent maybe ten minutes, twelve minutes there and jumped in the car and, and shot down the expressway and uh brought the car back to uh Joe's office and he brought me back to the office, said good-bye to him and uh went back upstairs and waited for uh my ride to take me back uh to where somebody was supposed to pick me up in the evening.

STANECKI:
There's conflicting reports and the FBI claims that dogs out of Philadelphia, trained dogs found uh scents uh and traces of hair and blood that they believed belonged to Jimmy Hoffa in that car.

O'BRIEN:
Well I'm gonna tell you what I told the FBI. That if I could have one of their cars for a week I'd put it Adolph Hitler or I'd put Edgar J. Hoover in that car because I know one thing uh at no time did Jimmy Hoffa know what kinda car Joey Giacalone dro, drove and he never saw Joey Giacalone's car and there's just no way that Jimmy Hoffa was in Joey Giacalone's car period. And uh I don't care if they bring Rinny Tin Tin from Hollywood but they ain't gonna, they're

not gonna convince me, they might convince their ownselves but you know Jerry as well as I know that lemme have your car and if I wanna frame somebody I'll frame you.

STANECKI:
But for the record uh and I say for the record now the FBI did announce that they, they found or their test found that the, the substance found in there was not human blood.

O'BRIEN:
Well yeah sure they had...

STANECKI:
And then they backed off on it.

O'BRIEN:
They had to admit that there was no human blood in there because they knew, they knew themselves. Uh Jim Esposito in his wildest imagination knew that there was no human blood in there that it was fish blood.

STANECKI:
Of the FBI.

O'BRIEN:
Of the FBI. He knew that. He, he knew that I told the truth.

STANECKI:
Why do you think Hoffa was killed?

O'BRIEN:
I couldn't answer that question because there's so many crazy things that are happening in this world today as we're all well aware of it. Uh things that happen on spontaneous you don't know why. And I couldn't answer that question. I, I've thought about that for a long time Jerry and I couldn't under, I couldn't in my wildest dreams could ever say why would somebody wanna do harm to him because he never, he never did anything but good for people and uh he was uh as far as I'm concerned the greatest labor leader that uh this country will ever see for my lifetime.

STANECKI:
Rumors were on the street that Jimmy Hoffa was talking with the Federal Government spilling the beans if you will about deals involving the Teamsters Union and the Mafia, uh Vegas deals in return for a deal that would see a 1980 restriction dropped. Do you believe that Jimmy Hoffa was talking to the government?

O'BRIEN:
Never in his life. They know that, you know that, you've talked to that man and lemme tell you something. We all have faults but in, never in, in your life will you ever believe that Jimmy Hoffa would talk to the government relative to anything. And again that word that is used so much uh as far as I'm concerned and I think they're just about running out of uh out of wearin' it out I think it's been re-thread about 90 million times, it's the question of the Mafia and this and that and everything else because you know Jerry that the licensing that goes on the, the strict control of organ, of the, of gambling in Las Vegas uh you know uh it's about time somebody started saying that uh the hysteria is not there.

STANECKI:
Are you saying that the Mafia is not involved with the Teamsters Union?

O'BRIEN:
I'm sayin' it. I'm sayin' it and I don't know who the Mafia is but whoever, whoever you think the Mafia is is not involved with the Team...

STANECKI:
Well organized crime then.

O'BRIEN:
Uh organized crime's not involved with, with the Teamsters.

STANECKI:
Tony Provenzano.

O'BRIEN:
Tony Provenzano is a rank and file officer, he was elected by his membership, uh he was uh elected under the rules that the government has set up (unintelligible) and uh he's a hard, hard, hard uh working officer of the local union.

STANECKI:
Alright Tony Provenzano, his name has come up in the Hoffa disappearance, he allegedly was to meet with Jimmy Hoffa to settle some old grudge. Uh to bury the hatchet if you will. This the theory behind...

O'BRIEN:
I don't know, I don't know what kinda grudge they have. Uh, uh, I, I...

STANECKI:
They had a fight in prison.

O'BRIEN:
That's a lie, that's a lie. It's the biggest lie that ever came down the pipe.

STANECKI:
You don't believe that.

O'BRIEN:
Never happened. I went to that penitentiary for 58 months and never missed a time goin' there. I accompanied uh, uh Mrs. Hoffa there on every visit she went to and there were many times that uh as a family between Josephine, myself and Mrs. Provenzano or her three daughters. We stayed together at a motel, stayed there two days or three days so that, that they could visit their father and she could visit her husband for the three hours that they were allowed and the closeness that they had in that, in that prison and the closeness they had on the outside and to say that they had a fight in that prison is the wildest, ridiculous thing I ever heard.

STANECKI:
Well how did Tony Provenzano's name get into it?

O'BRIEN:
I think that again it goes back to imagination.

STANECKI:
Do you think that Frank Fitzsimmons had anything to do with the disappearance?

O'BRIEN:
Never, never.

STANECKI:
There was not good blood between Hoffa and Fitzsimmons.

O'BRIEN:
I don't believe that.

STANECKI:
What do you mean?

O'BRIEN:
I, I'm not buyin' that. I think there was a, there was a, a close friendship there and I think there were a lotta people on the outside that tried to turn the friendship or the closeness around to where there wasn't.

STANECKI:
Jimmy Hoffa by his own admission said he, that, that Fitzsimmons was a, a dirty double lying double crosser.

O'BRIEN:
Well I think that uh a lot of, a lot of the remarks that were made were brought on by, by anxieties and by uh, uh people who wanted to create a difference between two human beings who had been together for a long time.

STANECKI:
There's a theory, strictly a theory, that Hoffa was hit by a third party tryin' to make a power play so that it would look like Fitzsimmons was involved so the third party could move in to the power of the Teamsters Union. Is that so far fetched?

O'BRIEN:
I believe it's, uh I believe it's again the, the, the imagination of somebody's mind. Uh let's be honest with ourselves and, and, and I've, I've discussed this many, many times with, with uh, with, with uh Mr. Hoffa. Uh you know and I know and we all know that there was a restriction placed on him and uh there was no way that he could run uh for office as long as that restriction was there. Now you know that Jerry.

STANECKI:
But rumors were that the court was ready to overturn it.

O'BRIEN:
Well...

STANECKI:
The Attorney General of the United States sent a memo to the President of the United States saying he felt it was an unconstitutional restriction.

O'BRIEN:
Now which Attorney General of the United States you...

STANECKI:
Levi.

O'BRIEN:
Levi did?

STANECKI:
Yes.

O'BRIEN:
Uh huh.

STANECKI:
And Levi lady, later publicly denied that he did that.

O'BRIEN:
That's right.

STANECKI:
But he also said...

O'BRIEN:
Jimmy Hoffa never got a break from the courts at a higher level that I know of. We uncovered the FBI blatantly uh wiretapping, surveilling lawyers, uh bugging rooms...

STANECKI:
In Tennessee.

O'BRIEN:
In Tennessee.

STANECKI:
Right.

O'BRIEN:
And, and would we win? We had uh two weeks of hearing and the results were the motion denied, motion denied in the 6th Circuit and motion denied in the Supreme Court of the United States. So you know when they talk about uh, uh that Jimmy Hoffa was going to uh have something re, that was restricted on him changed. That'll never happen.

STANECKI:
What about all these people that all these names, the Briguglio brothers, Tony Provenzano, uh Fitzsimmons, the Andretta brothers? Uh why are all these names brought in? Why did Steven Andretta spend all the time in prison for not talking to the grand jury? Uh is this a goos chase or are these people involved?

O'BRIEN:
I think it, I think it is uh, I, I think that the, the situation of Stevie uh, uh the time he spent uh in jail I think that uh I think that it was done because of the, of the hysteria and I think he again took the position - I woulda

took the same position. I would not of talked to the grand jury. They coulda give me immunity I wouldn't talk to the grand jury and I would have probably been in the same place they were uh that, that Stevie went. Not because you had anything to hide but you wanted to protect yourself...

STANECKI:
What about the Briguglio brothers?

O'BRIEN:
What about 'em? One, one...

STANECKI:
Allegedly an enforcer for Tony Provenzano.

O'BRIEN:
Well that's again the imagination of uh uh, of of some writer. Everybody's an enforcer, everybody's a bodyguard uh, uh you know it just, it gets to be ridiculous at a time.

STANECKI:
Were you Jimmy Hoffa's bodyguard?

O'BRIEN:
He was my bodyguard. I had the best bodyguard in the world with him around. He never needed a bodyguard in his life. He always said one thing - when you need a bodyguard you got a guilty conscience. And uh, ya know, uh it uh it always stayed in the back of my mind. Uh bodyguard uh, well this ridiculous.

STANECKI:
Chuckie were you used?

O'BRIEN:
Never.

STANECKI:
Were you used to set up Hoffa?

O'BRIEN:
Never happen in a million years. They'd have to (unintelligible) me first Jerry.

STANECKI:
Do you think you are going to be indicted for the disappearance of Hoffa?

O'BRIEN:
Well lemme just say this. My imagination is gettin' as well as some of the press and some of the, the people who work for the United States Justice Department and I could say only one thing - that uh, that uh I do not uh put aside uh, uh somebody creating a wild uh indictment. I just got through being defended by Mr. Pritchard in the wildest indictment that I could ever dream of and I've been indicted four times as you're well aware of and all four indictments that I was indicted on I won and they were, they were brought down on me because I was part of the Teamsters Union because I was as close association to Mr. Hoffa. I wasn't indicted because of Chuckie O'Brien, I was indicted because I was close to, at that time and still would be and will always be to Jimmy Hoffa.

STANECKI:
What about the fact that Jimmy Hoffa, Jr. says that you weren't close?

O'BRIEN:
Well you know again I'm gonna tell you...

STANECKI:
You're highly suspect in the words of Jimmy, Jr.

O'BRIEN:
Listen I can understand, I can understand emotion and I think that young Jim has had a lotta time to think about it and uh I think that if question was presented to me uh again I don't think he would come down with a wild statement.

STANECKI:
But yet you told me that you thought he would be sitting there having a drink celebrating your conviction.

O'BRIEN:
Well, I, I said that because again you see uh...

STANECKI:
Then again they came out and said you weren't the foster son, that's a lie.

O'BRIEN:
Well listen uh you know what? It, it, it's, it's a funny thing in this world when people can deny a relationship uh that I had and still in my heart have with the Hoffa family. Uh Jimmy, Jr. and whoever in that family wants to say what

they wanna say, I know, I know what I've done in my lifetime and I'm not gonna never put myself in the position to take and say to you or to anybody publicly but my personal feelings are relative to that family. I think that belongs to me and it'll always stay with me and if Jimmy, Jr. wants to say something that's his prerogative. But he's the one that's gonna have to live with it. He's the one that's gonna have to get up in the morning and look in the mirror and he knows when he looks in that mirror that the things he said about Chuckie are really not true.

STANECKI:
He accused you of being a part of the disappearance of Jimmy Hoffa. Uh he made a (unintelligible) about you not taking a lie detector test. Is Jimmy Hoffa, Jr. beyond suspicion in the disappearance of his father?

O'BRIEN:
Oh I think so Jerry. I, I, I, I, to say that uh about Jim uh is ridiculous because uh Jim is his real son, his true son and as far as uh birth is concerned and uh he loved his father deeply and uh never uh never could that ever happen.

STANECKI:
Why did he deny taking a lie detector test?

O'BRIEN:
Well look at uh I'd, be like uh your son uh something happen to you and your son taking a lie detector test. I mean to somebody to pose that question to him is wrong. Uh I can understand them posing a question of a lie detector test to me and you know it's like I told you on the phone from Florida. Uh I gave Jim Esposito a challenge and I still keep that challenge open. If he wants to take a lie detector test relative to, to him saying Jimmy Hoffa was in that car uh I'll take one with him. And I know one thing. He ain't gonna pass it. No way will he pass it and uh I haven't uh heard the FBI or Mr. Esposito call me and say he'd take the test. He knows he can't take that test because he'd get perjury and you know the FBI's in enough trouble as it is now and uh I hate to see another Agent get caught with perjury.

STANECKI:
Back to the question. Do you think you will be indicted for the disappearance of Jimmy Hoffa?

O'BRIEN:
I've changed my mind. Uh, I, I, I, I happen to have uh, uh a lawyer who uh I have all the confidence in the world

in. Uh he's directed me uh to a point, Clyde Uh Pritchard has directed uh better than any lawyer I've ever had in my life and I've had some, some top lawyers with top names and to help me in, in different situations and Clyde has changed my mind uh tremendously because uh he explained one thing to me. There are some people that go to work and they take something personal. There are some people that go to work that are devoted to the law and to what the law means for the people in this country. I think that the Attorney General that's uh now here in office uh...

STANECKI:
The U.S. Attorney in Detroit.

O'BRIEN:
The U.S. Attorney in Detroit is a man who is taking a job for the people this, of this state and representing the United States Government, the United States Justice Department is not gonna be (unintelligible) or, or run through uh, uh a hysteria thing where he's gonna come down and sign a bunch of crazy indictments.

STANECKI:
Do you think if Phil Van Dam was uh the U.S. Attorney here six months ago you would have been indicted on the misdemeanor charge?

O'BRIEN:
I think that if uh, if uh what I read about Mr. Van Dam and I don't know him, I don't know hom personally but what I read about him and what he says about the law and what he, his application of the law is, I would say that he uh would have taken a, taken a closer look at the indictment, an indictment of law not of, not uh just an indictment to uh to put somebody in, in, in the, in the squeeze because it was a squeeze because I was told (unintelligible) uh a finger was pointed at me and he says I'm gonna get you.

STANECKI:
Alright so they're squeezing you, they're pushing on you, they're squeezing on you. What do they want from you?

O'BRIEN:
Well uh yesterday they got a pound. I don't know how much more pounds they want. Uh I'm on a diet and I'm uh, I'm tryin' to get as skinny as I can but uh, uh I don't think, I don't think that the United States Attorney uh Mr. uh Phil

uh Van Dam is going to allow somebody from his department to run into his office, lay down a bunch of crazy indictments and say this has gotta happen because it's true. Because I know one thing. Uh when you charge somebody with an indictment uh whether it be a misdemeanor like the one I had or a more, much more serious indictment you're not gonna do it out of hysteria, you're gonna take your time and look at it because to indict somebody and run 'em in a courtroom and then not prove that indictment is gonna be embarrassing on, on, on not only yourself but it's gonna embarrass the United States Department of Justice.

STANECKI:
Alright rumors out of the, out of the Justice Department they wanna squeeze Chuckie O'Brien, they wanna put the pressure on O'Brien because they think O'Brien has the answers to the disappearance of Hoffa. You are now facing up to a year in jail on a misdemeanor convic, convic, uh conviction. If you get that year in jail and they're gonna be pushing hard to get that year because they wanna squeeze you, the want you to talk.

O'BRIEN:
Well Jerry lemme ask you a question. If you spend nineteen hours with the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation, the state police and anybody that was connected with that investigation what more can I tell 'em?

STANECKI:
Then why are they leaning on you?

O'BRIEN:
Why?

STANECKI:
Yeah.

O'BRIEN:
Uh again it goes back to, to what I told you from the start. Uh something got rampant. They couldn't stop it after it got rampant and what the heck uh I was convicted yesterday of a misdemeanor but nobody I would say in the community unless they look closely at a paper would know I was con, convicted of misdemeanor. Everything that they said whether it be on uh the news media uh or uh on the paper was that, that it all wound up being something part of the Hoffa investigation. Uh chief uh, uh, uh chief...

STANECKI:
Central figure.

O'BRIEN:
Central figure whatever you wanna have in an investigation and I wasn't convicted because, because of myself as in, as doing something wrong. I was convicted because of the hysteria of the newspaper.

STANECKI:
Alright Chuckie rumors were that Jimmy Hoffa was talking to the government trying to make a deal. You say no way.

O'BRIEN:
No way.

STANECKI:
But if the rumor is on the street and the so called mob, the Mafia, the organization, whatever you wanna call it, if or if, if it doesn't exist, but let's say that organized crime in this country according to the senate committees and the government they profess it does. Now in their mind how are they gonna know that Jimmy Hoffa wasn't talking? The word was out it was a death warrant more or less alright? What about you? A central figure in the Hoffa disappearance. Are you afraid for you life?

O'BRIEN:
No I'm not afraid for my life. Uh...

STANECKI:
Is there somebody worried that Chuckie O'Brien may break down, may talk, may be a key to this thing?

O'BRIEN:
The only guy I can think about worrying about would be Esposito.

STANECKI:
Why?

O'BRIEN:
Uh he's uh he seems to think that uh I'm the key to the lock uh to this uh investigation and uh it's just notthat, it's just not true and lemme just say something to you Jerry about worrying. Uh you worry about uh all kind of things in, in this world but uh to worry about some harm comin' to you,

you'd have gray hair or your hair would all fall out in this business that I'm in because I've been threatened, I've been threatened by some pretty good people. I've had a house burned down, I've had uh all kinda things happen to me in my lifetime and if I was worried about uh about something happening to me I'd, I might as well pick up my tent and go out and get in a hole someplace and live there the rest of my life and I'm not gonna live that way.

STANECKI:
Alright reports were that you were hiding from Tony Provenzano. You uh hid out in Mobile, Alabama, uh you were laying low. What about these reports? Were you hiding out?

O'BRIEN:
No, the, I, I, I, again I, I don't like to be sarcastic about it but the, the day that they say I, I was hiding a very personal friend of mine was getting married. He happened to have probably five or six of the, of the uh Federal Bureau of Investigation office in Los Angeles come to his wedding.

STANECKI:
Now you're talking about the Bobby Adell (phonetic) wedding.

O'BRIEN:
Yeah. And if I was hiding the, the boss of the, the Bureau from Los Angeles and five or six of the agents were there, I was introduced to the, I sat down, said hello with them and, and uh, uh and, and enjoyed ourselves at the wedding so if I was hiding uh it's funny I got on an airplane and went to uh, uh to my wife's home in uh in West Memphis.

STANECKI:
Alright there's no question you weren't hiding there. What I'm referring to is a Newsweek report recently that, that you uh were avoiding Tony Provenzano.

O'BRIEN:
Oh I know what you're talkin'...

STANECKI:
At the convention in Vegas uh you...

O'BRIEN:
I had dinner with him and his wife uh and his uh, and uh, and uh some of his people one night.

STANECKI:
Well how in the hell could somebody report that you were hiding and avoiding the man?

O'BRIEN:
I don't know because I see, I see Tony Provenzano probably uh, uh one day a week uh, uh in Florida. Uh I'll either stop on a Saturday or Sunday and say hello to him, have coffee with he and his wife and his daughter. Uh so you know uh this thing about hiding is ridiculous. You know I, I read that uh article in the paper and, and the Time magazine and I couldn't believe it. I was on assignment in Louisiana and you travel and, and I think Clyde has traveled his lifetime and I rented a car from Hertz. So I parked the car at, at the hotel where I stay in, the Holiday Inn and you know crime is up in the United States, there's a lotta car theft. They stole my car. Well I don't tell the guy who steals my car, my rent-a-car, where to put the car after he takes the tires off of it. So he took the car and took the tires off and took the radio out and took the spare tire out and to all police report that was an abandoned car right? Well I called Hertz and I said my, I can't find my car Mr. Hertz it's been stolen. So they say well make a police report. So I called the Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Police Department and I said uh sir my car's been stolen in your city. It's a rent-a-car and here's the license number and here's the rental slip. Thank you sir. Uh I, my life don't stop because they stole my car. I had uh to leave, I had to leave the city uh to go to another assignment. I left the city of Baton Rouge. The next thing I know that uh, that I'm hiding in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, I did five television shows there because we had a campaign relative to the right to work law which passed there. I was involved with uh, uh national negotiations with uh, a large uh company uh that is in the process of making paper uh I met with their Vice-President of labor relations. Uh I spent four weeks there, now you can't hide in Baton Rouge when you're on television and I left there because uh I had another assignment and then I went home. Uh my wife's been, been very ill which you're aware of and I had to go back home because she was getting ready to go to Mayo Clinic. The next thing I know is O'Brien's car is abandoned in Baton Rouge and he's hiding. You know how do I change that? I mean I'm just one individual. How do you get Time magazine to turn that story around? I don't know how you do that. But I do know one thing - that uh I made my mind up uh over this last six or seven months and I only waited 'til this case of mine uh came to a conclusion that the people who talk about O'Brien better be ready to be sued because I'm gonna go after 'em now because uh I'm tired of my family being subject to the type of press that's been coming down from uh these uh weirdo magazines and uh publications

and uh I'm not putting myself in the process to, to uh start suing these people and let 'em step up and say now uh they separate the truth uh from the falsities and uh I'm gonna come out and I'm gonna start uh as Muhammad Ali said I'm gonna float like a butterfly and sting like a bee. And that's my intention.

STANECKI:
Alright. Uh several months ago the Detroit News printed a series of copyrighted stories uh of tape recordings, alleged tape recordings and buggings of the FBI of Tony Giacalone, reputed Detroit Mafioso enforcer and so forth and so forth. In those stories they made an allegation...

O'BRIEN:
Let me correct you in one thing about Tony.

STANECKI:
Reputed I said.

O'BRIEN:
You give him all the titles but uh I know him in my whole life as Tony and uh that's just the way uh I know him. And I don't know about all the titles you're giving him but I know him as a person, as a human being, as a family man and uh that's just the way I'm gonna talk about Tony as far as Tony's concerned. And uh I know what you're gonna talk about and uh I can say only thing to you is that uh I think uh I can't remember his name uh saw him yesterday on television, day before uh he said some right things about the Detroit News. Uh and I go along a hundred percent what Riegel said. They have turned that newspaper into uh an Enquirer because when they could put the kind of uh falsities that they put in the newspaper, to downgrade somebody and that's all it was. I, where were all these wiretaps?

STANECKI:
Alright so they...

O'BRIEN:
I wanna know where they're at. Give 'em to me. I haven't seen no wire...

STANECKI:
Alright they say, they claim in that that your mother was a good friend of Mrs. Hoffa, Josephine Hoffa.

O'BRIEN:
Lifelong friend.

STANECKI:
And your mother allegedly set Hoffa up for a burglary that Hoffa, that Giacalone was reportedly going to, to handle in Hoffa's Washington apartment. They said some, some pretty dread things about your mother.

O'BRIEN:
Well first, first of all...

STANECKI:
I know when I called you about it you said you couldn't talk about it publicly then because of the trial coming up. Uh now what do you got to say?

O'BRIEN:
First of all uh my mother's passed away and her soul rest in peace. And as far as I'm concerned she was one of the greatest ladies that uh the good Lord put on this earth. What the Detroit News said about her is, is a disgrace. Uh first of all it's kinda ridiculous to think that uh, uh someone is gonna rob somebody else and what they gonna, what, what's gonna be, what's gonna be gained by some type of robbery? And it just, it's so ridiculous that I wouldn't even waste the time to even try to talk about it because it's just so untrue. It's just...

STANECKI:
Well what is all this? I mean it keeps popping up time after time and uh again uh alleged Mafia members uh organized crime. Is this whole thing uh, uh, a, a conc, a conc, a concert to do away with the Teamsters Union?

O'BRIEN:
Well I'll tell you what. Uh they been singin' that song for the last 25 years that I know of and uh it, I guess it's a popular song to sing. I mean uh people like the intrigue. I, I guess, I wish I owned a piece of the Godfather, I, they did pretty good with that movie. And uh public and uh and the people that watch that kind of uh rhetoric I guess uh I guess it, it's somethin' that they like and uh you know right that's the popular theme. Uh who, who be next? I don't know.

STANECKI:
Alright. It was told to me recently that and also I uh right after it was told to me about a week later a uh story came out I think out of Miami uh a former alleged hit man in Chicago for the mob is writing a book and said that Jimmy Hoffa was hit because Jimmy Hoffa was the man that went to Sam Giancana in Chicago to set up a hit. The CIA reportedly is behind Hoffa's assassination.

O'BRIEN:
Well if they are they're, they're, they're a busy organization.

STANECKI:
Is that too far fetched?

O'BRIEN:
Yeah it, it's, it's, it's, it's uh James Bond I mean you know uh, uh they got enough problems to worry about the security of this country. They're not gonna worry about uh, uh, uh I think a person like Mr. Hoffa. Uh it, it, it's ridiculous.

STANECKI:
Hoffa allegedly went to Sam Giancana to set up the Castro attempt.

O'BRIEN:
Well if you believe that Jerry you'll believe anything. Uh I think that uh Jimmy Hoffa probably is a, is a patriot of this country was, was, is like that saying go - he was born American, uh he'll live an American, and he'll die American and uh it went all through his ancestory uh back to the time of the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth and uh...

STANECKI:
So if, if Hoffa was (unintelligible)

O'BRIEN:
Hoffa would never...

STANECKI:
By the CIA...

O'BRIEN:
Never...

STANECKI:
Saying that we need to eliminate Castro can you help us, would he?

O'BRIEN:
Never. Uh he would never get involved in, in, into politics at that, at that step.

STANECKI:
Did he know Sam Giancana?

O'BRIEN:
He probably knew more people in this country than uh, than uh the ordinary person because he dealt with all type of people.

STANECKI:
And as he told me when you're doing business in every part of the country you have to know what's going on.

O'BRIEN:
You deal with all type of people uh you know uh you deal with all kind of people, you meet kind of people, Clyde in his lifetime has dealt with a lotta people and you know that's, that's part of life.

STANECKI:
Why was Jimmy Hoffa murdered?

O'BRIEN:
I again say to you Jerry I can't say he was murdered. I can't say, I can't say that on this program or any...

STANECKI:
Why is he missing?

O'BRIEN:
I don't know.

STANECKI:
Why in your mind would somebody want to get rid of Hoffa?

O'BRIEN:
I told you before a long time ago Jerry I felt that uh, uh knowing him as well as I know him the, the things that he got involved in with prison reform. I told the FBI this and uh I could say it publicly. One of the things that bothered me was some of the people that he got involved with because you know in talkin' to him you know where his heart was. He had a heart as big as WXYZ's building. And I thought uh when this thing happened and I, and I said it then and I say it now that maybe somebody that, that came outta one of these institutes had an idea that uh if we grab Jimmy Hoffa uh and have a ransom note uh because he's Jimmy Hoffa he won't say anything and we'll do well with it. And I felt and I still feel very strongly that uh possibly somebody uh, uh that would think that way might have, might have tried to do something like that and uh, and then, then it got all screwed up and...

STANECKI:
You don't believe that organized crime is behind Hoffa's disappearance.

O'BRIEN:
I don't know who organized crime is but uh I don't believe that uh...

STANECKI:
You say the Mafia doesn't exist.

O'BRIEN:
I don't think it does. It's a word that's been (unintelligible) around pretty good. Uh it's uh it's a word that uh that it's, it's an (unintelligible) you know it's uh it's something that everybody likes to use.

STANECKI:
Organized crime?

O'BRIEN:
Organized crime uh is, is, is a different thing. You're talkin' about all types of uh crime and uh how do you place it? Do you place uh what's goin' on in the city of Detroit as organized crime with these uh you, youth gangs?

STANECKI:
If there is none of this in existence uh then why do we constantly hear about it?

O'BRIEN:
Well...

STANECKI:
People like Carlo Gambino, the godfather who just died. Uh people like uh Marcello, Carlos Marcello in New Orleans, Tony Giacalone here, Sam Giancana in Chicago, uh some of the people in Florida. Uh you mean their not members of organized crime or the Mafia?

O'BRIEN:
I don't, I, I don't know if they're members of anything but, but being a, a citizen and taking care of their personal business and, and taking care of their families uh like you and, and I and everybody else does and uh I'm not gonna buy all that uh, that uh who done it uh...

STANECKI:
Do you think you're a target of the grand jury?

O'BRIEN:
Do I think I'm a target?

STANECKI:
Yeah.

O'BRIEN:
I would say that uh that uh I'm like uh I'm like a bingo game where they put all the numbers in a basket and they mix 'em upside down and I think that uh that I'm in that basket yes.

STANECKI:
In your heart do you feel that you will be indicted for the disappearance and kidnap and murder of Jimmy Hoffa?

O'BRIEN:
No. Not as long as we have the type of uh people who have the authority uh representing the United States Justice Department that are here in this district now.

STANECKI:
Do you think that, that's fine to say but there's bigger (unintelligible) in Washington. We all work for somebody. This guy in town works for somebody in Washington. What if they say get O'Brien, squeeze him?

O'BRIEN:
Well they already got him.

STANECKI:
Well what if they say get him again?

O'BRIEN:
Well God bless 'em. But I'm not gonna worry about it. But I know one thing. The man who's in charge of this office here is not gonna sign some wild indictment because I think he's got the, from what I can read and, and hear about him he's got the type of guts that he'll say I'm not gonna sign that indictment. You sign it.

STANECKI:
You did not see Jimmy Hoffa July 30th, 1975.

O'BRIEN:
I wish I did 'cause he'd be here today.

STANECKI:
Did you kill Jimmy Hoffa?

O'BRIEN:
Never.

STANECKI:
Did you set him up?

O'BRIEN:
Never in my life.

STANECKI:
Were you used by someone else to do it?

O'BRIEN:
Never.

STANECKI:
You are not betrayed.

O'BRIEN:
Never.

STANECKI:
And you think when this is all said and done - do you think it'll ever be solved?

O'BRIEN:
Never.

STANECKI:
Then how can you be exonerated?

O'BRIEN:
Oh time takes care of a lotta things. Uh I think that uh when I get through with my law suits and uh and my civil suits as far as uh the law suits uh I think that I'll be able to prove to uh to the people who've been accusin' me that uh I'm an innocent uh victim. I have nothin' to hide Jerry. I could take a deposition with the best of 'em. But can they take a deposition, the people that have been writin' all this junk? I say they can't. Can Esposito take a lie detector test? He can't. He'd, he'd flunk it, and I don't want him to, to flunk that test 'cause I really say from the bottom of my heart I challenged Jim Esposito to take that test and he knows he can't take it and I've talked to three of the best, best polygraph test guys in the United States and they're available and they're willing to take him and myself and give us that test. And I think that's where it all starts at is it starts with Esposito 'cause he is the one that created this great myth that Jimmy Hoffa was in that car. I think once we clear that first step up then we go to the next step. But I know that Jim Esposito cannot take that lie detector...

STANECKI:
Do you think they'll ever find out what happened to Jimmy Hoffa that day?

O'BRIEN:
That's a, that's a question that uh I think everybody that's in law enforcement uh and uh everybody that who's concerned is hoping could be answered. I don't know. I don't know.

STANECKI:
Clyde, you're formerly with the government or the Strike Force, an attorney with the Strike Force. Do you think they'll ever solve the Hoffa case?

CLYDE PRITCHARD:
I think that as time goes by of course the chances are, get slimmer and slimmer. Unless something is, comes out or something is developed by, in the way of evidence then it will never be solved. I want to say that first of all Mr. O'Brien came here today at your request and um I'm not so sure that uh he should have done that but he wanted to voluntarily come here and to express his opinion about this matter of Hoffa and of the trial that he had yesterday. Some of his feelings are personal on his part and they're feelings that uh have developed through friendship through years and uh I have no way of knowing one way or the other uh the people that he's talked about of being uh good people, bad people, or what. That doesn't make any difference to me. Um I will say also that if there is to be an indictment it will be an indictment based on evidence but probable cause. I have told him that I don't think there'll be any wild indictments that uh it is my opinion that uh anybody that spends as much time as he did before a grand jury and uh with the FBI that they know everything there is to know, that he has given 'em everything there is uh to give. Uh and if they found no inconsistencies then if they indict him uh it's gonna be a frivolous indictment.and I don't think we'll see that. And I also want to state that uh Mr. O'Brien was actually referring to the head of the Strike Force previously who was recently released as being the one that promised him that he would get him.

STANECKI:
Robert Ozer.

PRITCHARD:
Yes. It wasn't Ralph Guy who was a U.S. Attorney.

O'BRIEN:
No. It was not Mr. Guy it was uh Mr. Ozer and it's not Mr. Anderson.

STANECKI:
Couple of other questions regarding the Teamsters in general. Uh I have been hearing for the last month to two months quietly on the streets that Frank Fitzsimmons is about to step down to retire. Fact or fiction?

O'BRIEN:
Well I, I'm on his staff and uh I've know Fitz as a boss, I know him as a, as a personal friend, I've known him my whole life. Uh that'd be a question that you'd have to ask uh Fitz himself personally. I have not heard it. Uh I have, was fortunate to attend our last convention. He accepted the nomination, he was elected and uh I know what he said in his speech uh that uh he had set out a, a, a program for the next five years for this international union and uh I just can't conceive that uh he's gonna retire.

STANECKI:
I am told that he's going to step down, retire, and name Roy Williams as the boss of the Teamsters.

O'BRIEN:
Well Jerry you know more than I know because uh, uh as far as I'm concerned uh, uh we have not heard that. Uh Roy is the Director of the central states uh and uh business is goin' on as usual and uh I have not heard either one of those rumors.

STANECKI:
Alright we've talked now for an hour about this uh - what do you, have anything more you wanna say about the Hoffa case, the disappearance?

O'BRIEN:
When it's all over with and the old man always taught us it'll all clear itself up. And when this thing gets settled down young Jimmy's gonna realize and he's gonna have to re-appraise uh some of his statements. I make statements sometimes uh because I, I lose my temper and after I say 'em I'm sorry I ever said 'em. Uh I mighta say somethin', somethin', somethin' here today that uh I can say to Clyde uh who, who's guided me pretty good these last few days uh because of a, I get emotionally get worked up uh when I see people that get on the stand and lie and I know that they're been frightened by certain people of the agency of the United States Government. Uh maybe I'll regret somethin' I said here today but really right now I don't think I do. Uh I may offended uh Esposito who works for the FBI. Well that's the way the, that's the way the chips fall. Uh I've taken him on because I've lost uh trust in him as an FBI agent because I was honest with him.

STANECKI:
You claim that you are a, are a target of, of harassment, of continual harassment by the FBI.

O'BRIEN:
I would say that uh I've seen a lotta harassment and I've seen a lot of uh pressure put on, on uh people in my lifetime in the labor movement. Uh lemme just say this. Because of me uh I've only done one good thing. I create employment. I've got more guys watchin' me wherever I go uh than a lot more people that uh, that uh would ever believe.

STANECKI:
Have you been wiretapped?

O'BRIEN:
Have I been wiretapped? Uh, uh lemme just say this. That's a, that's a question that uh is a very delicate question. Uh the government uh and the United States uh Supreme Court has come down with some tremendous rulings on wiretap. Uh we now as citizens of the (unintelligible) have a right to go in and say uh I think I've been wiretapped uh turn over the evidence to us. Uh we couldn't do that before. I been told in Florida there is a court order wiretap on my phone in Florida and a court order phone, on my, on my office phone. Uh I believe that's a true fact. Uh how much illegal wiretapping and car bugging is being done uh nobody know.

STANECKI:
Why do you say car bugging?

O'BRIEN:
Well it...

STANECKI:
Did you, did something happen to you that you feel that they picked up information out of a car?

O'BRIEN:
Well the only thing they can pick up is myself singin' some ole hillbilly song and my three kids fightin' about uh who's on first and uh and that's about the size of it. Uh or uh somethin' my wife didn't like I, I shoulda done and didn't do. But I do believe that uh it's goin' on and uh and it'll continue to go on uh as long as there's people that uh make that kind of equipment.

STANECKI:
It's interesting to note though that right after the disappearance when you flew to West Memphis, Arkansas, and I flew to Tennessee and we talked on the phone that within weeks an FBI agent showed up at a home in Tennessee asking what you were talking to Jerry Stanecki about.

O'BRIEN:
Trûe and you know I saw that ad of you, you, you have in Time magazine and lookin' at your picture I can understand why the FBI did that. I really do.

STANECKI:
You're not insinuating it belongs in a post office Chuckie.

O'BRIEN:
I've seen better pictures in a post office. And in fact uh I took a survey of your picture and I said would you let this man uh come in your home and use your phone if he said his car was outta order and I didn't get...

STANECKI:
Careful what you say about cars now. That one got you in trouble.

O'BRIEN:
I didn't get anybody to say they would let you in their house. But Jerry look I appreciate you, lettin' me come here. Uh you been on me for a long time. Clyde uh was, was a little nervous about me comin'. I gave you my word that when I got my case outta the way I'd come here as well as I've given anybody else because I've known most of you in the media for a long time. And uh I know one thing that uh I have nothin' to hid and now that my case is out of the way and we're gonna sit down talk about the appeal uh and uh do all the requirements that the government uh asked me to do through my lawyer and which was (unintelligible) report and so forth. Uh I'm going to come forth and, and take a stand uh to protect myself and my reputation uh as a, as a human being and uh and continue to fight and not give up the hope that uh that someday this, this terrible tragedy or whatever coulda happened isn't cleared up.

STANECKI:
Clyde?

PRITCHARD:
My only statement is and I, seems like I'm always coming back to the defense of government to a certain extent and I guess that's, and the reason I do that is because it has been my background and has been my training. I think that uh government does try to do a legitimate job. They try to investigate where they feel that they have to. Such as the Labor Department did in this particular case. Uh and I know Mr. O'Brien doesn't

begrudge those agents for the investigation that they did. Uh they have a legitimate right uh to investigate and a legitimate right to bring matters before a grand jury. Uh I submit, and it's not sour grapes although I am terribly disappointed in the, that particular verdict, but there was uh suspicion and there was uh, uh circumstantial evidence that and then that probability there was a crime committed but I don't believe that Mr. O'Brien was guilty. I believe that as much as anything I don believe. And I think the evidence showed that. There was never an intent to have the automobile given to him.

(Irrelevant)

NEWMAN:
That is our number. We are back now for the second half of the program and we are now live and we have on the phone with us from the Miami area as I understand it, Chuckie O'Brien. Chuckie how are you?

O'BRIEN:
Pretty good David. How are you doin' tonight?

NEWMAN:
It's been a long time. It's been an interesting couple of years.

O'BRIEN:
Sure has.

NEWMAN:
Since we last met. How have you been?

O'BRIEN:
Alright. Fine.

NEWMAN:
Uh I guess it's kind of a, a, loaded question.

O'BRIEN:
No I'm fine. Got my health and get up every day. That's what counts.

NEWMAN:
Okay. Where are you in Florida by the way?

O'BRIEN:
Oh I'm out in the uh I would say the western part of Florida out uh goin' towards uh the western part of uh the state uh oh just the other side of (unintelligible).

NEWMAN:
Um hmm. Okay. I assume that the reasons you've agreed to be on with us live after the taped interview is to further clear up the misconceptions about Chuckie O'Brien which have been circulated in the media and which you're very angry about. Correct?

O'BRIEN:
No question about that.

NEWMAN:
Okay so some of the questions I will ask you and these of course in addition Jerry Stanecki's will be reflective of the public insinuations about you and I want you to understand that those questions are being asked in that spirit for you to get an opportunity to clear up those misconceptions.

O'BRIEN:
No question about it.

NEWMAN:
Okay.

O'BRIEN:
Nothing, nothing wrong with this sys, that type of system and uh, uh when a person has an opportunity to uh be albe to answer a question honestly uh I think that's what makes uh this a good country.

NEWMAN:
Okay I'm glad you feel that way. Rumor one. A rumor was circulated that the job that you got in Southern Conference of the Teamsters was a reward for going against Hoffa and was a reward possibly for setting Hoffa up.

O'BRIEN:
Well you asked me two questions David.

NEWMAN:
Sure, yeah.

O'BRIEN:
Let's take the first one.

NEWMAN:
Okay.

O'BRIEN:
Uh as you're well aware uh I think you know by now and your listeners probably don't understand maybe the physical make-up

of uh our International. Being on the staff and the way we're, we're uh broken up into four parts uh of the country and the Central which is the larges, the Eastern Conference, the Western Conference, and then the Southern Conference. Uh back in the past I had been given some assignments uh, uh in the south uh in the Tennessee - Georgia area and I, I liked it very much and uh as I said uh earlier I think I don't know if you recall in the interview that I do like to get out in the field and uh and work out in the field. Uh I was looking for an opportunity to get into an area that was relatively uh oh a challenge uh as far as uh as, as (unintelligible) of an organizer.

NEWMAN:
Um hmm.

O'BRIEN:
I think we're all aware of the need for organizational uh efforts in the south and uh I thought about uh about tryin' to go to work down there. I had a good friend of mine who became the Director of the Southern Conference uh who was a International organizer on the staff with me.

NEWMAN:
How long before July 30th, 1975 did that...

O'BRIEN:
About two years. Uh I, he asked me if I, ya know, he asked me in oh I think in 1971 uh if I was interested in coming into the area and working in the area at that particular time.

NEWMAN:
Um hmm.

O'BRIEN:
And I told him I wanted to think about it uh I had uh, uh gotten back with uh the young lady who uh, uh came into my life uh a few years ago and uh then well got outta my life from the standpoint uh timing and I guess everything that when it comes to romance didn't work out.

NEWMAN:
Um hmm.

O'BRIEN:
And he, she came back into my life and uh being a southern girl coming from Arkansas uh it gave me quite a bit of incentive to you know wanna try to go into a new area and, and

uh knowing that one of the things that uh would make it uh a good all around thing for myself and her was this, I could go into that area and knowing that uh at that particular time - you see in '71 the Southern Conference had about oh maybe five or six, I think seven at the time, uh organizers that were in the position to retire within uh a period of a year uh or a year and a half and there were going to be some openings in, in uh, in the Southern Conference and especially in the one area that I wanted to get into.

NEWMAN:
Right.

O'BRIEN:
And uh it just, everything just happened to just start fallin' that way and uh I got engaged and uh and had the opportunity to get asked if I wanted to come back down there. I think it was in November, October, let's see I think October uh or November of '72 uh at a meeting in Chicago uh when I had an opportunity I was approached to whether I, whether or not uh I'd still like to come back uh and go to work in that particular conference.

NEWMAN:
This is a good two and a half years before Hoffa's disappearance. Okay I, we've established now that you have the desire.

O'BRIEN:
One of the things that I was really waiting for I think uh, uh I said previously uh, uh is that uh, uh I was waiting for him to, to come home and uh you know be released from prison and uh get back to his family and then that would uh give me an opportunity to make a decision uh (unintelligible) to the conference.

NEWMAN:
Alright now lemme understand this. You expressed a desire, this is something that you wanted but part of it in your own mind as far as your own full fledged desire was concerned was conditional on Jimmy Hoffa's getting out and showing some direction one way or another.

O'BRIEN:
No I think uh, I think really in my mind was him coming home and be able to take care of uh, uh his, his duties uh run his household and uh and being with Josephine uh being there full-time uh that's uh that was uh my main interest and always was uh my main interest that uh I wouldn't make that decision until uh, until uh he did come home because...

NEWMAN:
Chuckie is there something on paper that said before Hoffa disappeared a, a document dating from before Hoffa's disappearance that says conclusively the job in the Southern Conference of Teamsters is yours if you want it.

O'BRIEN:
Mm, you mean uh written uh, uh in a, in a, in a paper no. It...

NEWMAN:
In other words proof.

O'BRIEN:
No.

NEWMAN:
That you were not rewarded in some way.

O'BRIEN:
It was, most of these are transfers and a, and a, uh and an opportunity to transfer's never done on paper. You find out, lotta guys saw that there's an opening and uh and they put in a request by your know you usually do it to, through a verbal thing first uh we, I, I've never seen anything uh other than uh other than appointment uh or uh or a transfer after it was officially made uh ya know then uh a letter is gone out from the conference Director saying that uh you're officially in, in the area because a lot of times like uh I was assigned to the Western Conference for over almo, almost oh God over three and a half, four years when it was supposed to be a six week assignment uh on the lettuc and grape uh boycott and it wound up bein' almost 48 months and uh...

NEWMAN:
In fact that was why you were on the show about a year and a half or so ago.

O'BRIEN:
That's right. So you know it started out as a two week deal then it got into six week and then you know you just, you're assigned out there temporarily to the, to a conference. You see we're really you know we're say we're assigned to different areas uh but uh it's up to the discretion of the, the general president uh if he says to me tomorrow, calls tomorrow and says look uh I'm gonna send you to uh Canada or I'm gonna send you to, back to California, uh you know I have to accept that assignment. Uh I can't say well I don't want to go and uh and I must fulfill that assignment.

NEWMAN:
Alright. You talked in the interview with Jerry about the business with Jimmy Hoffa, Jr. I want to clear up this business about your being Jimmy Hoffa's adopted son. There was reference to it in the, in the Stanecki interview and as it was indicated there there are sort of two stories on this and, and the other story is from Jimmy, Jr. The first story is that you were Hoffa's adopted son and all that that implies Morley Safer called you his adopted son in the 60 Minutes interview. Story number two, which I guess comes from the Hoffa family, is that the business of your being Jimmy Hoffa's adopted son was a semi-fiction that was cooked up to ease your getting into Lewisburg during Jimmy's prison stay so that you would be represented as a member of the family in order that you could serve as a frequent courier of Teamster business and so forth and so on.

O'BRIEN:
Well...

NEWMAN:
What's your comment on that?

O'BRIEN:
Again David it goes back to you know it's uh who shot Johnny and uh you know I get so tired of hearin' it you know it's, uh tryin' to explain it to people it's, it's...

NEWMAN:
Have you called up Jimmy Hoffa, Jr. and said look you know damn well I was his adopted son. What are ya doin' to me? How can you do this to me after the years and so forth and so on?

O'BRIEN:
I said that to him?

NEWMAN:
Well no I'm asking. I mean it seems if, if what you say is true it'd be a natural question, a natural confrontation for you and Jimmy, Jr.

O'BRIEN:
Well you know I, I, I would only say this. Uh, uh over a period of years uh the relationship uh as a family and has no, nothing to do with my occupation but as a family the closeness in our relationship uh was that uh of a foster son. Uh it couldn't get any, you couldn't, I couldn't have been any closer to them than, than a, than a...

NEWMAN:
Um hmm.

O'BRIEN:
I was a real son. Uh the thought of uh, of, of the adoption uh had nothing to do with him being incarcerated because you know you have a right to have a list of seven people and uh that uh you can put on that, on that list to either visit you or write you. Uh my relationship uh was one that uh didn't require me to be adopted. It was something that we talked about uh oh as, as a family uh off and on and uh you know uh it was something was personal and uh I never really you know made it a public thing uh...

NEWMAN:
If I understood what you were saying to uh to Jerry Stanecki correctly, Jimmy Hoffa, Jr. has chosen to lie about the real closeness of your relationship with Hoffa. That's what you're saying isn't it?

O'BRIEN:
I don't know, I don't know whether he's uh, he's, he wants to lie about it I again uh, uh as I said to Jerry, I, I, I think there's some things in a human being's life that belongs to themselves and, and uh my love for uh for Jimmy and for Barbara and for Josephine and uh their children as a family you know uh I just don't believe uh and never would believe that I have to put my personal feelings uh out in the street uh for anybody's satisfaction except my own and you know as I said to Jerry sometimes out of emotion people say things uh that you wish you, you know, you didn't, you didn't, you didn't never said before and you wish you could get it back some way.

NEWMAN:
And you figure that's why Jimmy said what he said, Jimmy, Jr.

O'BRIEN:
I think that uh, I think that emotions had a lot to play with it uh I can't uh I can't look at it any other way than that I mean uh I'm not, I'm not gonna be in a position to tell you David that I, that I'm gonna say that uh my relationships or my feelings uh are gonna be to tell you that uh I'm very bitter at uh Jimmy, Jr. or what he has said because you know you get all kinda hurts in life and like I said it'll straighten itself out. It's just gonna take some time.

NEWMAN:
Chuckie hang with us just a second. We have to pause. You've already indicated to Jack Springer the producer that you're cool about takin' some calls from our listeners.

O'BRIEN:
Am, am I worried about takin' calls?

NEWMAN:
No I, I, you already indicated to Jack that that's okay. Correct?

O'BRIEN:
(Unintelligible)

NEWMAN:
Thank you Chuck.
(Irrelevant)
We're talking with Chuckie O'Brien. We take a call from Sheila. Sheila you're on WXYZ.

SHEILA:
Yes. Mr. O'Brien my question is I saw you on 60 Minutes Sunday night and my question is regarding Jim Esposito. Now you're questioning the integrity of an FBI agent. Now I'm curious as to why you don't take a lie detector test.

O'BRIEN:
I, as I said on 60 Minutes, I'm willing to take the lie detector test but I think my challenge to Esposito is that uh he's uh he is, if you have to read the decision of the 6th Circuit and why I've, I've made that challenge to Esposito is that taking the written decision of some uh judges who've uh, who've come up through the ranks as lawyers and who I feel are, it's, it's confident Jim Espo, Esposito as well, as well as uh, uh as the law versus uh, uh you know integrity uh they were pretty strong uh and really strong in the, in what they felt Esposito when he wrote this affidavit and why he wrote it uh was uh was not 100 percent uh the truth but uh usually in just uh a lot of uh I just uh well like uh I'm, how the one judge put it, he said that uh it was something that uh was created uh, uh or a story that was webbed to put into this affidavit to convince a magistrate to give him a warrant to be albe to go out and pick up uh that particular car. And I feel and I, and I really feel that uh I spent as much time with Esposito as, as an ordinary person and I put a lotta faith in Esposito

and (unintelligible) Esposito because he was, he was the main uh spokesman for the FBI and I don't know how many people uh can picture being put in a room with uh maybe four or five FBI agents and two people from the, three people from the state police and two from another police department and sitting there uh hour after hour and trying to be honest and give them the information and try to answer the questions the best to your ability and then after you have this meeting and in the meeting they say now look everything you've said here is confidential. We will, we will keep it uh with, with our investigators and we would like to talk to you again and I, and I said fine when, whenever you wanna talk to me just call me and we'll make arrangements uh that I'll come right back. And uh I did that that and then after I left uh and went back home uh to my family uh everything that was said in that room was leaked to the news media and uh it was always uh leaked uh and when I say leaked to the news media, to newspapers and, and uh everybody else as a source and then after that, that came down uh I felt that uh it, ya know, they, that he wasn't being honest to me and then I came back to Detroit again voluntarily and spent uh another whole day with him and uh his investigative team and again it was, I was to come to this city and know, ya know it was a private meeting and nobody'd know about it and soon as I left Detroit and got on an airplane at 10:30 at night and when I got off the airplane in uh in Memphis there's the, there's the, the media waiting for me getting off an airplane saying you just left a meeting with the FBI. Well you know when that happens to you, you know, you get uh you know first time it happens to you, you know, you think about it and the second time it happens to you well you say the third time shame on them you know it's not gonna happen to me again.

NEWMAN:
Well lemme understand this Chuckie. Esposito uh in your judgement at that point was squeezing you by selectively leaking in the media.

O'BRIEN:
I think so. I think that uh, I, I think the, I think knowing in my own mind, knowing how some of the people uh and, and, and I'm saying some of the people would use or try to create this big illusion. Uh, uh you know there were so many stories that were leaked uh from that meeting that were taken outta context ya know. And uh I just don't think he was honest and uh he could you know a lotta people run around with the FBI uh, uh badges which uh you know we'll, we're seeing every day. We got a headlines down here in Miami, a great big headlines

today that says uh, uh FBI to, to be indicted uh over 25 people that are, that were agents because of the legal things they did. I just feel, I just feel that they feel that uh because they are the FBI that they can do a lot of things that uh are not right to true to American citizens.

NEWMAN:
Sheila unfortunately we must end our conversation. Too many people wanna talk, too many questions.

SHEILA:
Mr. O'Brien you're clouding the issue by bringing in other factors. What, in other words you're saying that you would take the test to prove them wrong.

O'BRIEN:
No question about it but I want Esposito to take the test concerning the question of what he said in the affidavit relative to me and the car. Because if I'm willing to take the test I think he should take the test because he gave the illusion from the start which created this great uh news coverage of uh human blood and, and just everything that was just unreal. Uh I think he owes uh to the American community and especially to the world because the world is writin' about this thing uh, uh to step up and, and, and say okay I'll take a test and, and prove that O'Brien is wrong because I'm not, I'm not, I'm not afraid to take the test.

NEWMAN:
Thank you Sheila.

SHEILA:
Okay fine. Thank you.

NEWMAN:
Six minutes to midnight. Lemme, lemme tell you about a scenario Chuckie that was painted for me some months ago by someone who shall go nameless.

O'BRIEN:
Sure. Alright.

NEWMAN:
Okay it's somebody who's been close to the Teamsters at one time or another. It's not a law man.

O'BRIEN:
Um hmm.

NEWMAN:
This is what he says. It's my summary. Jimmy Hoffa wanted back in and everybody knew it and a lot of people inside the Teamsters and outside the Teamsters didn't want that to happen. They were worried about a clean up. Whether or not a clean up would really occur they were worried about it. (Unintelligible) they had a big (unintelligible) on a guy who loved to hang around, drink, drink and play golf (unintelligible). A guy a (unintelligible) kinda guy who would let them do anything they wanted to do which they were then doing. So what did they want with Hoffa? They don't want Hoffa back. Also another thing against Hoffa says this individual was the blood feud with Tony Pro that began in Lewisburg and which you said about in the, in the Stanecki interview but this person referred to that, a blood feud that began over the denial of Tony Pro's pension. There were witnesses to this. Uh Pro had threatened Hoffa's kids and grandchildren and so on. So the insiders decided that Hoffa would be hit and as a pretext they used the idea of setting up a meeting between Hoffa and Tony Pro or one of his people to iron out the Lewisburg situation but really the hit was in all along for other reasons. What do you think about that?

O'BRIEN:
Well I don't believe that and I don't think that, you know, I get so tire uh, uh of hearing that because first of all, David, I feel that our organization is, course it's the largest in the world. I think we got the finest members in the world and I think that it, it, it just gets me so upset because there, the thousands of rank and file uh officers and stewards that uh represent the people in our union who,

who just day in, day out do a tremendous job, uh are being always put in, in that, in that uh that circle that uh people are, ya know, are sheep and that's not true and the Teamsters have never been, are not sheep, they speak up for what they feel is right or wrong and this thing about Fitz again isn't, is, is uh, it's ridiculous I mean you know Fitz may have, have the, the the appearance of being uh, uh, ya know a person who is, is not flamboyant who doesn't come on strong but uh I've been around Fitz as well as Jimmy and grew up in the labor movement with, with Fitz uh running uh my local union uh when I worked as an Agent and ya know don't judge a book by its cover because he's a hard bargainer, he's as shrewd as they come when it comes to sitting down at that negotiation table, and I don't know you know what, what has changed uh maybe in, in the name of the general president and, and any executive board of any organization it changes uh, uh one death, uh one retirement or two retirements can change the complete complexion of a board but there's nobody that uh is uh is being uh criticized unfairly (unintelligible) because after all running this, this international union is a large tremendous task and uh, and like he said when he first went to Washington he said I'm not a Jimmy Hoffa. Uh he's always said it here in, when he, when he was in Detroit as a vice-president. Uh he said my name is Fitzsimmons and, and, and you know I've, I look up to him when he, when he said that because a lotta guys try to you know would try to say yeah they are like Hoffa they could take his place and Fitz was always honest and said he, he never, never was a Hoffa, he was a person of his own thoughts and thinking and, and, and he's carried out those directions. And again it's, it's just, it's unfair to, for people to say that uh without Jimmy around...If, if Jimmy woulda been eligible to run and lemme say this to you David, if he woulda been eligible to run there's no question about his eligibility uh (unintelligible) in 1980 and uh there's just was no way that he could run and uh, and uh I'm still waitin' like I told Jerry and I told Morley Safer for the somebody from the courts or from the Justice Department say yeah he's eligible to run but you know that, that's something that they...

NEWMAN:
It was a myth to you. It's never been proven.

O'BRIEN:
Lemme just say this to ya. I, I hear people who are now saying things about Jimmy Hoffa who five years ago or six years ago or seven years ago or ten years ago were beatin'

the drum to put him in jail. That he was a monster. That he could control the country. That people wouldn't get food, babies wouldn't have milk. And ya know all these people that brought this big harangue on and, and got him boxed in to uh, uh, a frame, uh and bring, and brought him from a district uh, uh where he coulda got a fair trial down to a district where he couldn't get a fair trial. Uh ya know I, I get, I get distrubed with this because uh it's, it's not true I mean there are a lotta people that are saying ya know we ya know we worry about this, we worry about that but we're really not worried. They don't care one iota. It's just the amount of publicity they could get and ya know we've lived this thing. I could remember as a young person first you had uh this committee and that committee and then we lived the McClellan Committee and, and went through this, this, this tremendous uh, uh harassment with uh, uh, uh then Senator Kennedy.

NEWMAN:
Um hmm.

O'BRIEN:
You know it was, every politician needs a springboard and you know, we, we happen to be I guess when they talk about the Teamsters we happen to be something that they like to ya know get with the wild imagination, they use it and get a lot, they get a lotta news coverage out of it, they get a, get a lot of uh, oh they get a lot of things out of it except the only thing they, they, they don't realize what they're doing is that, that they're really not being honest with the, the individual who is a, who is a card carrying member and who is a, is, are five people in the, in the thousands of offices that are elected uh, uh by the process of uh, of uh secret ballot elections and uh (unintelligible) do a tremendous job for the people and that, that's the sad part about it.

NEWMAN:
Chuckie we gotta pause for just a couple of seconds.
(Irrelevant)
We'll talk to Chuckie in just a second.
(Irrelevant)
We're back with Chuckie O'Brien. Here's Ann. Ann?

ANN:
Yes um now he may have explained this uh because I did get a phone call during his interview but something that's

bothered me from the time I read about it was um he was in the Birmingham - Bloomfield Hills area at the time of Mr. Hoffa's disappearance and he wanted to deliver some fish in that area so, to a friend, so he borrowed the car of Joey Giacalone. Now Joey Giacalone is on the far east side in the Grosse Pointe area. Why would he come way over here to get a car to deliver some fish uh very, to a man very close to him who lived very close to him? You know what I mean?

NEWMAN:
Well...

ANN:
Joe, Joey's car, he lives out in the far east Grosse Pointe area and why when he;s over in Birmingham and he's gonna deliver to, a fish to a man over in that area why would he borrow the car of a man way out here?

O'BRIEN:
Well lemme correct that. First of all Joe's car. He does live on the east side but he was at work and his office is about uh with the expressway, Fisher Expressway, about twelve minutes from my office. Uh he wasn't at home and Joe's a young individual who's 23 years old and who is in the machine, used machinery business and uh he was uh (unintelligible) he was real close to my office uh and uh I just called him by chance to see if I could borrow his car uh because there wasn't anybody around my area in my offices that I could borrow a car from. It just was one of those days when nobody was around at that particular time and I didn't, I didn't go near the Bloomfield uh Birmingham area when I delivered the fish. I went clear out to uh very close to Novi. It was out, way out in that area there and uh if you, which you're well aware of Detroit, you just ya know uh cannot put uh Machus' Red Fox Restaurant uh or Maple Road uh and Telegraph uh within uh normal driving distance uh from where I was at uh within 30 minutes or 35 minutes and that's goin' as uh, goin' as fast as you can go.

NEWMAN:
Chuckie there were no cars available to be borrowed at Teamsters Headquarters?

O'BRIEN:
No.

NEWMAN:
You had no option but to call Joey to borrow his car.

O'BRIEN:
That's a, it's a, that's a funny thing. I, you know I looked around, it was at a time when uh there just was nobody around the building and I didn't wanna borrow one of the girls' cars uh ya know it just, I didn't, didn't ya know...

NEWMAN:
Why did you volunteer to deliver the fish? Lemme understand. This whole thing is very confusing to me. The uh Express driver, the Air Express driver came with a fish to Holmes' headquarters rather than his home even though the fish was addressed to his home?

O'BRIEN:
No. The, the fish was addressed to, to, to his office (unintelligible).

NEWMAN:
It was addressed to his office.

O'BRIEN:
Guys up in Seattle uh when the salmon run they go fishing and Bobby's very, likes uh ya know like most people likes uh ya know fresh fish, especially salmon and uh our guys went fishin' up there and, and caught a big salmon and sent it to him to the office and course it was real hot uh in, in, in that particular time of the uh, of the month.

NEWMAN:
Um hmm.

O'BRIEN:
And uh they brought the fish to the office and uh at that particular time I was ya know I was really packin' up my stuff in my office and ya know turning over different uh files and assignments and cases that I had, ya know I had, had working on.

NEWMAN:
It was sent to the office. That was the address on the fish.

O'BRIEN:
2108 Trumbull. Yes.

NEWMAN:
Okay.

O'BRIEN:
And most, most guys when they send something to you uh will usually send it to your office uh, uh they never sent it to your home because ya know your home address uh within the joint council, the guys in the joint council or, or the people on the staff and that they have your address but people from throughout the, the international wouldn't have it.

NEWMAN:
Chuckie, why did you volunteer to drive the fish without a car, before you had secured a car? You didn't have a car, you said that in the Jerry Stanecki interview.

O'BRIEN:
They delivered the fish and the fish was there and Bobby's secretary didn't know what to do with it.

NEWMAN:
I see.

O'BRIEN:
She called me outta my office on the intercom she said we, can you come over? I said yeah. So I and I came out of the office I sae the driver there and said look then I, he had, course he had this big, long box.

NEWMAN:
You had no refrigeration facilities in the Teamster building.

O'BRIEN:
W, w, wee don't have, we have a little bitty uh, uh you probably got one at WXYZ, a little bitty icebox that uh has like four, four ice trays in it. It's in the bottom of a, of a water cooler.

NEWMAN:
Right.

O'BRIEN:
And it just was no place to put that fish. Uh...

NEWMAN:
It was just too big. You cased the refrigerator or you knew that the refrigerator was too big so you didn't go there.

O'BRIEN:
Box was almost uh, the box was almost uh of 4½ foot long.

NEWMAN:
Um hmm.

O'BRIEN:
And it just uh that fish was a, a 60 pounds, 70 pounds salmon. It just 40 - 60, it was a, it was a heavy salmon.

NEWMAN:
And you knew Joey Giacalone would be you know amenable to a casual request like this so he was the first name that came to mind.

O'BRIEN:
Well he was as, he was close to, to my office and I just, I phoned him just outta, picked, ya know just said well I'll, I'll give him a ya know call just see uh 9 times outta 10 normally uh I probably wouldn't of got him because he calls on General Motors, Fords and et cetera and just happened to be there all day because he, he was in, ya know, he had quite a few business meetings goin' on uh at his office and uh...

NEWMAN:
And no one at Teamster Headquarters (unintelligible)

O'BRIEN:
Station wagon there and I, that's what I originally intended to use except the dang thing was in the shop and uh...

NEWMAN:
Um hmm.

O'BRIEN:
It was just one of those days and there was, it was, it one of those days that just uh and it happened frequently in our building 'cause our guys are in and out and just there was nobody around (unintelligible)

NEWMAN:
Secretary didn't have a car you could borrow?

O'BRIEN:
I wouldn't ask her to use her car. Uh, I, I wouldn't do that.

NEWMAN:
Good question Ann.

ANN:
Okay thank you.

NEWMAN:
Thanks a lot Ann.

ANN:
Alright. Bye bye.

NEWMAN:
12:08 is our WXYZ time. Getting back to Fitz, Chuck.

O'BRIEN:
Sure.

NEWMAN:
Uh here's a, a news item dated March the second, 1975, about uh four or so months before Hoffa's disappearance. Dateline Cincinnati. Teamsters president Frank Fitzsimmons campaigned Saturday for re-election in 1976 and fired salvos at former union president James Hoffa. Fitzsimmons bristled when asked about a national television appearance by Hoffa last week in which Hoffa said the two point two five million member union was now run by quote, people more interested in playing golf than they are in the membership, end of quote. Fitzsimmons told the news conference quote, Hoffa is a bum, a has-been, he's soft in the head, he's a liar and a stool pigeon, he doesn't pose a threat to the Teamsters or any labor organization, end of quote from Fitz four months before Hoffa's disappearance.

O'BRIEN:
Again I, I don't, I don't, I, I don't recall what you're reading, Jerry, I don't recall because you know press uh the press has uh, uh, uh to me has a way a lot of people in the press uh have a way of writing things and blowing things outta proportion. And ya know this question of Fitz playing golf uh versus uh somebody liking, like, likes to hunt uh ya know uh I think it's kind of, it's kinda childish to have uh, uh somebody pick one minute thing out of the air. I mean it was Fitz's pleasure to play golf uh, uh I, I can't see what's so wrong about that uh if uh...

NEWMAN:
Alright but to me Chuckie the, the operative element in this item is not that uh, is not whether or not Fitz plays golf. It's the, it's the vituperation that he is directing at Hoffa, it's the anger he's directing at Hoffa a few months before Hoffa's disappearance.

O'BRIEN:
Well I, I don't know. I, I never heard Fitz talk like that. I don't uh, I, Fitz is not that kind of individual to really, that, I've never heard him speak like that. I mean I don't care who it, who it'd be about. I, and I can't uh, I can't picture Fitz sayin' something like that.

NEWMAN:
Was Jimmy Hoffa planning to make a come-back and try to re-gain the leadership of the Teamsters or not?

O'BRIEN:
I think he thought about it. Uh but I think he knew uh, uh, uh in reality that he wouldn't be, he wasn't going to be able to.

NEWMAN:
In fact he said he was planning to come back and make it.

O'BRIEN:
You know I think the first step that uh we wanna talk about if he was going to come back I think uh the most important place for him to come back uh as, as a uh representative of the International would be at the local level, in fact to Local 299 and, and uh course the uh denominations came and, and went and uh and, and he couldn't run because uh he had the restriction on him so you know uh I just think that uh, that a lotta people, or I say a lotta people, but a few people who for their own whatever they had the back of their mind created a lot of illusion.

NEWMAN:
Go back to the day, back to July 30th. Uh you said on the Stanecki interview that you did go over to the Southfield Athletic Club for about 10 or 12 minutes after, after dropping off the fish and helping Vi Holmes and cleaning out the car and the rest of it.

O'BRIEN:
Right.

NEWMAN:
Correct?

O'BRIEN:
Right.

NEWMAN:
For about 10 or 12 minutes.

O'BRIEN:
Yep. Ten, twelve, fifteen minutes, whatever it...

NEWMAN:
What'd you do there?

O'BRIEN:
I stopped up and picked, I stopped and picked a couple of uh graduation gifts up. Uh my son was graduating from college, my daughter from uh high school, and uh because I was going to leave on uh, on uh Sunday morning very early uh I, ya know wanted to make sure that I got 'em so that uh that I could uh see that they got them.

NEWMAN:
Did you run into Tony Giacalone at the Southfield Athletic Club?

O'BRIEN:
Yeah I did, I did.

NEWMAN:
So I, I was confused because early in the investigation uh as it was recalled uh for me by someone else, uh you said that you spent part of the afternoon at the Southfield Athletic Club with Tony Giacalone and that a reporter that I spoke to said that then you later reversed that story but you haven't reversed the story.

O'BRIEN:
No I, I didn't spend uh, uh an afternoon with him. I, I, I dropped in...

NEWMAN:
Part of it.

O'BRIEN:
And took care of my business and uh he had been there and uh and like normal you'd talk to somebody that uh, that you know and uh I did that and, and then I left and went on my way because I had to get uh, get Joe's car back to him because I wanted to make sure I didn't miss my ride uh, uh which I set up to be able to get back out to uh, uh to an area where I could get pick, be picked up and taken to the peoples' homes that I was staying at.

NEWMAN:
12:11 is our WXYZ time. Talking with Chuckie O'Brien from his home in Florida. We have a line open here. 353-3030 is the number. We'll talk now to Ed. Ed you're on with Chuckie O'Brien.

ED:
Well it was the same way worked it with, with Nixon. People were accusin' him. He let him get off the hook.

O'BRIEN:
Well I don't feel I'm, I, I don't feel like I've done anything wrong I mean uh and, an I, I say that from...

ED:
You should get pardoned.

O'BRIEN:
Well (unintelligible)

ED:
And let it go at that.

O'BRIEN:
I'm, I, I, I'm not lookin' for a pardon. What I'm lookin' for is to be able to come on a program like this and be able to be open and honest with uh with people like yourself or anybody that listens to the program becomes you know so I can come in contact with. I sit back and, and took a, ya know a lacing from the last uh 15 or 16 months and the only reason I've done it because I've had some people that are lawyers and that uh ya know say to you you can't do this, you can't do that but I made my mind up that uh once uh, once I got this one legal problem I had behind me that I was gonna go out and go in there, go on and be offensive to be able to take care of uh the injustice that's been done to myself.

NEWMAN:
12:14 is our WXYZ time. Ed I thank you for calling with us and talking with us. Thanks very much. 12:14 is our WXYZ time. Chuckie I want to review with you. I know you've been over this ground millions of times. I want to get it straight in my own mind and for our listeners too.

O'BRIEN:
Anything I can do to help.

NEWMAN:
Okay. July 30th, 1975, the fateful day. What did you do on the morning of that day? Can you detail your movements for that day sequentially starting with the morning?

O'BRIEN:
Right. Well first of all I was staying with some very, very dear friends of mine uh who live about oh approximately uh

ten minutes from uh the shopping center and from the restaurant. And my normal routine because I had left my car down in West Memphis, Arkansas, at my wife's home, uh I left it there because uh, I had uh no need for it in Detroit for the last two weeks and I wanted it down there to use uh for my assignments within that area because I didn't directly go to Florida, I uh I stayed in uh, in uh and worked outta West Memphis, Arkansas, and uh fact uh fact of the matter is that uh my car was there so what I'd normally do every morning uh this dear friend of mine that uh I was staying with would take me up to the shopping center uh like 7:00, 7:10 in the morning I'd buy a Free Press, he (unintelligible) if the weather was (unintelligible) or it rained uh he'd, we'd wait in the car.

NEWMAN:
This is the Maple - Telegraph shopping center.

O'BRIEN:
Right and I, I...

NEWMAN:
This is the same...

O'BRIEN:
I had uh made arrangements with uh, with uh an associate of miney who worked for a local union who lived out that way that, ya know to pick me up and give me a ride to the office. Uh...

NEWMAN:
What time is this?

O'BRIEN:
Oh he picked me up, his son had to be in school about a quarter to eight in the morning so he'd be there between 7:15, 7:20, right around there, sometimes 7:30. Sometimes he'd run late like sometimes we do and, and he'd, we'd go like hell to get the, the kid to school and that particular morning uh the unfortunate thing, and I've said this a thousand times uh about uh if you could change things in your life, we had originally set a meeting up in Toronto uh vice-president Holmes and myself and they, they at that time we were getting ready to uh merge all the Canadian locals into a conference and they were gonna have their own director and we were workin' on that and at that particular time before my transfer that was part of my area that I'd

ED:
Yeah, Chuckie. This, you got me?

O'BRIEN:
Sir?

NEWMAN:
Yeah we hear you Ed.

O'BRIEN:
I hear you.

ED:
Oh. Did you remember how uh Hoffa got outta, uh outta prison? Didn't uh Richard Nixon pardon him a little bit?

O'BRIEN:
Did Nixon pardon him?

ED:
(Unintelligible) know he shortened his sentence?

O'BRIEN:
No he served 58 months. He came out of, he came out uh it was in 58, he (unintelligible) 58 months of his good uh time and he got a (unintelligible) which is not a pardon.

ED:
Okay. Now if Ford can pardon Nixon you got a president Fitzsimmons. He should pardon you and, and that'd be the end of it. What's good for one is good for the other.

O'BRIEN:
Well first of all uh I appreciate what you're sayin' but uh you know you have to, you have to be accused of something and uh, and uh...

ED:
Well uh, uh, uh...

O'BRIEN:
(Unintelligible) and right now the only people that are accusin' are people who are, who are, who are tryin' to create uh through the media and I'm not particularly sayin' the radio because the radio's always been I think the, one of the fairest medias there've been but uh the newspaper and writers of the newspaper especially have created an unfair indictment on me and, and I, I feel it's an injust indictment uh because it's, it's, it's...

worked in with the On, uh it was part of Ontario. And uh I was, was planning on going to Toronto that day and then because of the, the time-table of me leaving by the end of the weekend and feeling that I had no value at that particular meeting because of my transfer uh which had already been takin' place uh, uh almost um oh maybe a month before the meeting dah maybe - yeah just about a month - uh I just said well there's no value for me to going I said Bob uh I'll just I won't go to the meeting, I'll, I'll go back to my office and finish you know clearin' up what I had to do because I had the movers comin' et cetera.

NEWMAN:
Um hmm.

O'BRIEN:
That particular morning he drove me to the shopping center, uh I bought a paper. He had to, he had a early meeting. His, his, his place of business is out in Novi and uh he took off and went to, I said go on, you know go on to your meeting and I said Bobby 'll be by, it was a nice morning and I was sitting there uh if anybody's familiar with the shopping center there's a big uh kind of funny kind of sculpture all kind of things welded to it, I was sitting there just not too far from the Wrigley sign and I was reading the newspaper and, and waiting for my ride. In fact uh an individual who uh owns the car washes that uh I had gotten the car washed in came by, saw me there and blew the horn and it was Jack Milan (phonetic), he said uh you need a ride or what are you waitin' for? And I said well I got a ride comin', I said I don't need one, thanks a lot. And so he, he, he had went down, down Telegraph and uh and shortly after he left uh my ride came, I jumped in the car and we took off and uh and dropped his son off to school and uh I came down to you know came to my office that day.

NEWMAN:
Okay. That was the same Jack Milan (phonetic) who operated the Jack's Car Wash who was asked if you were in fact at the car wash and he couldn't remember?

O'BRIEN:
No. Uh he uh, I was, I didn't go to his particular wash rack where his, where his main office is. The wash rack I went to is on Old Grand River and Farmington Road.

NEWMAN:
I see.

O'BRIEN:
And he did re, he didn't remember but uh again uh an oh, a misled statement in the, uh, by the, by the FBI, and well in fact it what Sheila called in about, uh they said that uh the manager of the uh Jack Car Wash never saw me that day. Well yeah he didn't see me because he wasn't there, the assistant manager was there and unfortunately the manager, who I've known for many years 'cause he'd worked in another, another chain and we have, we have them organized under, under Local 95, uh he passed away, he died and ya know the next thing they had if you recall the paper uh, uh car wash managers dies you know.

NEWMAN:
Yes.

O'BRIEN:
Uh you know. So again there's a mystery that uh he's tied into with, with, with O'Brien because he passed away and...

NEWMAN:
Um hmm.

O'BRIEN:
Which was untrue. But uh Jack Milan (phonetic) uh did tell the FBI uh that he did see me that morning. Uh you know after you know he saw this thing in the paper and that he called the FBI and volunteered and said yeah I saw Chuckie in the morning, in fact I stopped you know uh offered him a ride.

NEWMAN:
Chuckie we've gotta pause for just a second.
(Irrelevant)
We take a call now from Lenny. Lenny you're on WXYZ.

LENNY:
Uh hi Chuck, how are you?

O'BRIEN:
Okay Lenny, how you doin'?

LENNY:
Good. You know I got a message that you were gonna be on this program just uh on the telephone and uh I could always

say that I once appeared on that program uh to uh defend myself and that particular instance I was one of the parties that was mentioned that was to meet Hoffa. Now in my capacity as a labor consultant which is on the opposite side of the fence of yourself, you being with the union, uh all this publicity that you're talkin' about I'm very familiar with. I went through it uh day after day in my home, uh my office. I was harassed tremendously by the news media and I was accused of being one of the individuals that Hoffa was supposed to meet.

NEWMAN:
By the way for our audience this is Lenny Schultz.

LENNY:
Now, now at this given date uh after all the bad publicity that I had and all the great damage it has done to myself, my family and my personal reputation, you don't see my name no more in the media and I can understand what you're going through. Uh the same thing of tryin' to defend yourself and now uh you'll see the media or the newspaper say well Leonard Schultz is cleared or Leonard Schultz had nothin' to do with, but they sure made a helluva (unintelligible) about me being involved without even exonerating me or giving me one little line in the paper saying we now know that Leonard Schultz had nothin' to do with it. And uh I can appreciate uh some of the things that you are saying or you're tryin' to put over and uh it's kinda difficult and it's hard for the public to understand.

O'BRIEN:
Well there's no question about it because uh as I told Jerry Stanecki I hadn't even told Dave Newman that uh ya know you have a family, I, I'm fortunately starting my second family and uh I've got three little boys that are just super little boys and uh, uh, a nice little wife and uh a mother-in-law and a father-in-law who have been in business in, in the particular area for some almost uh 50 years and well known in their community, they're hard workers and God what they've gone through uh is just unreal and uh...

LENNY:
Now you know my sons and you know they're (unintelligible)

O'BRIEN:
That's right and I know what they've gone through and just like this today. I come home and, and, and I, my wife has

not been real well and, and uh somebody mailed her a copy of Argosy magazine which came out yesterday and God there's a great big, one of these wild, horrendous stories again about this terrible tragedy and uh and ya know...

LENNY:
Well lemme say this to you. During the interim of many months here we have received uh, I have received uh four different threatening letters on my family, my life by people writing helter skelter type of letters and I mailed this to the United States Postal uh Service and they sent it to the FBI and lemme tell you this, I have not heard from the FBI, it's already three months and they didn't come out to uh question me whether my life was uh in jeopardy or not. Uh, I, I, I feel like a, a citizen without a country because I have no police protection whatsoever. When someone threatens my life and I report it nobody takes the trouble to come out and investigate. So uh, uh this is what publicity has done to me. And you know very well that I've been accused of uh being uh, uh, uh great uh, great uh reputation of having uh a meeting with the Teamsters and my labor negotiations and you know doggone well and I know doggone well that it isn't so. I go in there and I bargain uh very hard for my clients and I ask no favors from anybody.

O'BRIEN:
Well...

LENNY:
I do the best job that I possibly can.

O'BRIEN:
There's no question about that and uh I know what you've gone through and uh I could only say to you and to anybody you know uh Jimmy Hoffa had one saying uh to people and I can remember we traveled this country up and down uh when he talked about uh the wiretap uh, uh situation and he talked about things that were being introduced by certain congressmen and, and certain senators and you know I can remember the hours he put in and, and uh, and uh, and, and the days that we went he ya know I'd look and say well why, ya know why, why put out like he was putting out and he, he always had this one, one saying he'd always say to people. You know look at the end of the, of a bill and I remember the arguments he got in with a lotta labor guys (unintelligible) especially where uh the one (unintelligible) law made uh, uh a union member uh, uh a legal strikebreaker

and I remember his debates with Jack Kennedy who had been the senator and uh Jack Kennedy said to him and as a matter of record he said well Mr. Hoffa if that happens, if that happens I personally will lead the fight to amend the bill and said senator why lead the fight to amend the bill when you could take the information that someone's been tryin' to relate to this committee relative what you will do to a worker if it's passed. Of course he always said if the people that would, would never wanna come out to the forefront and fight this thing he said when they sign that bill it's not gonna say Teamsters at the end of that bill. It's gonna say all of organized labor and I think what's happened in this country a lotta people, a lotta people just come complacent and they look straight down the road and they don't think that they can effect them. They say well uh who cares about O'Brien. Let 'em wiretape his phone uh I don't do anything wrong. But now they're startin' to find out that, that the ordinary person like O'Brien had been wiretapped and they're mail had been tampered (unintelligible)

LENNY:
No, now I no very well what you're talkin' about because I've been tapped. My home has been tapped, my office has been tapped and not only that because of the vast amount of publicity that I got relative to this case my home was robbed, my wife was uh, uh held at gunpoint uh robbed for 45 minutes in our home. My son walked in during the robbery and almost got killed by the individual that robbed her. When the man was apprehended and charged with the robbery when he was brought into Oakland County uh the judge dismissed the case and said that he wasn't uh put into a showup and his constitutional rights were uh violated. Even though my wife and my son positively identified him on the street 100,000 percent.

O'BRIEN:
Yeah but turn it around though Lenny and, and see what happens to, to individuals like uh, uh myself or anybody else that they want to bring into a lineup, they're, they're bringing in there and changin' (unintelligible)

LENNY:
Right. But here's what happened Chuckie.

O'BRIEN:
Either contempt of court or...

LENNY:
Yeah but what happened was that the prosecutor uh, uh, uh at Oakland County, Brooks Patterson, said we have a perfect

case, there was no need for a showup on the man, the law is very clear on that and then went ahead after the judge did that and they made a motion to dismiss the case without prejudice so the man could never be brought back to trial and this man, this man turned out to be a private detective and then after he left the home and robbed it they found a uh, a uh, uh, a uh, uh secret microphone under my desk in my home. Understand? And uh which was transmitting messages to a uh, a trailer down the street from our house with the uh MINP, uh police which is the Michigan Intelligent Network team. So you can imagine that here now we're suing uh these people because we feel the man who was sent in was a private detective hired by the state police who did all of this here, who robbed my, my wife.

NEWMAN:
Lenny we are right at news time.

LENNY:
Right.

NEWMAN:
Thank you Lenny.

LENNY:
My pleasure.

NEWMAN:
Chuckie cna you stay with us a little while longer?

O'BRIEN:
Got me (unintelligible) I wouldn't run away from it uh...

NEWMAN:
Ah beautiful.

O'BRIEN:
I'm, I, I, I ya know Stanecki's a hard bargainer.

NEWMAN:
I guess he is.

O'BRIEN:
(Unintelligible) I wish he, I wish he didn't negotiate so hard.

NEWMAN:
Yeah. Hang on Chuckie.

O'BRIEN:
Okay.

NEWMAN:
Hang on for just a bit.
(Irrelevant)
That is our number and we are back with Chuckie O'Brien from his home in Florida. Chuckie you're still there I trust.

O'BRIEN:
(Unintelligible)

NEWMAN:
Very good. I, I want to review with you the events of uh July 30th just to make sure I've got 'em right in my mind. Early in the morning about 7:30, quarter to eight, you are waiting for a lift because you are without transportation for reasons you explained. You're waiting at 15 Mile and Telegraph in the Bloomfield Plaza Shopping Center.

O'BRIEN:
Right.

NEWMAN:
Correct. Okay you're waiting for a lift there. This is the same spot from where Jimmy Hoffa will disappear in about eight or so hours. Uh the fellow who owns the car wash drives past you, asks you if you need a lift, you say no you're waiting for a lift, you've got a lift. The lift comes from whom, Holmes?

O'BRIEN:
Yeah from Bob Holmes uh...

NEWMAN:
Bob Holmes from his home in Farmington Hills, past...

O'BRIEN:
No from Bob Holmes, Jr.

NEWMAN:
Bobby Holmes, Jr. okay. Just to make that clear. He lives in the general area.

O'BRIEN:
Yeah. Not too far from there. Oh maybe uh 15 minutes, 20 minutes. He lives uh down uh, uh on Big Beaver Road and you

know one thing I want uh understand too uh David is that this particular place where I was being picked up just didn't happen that day. I'd been usin', using that to be picked up for almost for two weeks from the time that I brought my car down to Arkansas and left it there.

NEWMAN:
Alright. This is the probably the major intersection in the Bloomfield Township area anyway. That's the number one shopping center there, it's a natural spot.

O'BRIEN:
Well plus the fact that my friend where I was staying lives down on Maple Road uh not far from there and it was, it was a lot, it was the easiest place for me to, you know be picked up.

NEWMAN:
It is purely and entirely coincidental that you were waiting at that shopping center, the same shopping cneter from which Jimmy would disappear later in the day.

O'BRIEN:
No question.

NEWMAN:
Okay, 8:00 you, you leave.

O'BRIEN:
Yeah but...

NEWMAN:
You leave the shopping center area.

O'BRIEN:
Yeah.

NEWMAN:
Quarter to eight. What time do you get to work? About 8:30?

O'BRIEN:
Oh sometimes it depends on what happens on the traffic on the expressway.

NEWMAN:
And it was set up for you originally to go to a Teamster meeting in Toronto.

O'BRIEN:
Yeah there was a meeting that went, that, that particular day in Toronto and uh which I ya know uh didn't go because I, I ya know was no need for me to be there.

NEWMAN:
Because you were not gonna be a factor on the scene in the Detroit area.

O'BRIEN:
No way and, and uh, and all I woulda done was just ya know gone there and, and set there and listen to the meeting which uh woulda put me behind another day because I was gonna leave Sunday morning early and uh in fact I was going to leave uh really on Friday but because a friend of mine was betting married on Saturday I, I decided to stay over for the wedding.

NEWMAN:
Okay all of this because you were uh planning on your move to the south you had no uh real reason for being at the Toronto conference so you hung around the office.

O'BRIEN:
Well getting my stuff and my affairs put together because I was going to work out of uh, out of West Memphis, Arkansas, for, for a while because the, as you know we were moving the southern conference from Dallas, Texas, uh over to Florida and uh the offices weren't even ready at that particular time uh...

NEWMAN:
Lemme ask you this Chuckie. Was it promising to be a reasonably busy day or a hang around kinda day?

O'BRIEN:
Uh where, at my office?

NEWMAN:
At your office at Teamster Headquarters on the west side of Detroit.

O'BRIEN:
Well it was gonna be busy for me because uh again I was you know doin' a lotta packin' and uh and ya know getting my affairs put together uh as far as my office there and making arrangements for the movers. I had a meeting with the, ya know, with the mover who was gonna move my stuff uh, uh to Memphis and uh...

NEWMAN:
Office clean-up type chores.

O'BRIEN:
Yeah.

NEWMAN:
And it beckoned to fill up your entire day you would say?

O'BRIEN:
Yeah, in fact I had been doin' it all week uh because I was ya know I'd had been ya know getting myself put together and, and getting my last minute assignments that I had, had to make reports on and so forth getting all that done.

NEWMAN:
Now you're in your office about 8:30 or 9:00 and you've indicated to, to Holmes that you won't be going to Toronto. Correct?

O'BRIEN:
Yeah.

NEWMAN:
Alright. You're there and you're there moreor less by yourself.

O'BRIEN:
No I'm there with uh, well see we - Bill Bufalino's office was there.

NEWMAN:
Yeah.

O'BRIEN:
We shared uh the same headquarters uh...

NEWMAN:
When I say by yourself I mean without direct supervision. Without um active conferences with other Teamster officials.

O'BRIEN:
No not other than anybody that would come upstairs you know come up to my office that was ya know wanted to talk to Bob or somethin' I could assist with uh yeah I was by myself.

NEWMAN:
So you're doing your chores. Your clean-up office type chores...

O'BRIEN:
Right.

NEWMAN:
All morning long.

O'BRIEN:
Right.

NEWMAN:
Somewhere around the noon hour an Express driver arrives with the fish for Bobby Holmes, Sr.

O'BRIEN:
Right.

NEWMAN:
Uh the secretary calls you on the phone doesn't know what to do with it.

O'BRIEN:
Well what she was concerned with is that uh knowing that I was there and uh, uh being able to ya know uh talk to me (unintelligible) what should she do with it you know and then finally I (unintelligible) what was in the box you know the, it uh, it was just a conversation and I said well don't worry about it I said I'll take care of it, I said call and see if anybody's at his home ya know for I didn't have to make the trip out there unnecessarily ya know. If somebody was there then uh, uh we would have done something with the fish but I don't, at that particular I didn't, I wasn't uh really concerned about it.

NEWMAN:
Vi Holmes did answer the call by the secretary from the Teamster office.

O'BRIEN:
Right.

NEWMAN:
And said okay bring it up.

O'BRIEN:
That's right.

NEWMAN:
Lemme ask you this. You had a busy day beckoning. You had a lot of stuff to do. Why did you volunteer? There was no one else to do it.

O'BRIEN:
There was nobody around and ya know uh I felt that uh, uh the condition that the fish was in uh I think I asked the driver how long it had been sitting at the airport and he said to best of his knowledge coulda been uh two, three, four hours and knowing it was perishable uh I figured I'll just take the time uh ya know instead of ya know goin' to lunch or something like that I'd just take the and run out there and, and, and drop it off.

NEWMAN:
So even though you had a lotta chores at the office - I don't mean to lay stress on this - but uh I'm tryin' to think...

O'BRIEN:
(Unintelligible) getting finished up at the, at, I was at the tail end of uh, of, of packing and that.

NEWMAN:
You had made more progress with your chores than you had earlier expected and you figured you had an hour or two to do a good deed for a Teamster buddy.

O'BRIEN:
I, I didn't even pla, I didn't even place it on how much time I had to do it because uh you know it just didn't enter my mind. Just, ya know my, my main thought was first of all I'd, I already made arrangements the movers uh I packed uh all that I could packed and, and took care of my personal things and uh, uh it was just a matter of uh if you know me I would do it for you, ya know (unintelligible) a person but if, you know, somebody uh, uh didn't have to be home, needed some assistance that I coulda been assistance I didn't put time to it because really uh all I was waitin' for uh at, at the tail end was to get a ride home uh from a, a pre-arranged uh, uh...

NEWMAN:
Right.

O'BRIEN:
Ya know meeting that I had with the individual giving me a ride home.

NEWMAN:
Okay. So when exactly did you leave Teamster Headquarters with the fish to bring to Vi Holmes at her home in Farmington Hills?

O'BRIEN:
Oh I'd say it was around uh I took off about uh 12:20, 12:30.

NEWMAN:
Alright. Just to back up a bit you called Joey Giacalone on the east side to borrow his car because there was no other car available. There was no car at the Teamster Headquarters for you to use...

O'BRIEN:
Right.

NEWMAN:
To run this, this errand.

O'BRIEN:
That's right.

NEWMAN:
There was no one around.

O'BRIEN:
Wish there, I wish there woulda been. I'd, I had you know prior to uh well after I sent my car down uh for a while I was using an old station wagon that the council had that they used you know for picket lines and different uh ya know different things that they needed it for..

NEWMAN:
Yeah.

O'BRIEN:
And it uh it was quite old, it was three or four years old, and it just broke down and that, and that, that station wagon was in the shop at that particular.

NEWMAN:
Bufalino, you couldn't ask him for his car?

O'BRIEN:
Buf uh, Buf wasn't there. Uh...

NEWMAN:
He was there earlier though wasn't he?

O'BRIEN:
He was there and he, and he had left.

NEWMAN:
He had left. What time did he leave?

O'BRIEN:
I don't re, I don't remember uh Dave, I didn't ya know I just didn't place the time he left.

NEWMAN:
Okay but in any event it was Joey Giacalone's car which was the only one available. He drove over, you drove him back to the east side and from the east side you drove back to the uh northwest suburbs of Detroit, Farmington Hills specifically.

O'BRIEN:
Right.

NEWMAN:
And you were with Vi Holmes for about an hour. You got to her house about what time - about 1:00?

O'BRIEN:
Oh thereabouts.

NEWMAN:
And you stayed with her for about half an hour 'til about 1:30. You uh cleaned the fish, you showed her how to prepare it, you showed her how to make steaks out of it.

O'BRIEN:
Well Dave the fish was already cleaned. It, there was, it was gutted there at the office. All we did was take the head off and then I showed to you know make you know make salmon steaks which she, well ya know as a woman she knew pretty much how to do that but she needed some assistance. She packed the steaks uh ya know to put 'em in her freezer.

NEWMAN:
Yeah.

O'BRIEN:
Uh I, she had the little, the little boy and uh who, who I'm aware of and I, well I picked him up, talked to him and I talked about you know different things. Talked about uh my marriage uh coming up and, and uh ya know et cetera.

NEWMAN:
You were there for about 15 minutes to half an hour.

O'BRIEN:
Oh I'd say 45 minutes I was...

NEWMAN:
Forty-five minutes. You left at bout, what about 1:45 or so?

O'BRIEN:
Thereabouts yeah.

NEWMAN:
And then you went to a car wash.

O'BRIEN:
Yep, got a car wash.

NEWMAN:
Which is in the same general area. You saw that the fish had dirtied the back seat of Joey Giacalone's car. You wanted to get the fish blood stains out.

O'BRIEN:
Yeah.

NEWMAN:
So you were there and you, you instructed them to make a very thorough job of it because you didn't want having borrowed the car to leave stains and so forth and so on.

O'BRIEN:
I put some paper back there in the back and uh it soaked through and uh, and uh, and I needed gas uh the car was almost outta gas and uh, yeah I know if it rained uh couple days before that car was you know like it was dirty so I said well what the heck uh I'll put gas in it, get it washed and get it cleaned for you know, you know the use of the car you know I didn't wanna bring it back to him dirty.

NEWMAN:
Okay. Then, then you went to the Southfield Athletic Club. Correct? For about what length of time?

O'BRIEN:
Maybe 10, 15 minutes tops uh...

NEWMAN:
What time did you get to the Southfield Athletic Club?

O'BRIEN:
Oh it had to be about uh, I'd say around quarter to two, 10 minutes to two, around there.

NEWMAN:
Okay. Uh how, how much time did you spend to the car wash before?

O'BRIEN:
Oh I think it was about 10 minutes, 15 minutes.

NEWMAN:
Okay. And then from the Southfield Athletic Club where you saw Tony Giacalone you uh went to Joey's office on the east side.

O'BRIEN:
Right.

NEWMAN:
He jumped in the car with you preparatory to taking you back to your office.

O'BRIEN:
Right.

NEWMAN:
And you just accomplished the exchange of the uh, of the drivers.

O'BRIEN:
That's all. He just uh, in fact uh he jumped in the car I was drivin' and uh shot right back down Fisher Freeway which is 10 minutes, uh 11 minutes from his office and uh comes up right on Trumbull Avenue and got out, thanked him uh, he went on his way, I went in the office and uh went upstairs and told Annie I said uh ya know every, everything is taken care of. If Bob calls in you know tell him that uh, that you know that I took care of uh bringin' the fish out to Vi and...

NEWMAN:
Right. What time are you back in the office?

O'BRIEN:
Oh I had to back there by about quarter to four.

NEWMAN:
Okay. So that the, the, the transfer of the car and the business with exchanging it with Joey Giacalone took a fair

amount of time because you had been in the Southfield Athletic Club at about 2:00. You spent about 15 minutes there. Took about fif, uh half an hour to bet back to the east side I would say correct?

O'BRIEN:
It took me uh, it took me about uh 30 minutes to get back, around there.

NEWMAN:
Alright so now we're only about to quarter to three or so, 3:15 would put you back at the office.

O'BRIEN:
Well I got back, I got back a little later than that. Uh like I told the FBI I said look uh I'm giving it to you the best of my recollection. I can't pinpoint it to the minute you know. Uh the only thing I knew that uh to start off with is that it was around noontime, uh when the fish got there, earlier maybe uh 11:30 you know somethin' like that, quarter 'til, quarter to 12 uh when she called me you know.

NEWMAN:
Chuckie hangon for just a second. I'm neglecting our, our program log here.

O'BRIEN:
Okay.

NEWMAN:
Hang on for a second.
(Irrelevant)

(Irrelevant)

NEWMAN:
We're back with Chuckie O'Brien from his home in Florida. The thing I guess I was getting at Chuckie is trying to put myself in the position of the investigators, the FBI people and others who have been questioning you about your day July 30, 1975, and I think in a sense I see where their, their jumping in was concern, I see, I think the um the time stretch factor at the end of the day do you know what I mean?

O'BRIEN:
Yeah

NEWMAN:
At the end of your activities, does things start to take longer toward the end of your succession of activities in the northwest suburbs and then back to the east side, do you know what I mean?

O'BRIEN:
Uh huh.

NEWMAN:
This half an hour or so thats vague, is that the problem area as far as the FBI is concerned?

O'BRIEN:
No, I mean it could, you know anybody you know, if you wanted, ya know, I look at it this way Dave, I feel that if you want to put somebody someplace and you want to use some imagination, ahhh to do that, ahhh, theres ahh you know, its very easy I could do, you know, anybody could be put in that position ahh.

NEWMAN:
What I'm thinking of is um Linteau first claimed that his conversation on the phone with Hoffa, where the hell is is Tony Jack and the others ah quote unquote, occurred at 2:30 then he changed it to 3:30 correct?

O'BRIEN:
Ahhh he said so many things I don't know, ya know, I didn't pay attention, too much attention.

NEWMAN:
When is the last time it is determined conclusively that Jimmy Hoffa was speaking to a living human being, do you know that?

O'BRIEN:
Ahhh no.

NEWMAN:
When was the last time you spoke to Josephine Hoffa that day on the phone?

O'BRIEN:
I understand it was in in the afternoon.

NEWMAN:
But the, the time is is not ah

O'BRIEN:
Well this ya know, ya know, let me just say this to you.

NEWMAN:
Sure.

O'BRIEN:
Ahhh lets take ah one thing at a time and and if you take what, what was said, ah, you know, and this is, this is, this is something that you know amazes me where some people you know don't get this full knowledge of it, but heres what, ya know, what I talked about in the 6th Circuit and this is what the Judge said, ah, and again where he went out, and and wrote his decision, ah you know, some judges take time to write some judges just you know use one sentence, but he was so upset when his feelings relative to the going back to using Esposito for example because he did file the Affidavit and he said that ah, that it does appear that a reviewing court may not hold that a magistrates judgement

O'BRIEN (Cont'd.):
has been arbitrarily exercised if theres basis for the magistrate to conclude that the property to be searched will probably produce evidence of the crime described by one seeking the warrant. This is precisely what I find lacking in the Affidavit in the present case. Though the Affidavit recites an abundance of details which form the ah underlying circumstances that lead the FBI Agents to seek the warrant. It appears to me that the substantial basis for this conclusion that the automobile of Joseph Giacalone was involved and disappeared from James R. Hoffa is lacking. The conclusion to the Affidavit is deficient does not result from ah hypothetical rather than common sense approach. Even to, even ah concerning the probability that the unexplained disappearance of James R. Hoffa resulted from the abduction engineered okay?

NEWMAN:
Um hum.

O'BRIEN:
Ahhh there must be some link between the assumed Federal crime and the automobile of Joseph Giacalone. When the Affidavit is read as a whole it is clear that the activities of O'Brien on July the 30th, 1975, are relied upon to supply the, the connecting link; however, I find, I find completely (unintelligible) the conclusion that Charles O'Brien probably used the automobile of Joseph Giacalone to abduct, abduct James R. Hoffa is a possible accord that this did occur but the facts recited in the Affidavit do not supply the probability that is required though O'Brian did borrow the automobile of Giacalone on the day of the disappearance, the Affidavit failed to place O'Brien or the automobile any place where Hoffa was said to be on that day.

NEWMAN:
Um hum.

O'BRIEN:
The Government contends that the magistrate could take judic, judicial notice of the fact that the Farmington, Farmington, Michigan, is about a ten minute drive from the Machus Red, Red Fox Restaurant where Hoffa had gone.

NEWMAN:
Chuckie theres only about four or five minutes left, in other words what the, what the court is saying there is that no matter what time softness is alleged by the FBI, no matter what half an hour period or whatever it is that ah, in which your movements are are vague according to witness substantiation have not connected your movements with Jimmy Hoffa's disappearance in some concrete way.

O'BRIEN:
Very quickly, never, we just said, never or less the Affidavit places O'Brien in Farmington between ah only 12 noon and 1:00 p.m. which was at least one and one half hours before Hoffa disappeared. There is absolutely nothing to indicate that Hoffa and O'Brien were in the same vicinity after 2:30 p.m. when Hoffa was last heard from.

NEWMAN:
Okay so thats, thats where things stand right now.

O'BRIEN:
Thats right.

NEWMAN:
Chuckie hang on for a second.

O'BRIEN:
Sure

(irrelevant)

NEWMAN:
We are back with Chuckie O'Brien, four minutes to one is our WXYZ time, Chuckie your still there correct?

O'BRIEN:
I sure am.

NEWMAN:
Okay, did you have something further that you wanted to say in the ah, in that reconstruction of the afternoon?

O'BRIEN:
No other than, other than, ah you know, I'm just, you know, I'm just again repeating what I, I said from the start from with the interview with Jerry ah, you know, ah, its the question, its the question that I said and I think a young lady called in that was concerned about ya know, myself taking that lie detector test. I really, I really ah did, I, I've never been one to believe in lie detector tests but I've had the opportunity to talk to probably one of the finest ah polygraph people in this country or he's considered that.

NEWMAN:
Um hum.

O'BRIEN:
And, and ah, you know and he told me ah the facts ah relative to a detector test and so forth, and I just felt that I owed ah something to myself and to my family and to the people that I've associated with, and to my organization because you know, if they mention a bribe there gonna mention the Teamsters and ah. ah, I just feel that ah, ah I spent too much time in, in this organization. I never did anything that I can be ashamed of ah, relative to the people, I've had the privilege of serving and ah, you know, if I left the Teamsters tomorrow, if this would stop the tremendous ah publicity the (unintelligible) of the Teamsters Union I guess I would do that ah without, without even hesitation.

NEWMAN:
Chuckie let me ask you a couple of basic questions in the, in the two minutes which are left. If I heard you correctly in the 60 Minutes interview with Safer and with Jerry Stanecki you say that its absurd on the face of it that Organized Crime and/or the Teamsters would have anything to do with the Teamsters, would have anything to do with the Hoffa disappearance, you don't believe it and you think its an outlandish conclusing, correct?

O'BRIEN:
I've, I, 100 percent.

NEWMAN:
Well why, why is it so absurd? Why is all of that so absurd? We have remarks on the public record of great anger on the part of Fitz. We have, I'll tell ya, you know I was a Teamster once myself, ah many years ago in New York and I saw an incident in ah, in a railway express terminal in New Jersey, in which a Teamster who was opposing the election of Tony Pro of Local 560 was putting up some wall posters and he had the living hell beaten out of him in front of my very eyes.

O'BRIEN:
Well I

NEWMAN:
By Tony Pro's guys so I, I made a conclusion that in my mind ah Chuckie

O'BRIEN:
Well I, I saw people on television that ah, that went, went to ah President elect Carters home town in Plains, Georgia, ah with signs for Ford and they, they threw ice cream at the cars they

NEWMAN:
Yeah well the only conclusion I'm, I'm trying to make or the only point I'm trying to make Chuckie is that Tony Pro plays rough, everybody knows that.

O'BRIEN:
Oh well I think, I think thats blown out of proportion.

NEWMAN:
You think its blown out of proportion?

O'BRIEN:
I certainly do, I, I, ya know, its just ah, its its got to the point that ah it, it really, I, I, I feel that this, that, that if you watch a James Bond movie you couldn't, you couldn't get anymore ah wilder stories than what, whats starting to come out than has been coming out. I can remember when thats all Sully use to talk about was Hoffa, Hoffa was this, Hoffa was that, you know, it just was unreal.

NEWMAN:
Chuckie we are out of time and you are to be commended for spending as much time as you did with us tonight and I'm sincerely greatful to you.

O'BRIEN:
I, David I wanna, I wanna just say thank you to you and ah, you know, I, I grew up in Detroit, and ah, and, and ya know, I just, I feel I owe something to the community ah because I've been silent and I've taken ah, I've taken a beating on it and I, and I said to Jerry Stanecki ah you know, Polish power is a great thing, their, their great people.

NEWMAN:
Well I'll

O'BRIEN:
And ah, and I just want to thank you and, and for, to give me this opportunity.

NEWMAN:
Well it, it was a pleasure to talk with you Chuckie, thank you very much.

O'BRIEN:
Thank you very much.

NEWMAN:
Chuckie O'Brien from his home in Florida.

(Irrelevant)

[redacted]

MAR 4 8 30 PM '77

RECEIVED
FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Assoc. Dir. ____
Dep. AD Adm. ____
Dep. AD Inv. ____
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Serv. ____
Ext. Affairs ____
Fin. & Pers. ____
Gen. Inv. ____
Ident. ____
Intell. ____
Legal Coun. ____
Plan. & Insp. ____
Rec. Mgt. ____
S. & T. Serv. ____
Spec. Inv. ____
Training ____
Telephone Rm. ____
Director's Sec'y ____

[redacted]

REC-39 EX 104

MAR 10 1977

[redacted]

non public source material

57 MAR 16 1977

[redacted]

RE ANTHONY GIACALONE, AKA., TONY:

IN NEWSPAPER ARTICLE APPEARING IN THE "DETROIT FREE PRESS", A DAILY DETROIT NEWSPAPER, IT WAS REPORTED THAT GIACALONE, ALONG WITH FOUR OTHER REPUTED MAFIA MEMBERS, HAD BEEN SUBPOENAED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS DURING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 28, 1977, CONCERNING THE MURDER OF JOHN ROSELLI, A REPUTED MAFIA MEMBER WHO HAD BEEN LIVING IN MIAMI, FLORIDA. ROSELLI'S BODY WAS FOUND IN AN OIL DRUM IN BISCAYNE BAY NEAR DOWNTOWN MIAMI, AUGUST, 1976. [redacted]

non public source material

[redacted]

non-public source

RE FRANK E. FITZSIMMONS:

ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE REQUESTED FITZSIMMONS AND OTHERS TO RESIGN AS TRUSTEES OF THE TEAMSTERS 1.4 BILLION DOLLAR CENTRAL STATES PENSION FUND. REPORTEDLY, THE LABOR DEPARTMENT WAS GOING TO SEEK VOLUNTARY ACTION ON FITZSIMMONS WITHDRAWAL, HOWEVER, INTENDED

TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION IF FITZSIMMONS DID NOT VOLUNTARILY AGREE TO RESIGN. NO INFORMATION GIVEN AS TO THE LENGTH OF TIME FITZSIMMONS WOULD HAVE TO MAKE HIS DECISION.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

[redacted]

BT

non-public source material

HOLD PLS

MAR 16 3 25 PM '77

RECEIVED
FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Assoc. Dir.
Dep. AD Adm.
Dep. AD Inv.
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Serv.
Ext. Affairs
Fin. & Pers.
Gen. Inv.
Ident.
Intell.
Legal Coun.
Plan. & Insp.
Rec. Mgt.
S. & T. Serv.
Spec. Inv.
Training
Telephone Rm.
Director's Sec'y

[redacted]

non public source material

[redacted]

RE FRANK E. FITZSIMMONS (FEF):

AS REPORTED IN THE NEWS MEDIA DURING WEEK OF MARCH 14, 1977, FEF RESIGNED ALONG WITH THREE OTHER TRUSTEES FROM THE TEAMSTERS CENTRAL STATES PENSION FUND. ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS, IT APPEARS SOME TYPE OF "DEAL" WAS MADE IN WHICH FEF WOULD AGREE TO RESIGN IN EXCHANGE FOR NOT BEING PROSECUTED ON VIOLATIONS CONCERNING THE FUND.

REC 61 9-60052-2355

7 MAR 28 1977

[redacted] INFO

83

84 MAR 30 1977

[redacted]

MAR 25 6 58 PM '77

RECEIVED
FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Assoc. Dir. ____
Dep. AD Adm. ____
Dep. AD Inv. ____
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Serv. ____
Ext. Affairs ____
Fin. & Pers. ____
Gen. Inv. ____
Ident. ____
Intell. ____
Legal Coun. ____
Plan. & Insp. ____
Rec. Mgt. ____
S. & T. Serv. ____
Spec. Inv. ____
Training ____
Telephone Rm. ____
Director's Sec'y ____

non public source material

[redacted]

RE ANTHONY "TONY PRO" PROVENZANO:

IN A VERY SHORT ARTICLE APPEARING THE THE "DETROIT FREE PRESS", MARCH 22, 1977, IT WAS REPORTED THAT THE DISMISSAL OF A FEDERAL KIDNAPPING-MURDER CONSPIRACY CASE AGAINST PROVENZANO AND HIS UNION ASSOCIATES, WAS UPHELD BY A FEDERAL APPEALS COURT. THESE CHARGES AGAINST PROVENZANO HAD BEEN DISMISSED IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT

REC-126 9-[illegible]-236

MAR 30 1977

OF NEW YORK ON OCTOBER 29, 1976, ON GROUNDS THAT THE FIVE YEAR STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS HAD RUN OUT. A THREE JUDGE COURT OF APPEALS PANEL UPHELD JUDGE CHARLES STEWART, JR'S DISMISSAL.

PROVENZANO, SALVATORE BRIGUGLIO AND OTHERS, HOWEVER, MUST STILL STAND MURDER CHARGES IN THE STATE COURT OF NEW YORK CITY. NO DATE HAS BEEN SET FOR THAT TRIAL.

[redacted]

non public source material

[redacted]

APR 11 7 02 PM '77

RECEIVED
FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Assoc. Dir. ____
Dep. AD Adm. ____
Dep. AD Inv. ____
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Serv. ____
Ext. Affairs ____
Fin. & Pers. ____
Gen. Inv. ____
Ident. ____
Intell. ____
Legal Coun. ____
Plan. & Insp. ____
Rec. Mgt. ____
S. & T. Serv. ____
Spec. Inv. ____
Training ____
Telephone Rm. ____
Director's Sec'y ____

[redacted]

non public source material

REC 50 ... -399

25 1977

57 MAY 13 1977

[redacted]

non-public source material

ON APRIL 11, 1977, AN ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE SAN ANTONIO LIGHT NEWSPAPER, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, ENTITLED "FBI TO INVESTIGATE 20 MOB MURDERS". THIS ARTICLE WHICH IS A NEW YORK (UPI)

RELEASE REPORTED THE FBI HAS BEGUN A WIDE INQUIRY INTO 20 MURDERS COMMITTED DURING THE LAST TWO YEARS BY UNDERWORLD FIGURES. THE VICTIMS WERE FREQUENTLY PERSONS WHO WERE SERVING AS FBI INFORMANTS OR WHO WERE POTENTIAL PROSECUTION WITNESSES. THE SLAIN MEN, ALL OF WHOM WERE KILLED BY .22 CALIBER AUTOMATIC PISTOLS INCLUDED SAM GIANCANA THE FORMER CHICAGO BOSS.

[redacted]

BT

non-public source material

CC: GENERAL INV. DIV.

0-19 (Rev. 4-29-77)

Assoc. Dir. ____
Dep. AD Adm. ____
Dep. AD Inv. ____
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Serv. ____
Crim. Inv. ____
Fin. & Pers. ____
Ident. ____
Intell. ____
Laboratory ____
Legal Coun. ____
Plan. & Insp. ____
Rec. Mgnt. ____
Spec. Inv. ____
Tech. Servs. ____
Training ____
Public Affs. Off. ____
Telephone Rm. ____
Director's Sec'y ____

Hoffa Inquiry Has Collapsed, U.S. Aides Say

By JO THOMAS
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 7—The inquiry into the disappearance of James R. Hoffa, former president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, has collapsed, Federal officials close to the case said today. The investigation has cost the Federal Bureau of Investigation more than $1 million over the last two years.

Mr. Hoffa's son, James P. Hoffa, a Detroit lawyer, said today that he was "disturbed" and "disappointed that more isn't being done by the F.B.I. or the Justice Department."

"They must have an idea how to move this case along," he said.

Although a Justice Department spokesman said that the search for Mr. Hoffa, who is believed to have been the victim of an underworld execution, still had priority and was "by no means" closed, United States Attorney Philip Van Dam said in Detroit: "There's nothing left to do. I share Mr. Hoffa's disappointment."

The number of agents working on the case has dwindled to a handful, and most are also assigned to other cases. Agents on the case said they had backtracked,

Continued From Page A1

hoping they had overlooked something.

"We're seeking new avenues, taking a broader look at possibilities, at possible causes and results, at whatever we can find," said Robert Kent, special agent in charge of the Detroit F.B.I. office.

"I don't feel as optimistic as I did last year," Mr. Van Dam conceded. "I said last year I hoped we'd know by this time what happened. We don't."

The investigation will be two years old on July 30. In the afternoon of that day in 1975, Mr. Hoffa vanished from the parking lot of the Machus Red Fox Restaurant in Bloomfield Township outside Detroit.

Four days later, the Director of the F.B.I., Clarence M. Kelley, said extortion demands had been received and that the bureau had entered the investigation, which it had monitored unofficially from the outset.

The inquiry grew into the largest investigation ever conducted by the bureau involving someone believed to have died, a spokesman said. The search for Patricia Hearst was bigger and more expensive, costing about $9 million, the spokesman said, "but we knew she was alive." Mr. Hoffa, he said, was presumed dead.

A Federal grand jury in Detroit began an investigation on Sept 2, 1975, and eventually called more than 80 witnesses, including Mr. Hoffa's associates, teamsters' officials and many of the leading figures in the Detroit underworld.

Reward Still Being Offered

Hundreds of tips flowed in as offers of a reward for information leading to the arrest of Mr. Hoffa's abductors grew to $300,000. The reward is still being offered, but the number of tips, according to the younger Hoffa, has dwindled to "maybe one a month."

Members of the Hoffa family have said that the former teamster president intended to meet Anthony Giacalone, a reputed Detroit underworld figure, on the day he disappeared. Mr. Giacalone, they said, had offered to arrange a meeting between Mr. Hoffa and Anthony Provenzano, secretary-treasurer of teamster Local 560 in Union City, N.J., a former ally who later turned against Mr. Hoffa.

Witnesses who saw Mr. Hoffa on the day he vanished recalled that he had said he intended to meet "Tony G.," "Tony P." and one other man, but they were able to recall this only under hypnosis.

Minutes before he disappeared, Mr. Hoffa telephoned his wife, Josephine, to ask, "Where the hell is Giacalone?" family members said.

Mr. Provenzano and Mr. Giacalone have both denied being at the restaurant that day.

Later, investigators said that tracking dogs had detected Mr. Hoffa's scent in the trunk and back seat of a 1975 maroon Mercury that was driven that day by Charles L. O'Brien, a teamster official who has referred to himself as Mr. Hoffa's foster son. The car, owned by Mr. Giacalone's son, Joseph, remains in Federal custody.

Both Giacalones, Mr. Provenzano, and Mr. O'Brien were called to testify before the Federal grand jury, which met almost daily until early November 1975. At that time, Ralph Guy, then United States Attorney, said the grand jury had called all the witnesses on its list and was "just hoping for a good lead."

The case revived a month later, however, when Federal prosecutors said that an informant had named three New Jersey men, all reported to be associates of Mr. Provenzano, as Mr. Hoffa's killers.

Thomas Andretta and two brothers, Salvatore and Gabriel Briguglio, named by the informant were ordered by a Federal judge to appear in a police lineup in Pontiac, Mich., for viewing by two purported witnesses to the Hoffa abduction.

The Washington Post ____
Washington Star-News ____
Daily News (New York) ____
The New York Times A1
The Wall Street Journal ____
The National Observer ____
The Los Angeles Times ____

Date JUL 8 1977

24

56 SEP 1977

FBI/DOJ

0-60052-2450X

2 Witnesses View Lineup

One witness, a businessman, could not identify any of the three as having been with Mr. Hoffa in the maroon car he saw that day. The other witness, a woman, identified one of the men as a person she saw with Mr. Hoffa outside the restaurant, but she reportedly had seen his picture in a newspaper before she saw the lineup raising questions about her identification of the suspect.

Mr. Andretta and the two Briguglio brothers have said they were playing cards in the Local 560 union hall on the day Mr. Hoffa disappeared.

The grand jury subsequently called and gave immunity from prosecution to three other witnesses associated with Local 560. In July 1976, it also gave immunity to Joseph Giacalone, who testified for 90 minutes.

At the time, Mr. Van Dam said that progress was "excellent," and he predicted that indictments would eventually be returned.

GIVING BEGETS JOY

AID FRESH AIR FUND

EDUCATION

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

A Book by Hoffa Accuses Fitzsimmons of Mob Link

By PETER KIHSS

James R. Hoffa, who has been missing since July 30, has charged Frank E. Fitzsimmons, his successor as president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, with "selling out to mobsters" and "making vast loans from the billion-dollar teamster pension fund to known mobsters."

Mr. Hoffa's charges were made known yesterday by his son, James P. Hoffa, and Sol Stein, president of Stein & Day, in presenting a book that they said the elder Mr. Hoffa was working on when he disappeared. Entitled "Hoffa: The Real Story, by James R. Hoffa," it was written "as told to" Oscar Fraley, a sports writer and author of other books.

At a news conference at the Overseas Press Club in the Biltmore Hotel, Mr. Hoffa's son, wearing a black mourning tie with his light gray suit, said that he believed his father had been murdered by a "ruthless conspiracy."

Epilogue Is Quoted

The son, a lawyer, declined at the news conference to suggest motives or persons involved, but in an epilogue in the book, written by Mr. Fraley, he was quoted as follows:

"The only motive big enough had to come out of the union. The powers that be had too much to lose if Dad won in 1976 and then found out from the books what they'd been doing with the pension-fund money."

The elder Mr. Hoffa had planned to run again for the union presidency.

In Washington, Mr. Fitzsimmons's office said that neither he nor his public relations spokesman would be available yesterday, when a request was made for comment.

Mr. Hoffa's accusations against the man he picked as his successor in 1971, while Mr. Hoffa was serving a Federal prison term for attempted jury fixing and pension fraud before President Nixon commuted his sentence that December, were as follows:

"I charge Fitzsimmons with political influence peddling and conspiring with John Dean and Charles Colson of President Richard Nixon's 'Watergate staff' to prevent me from regaining my office.

"I charge him with selling out to mobsters and letting known racketeers into the teamsters.

"I charge him with blackjacking union officials into line by giving $7-million in annual organizing funds only to people who promise to support him.

Sent to 'Siberia'

"I charge him with sending Hoffa supporters among the teamster officials to 'Siberia' so they couldn't influence delegates to the 1976 convention.

"I charge him with awarding a $1.3-million teamster 'public relations' program in 1973 to two men with criminal records.

"I charge him with permitting underworld establishment of a union insurance scheme which in one year was a rip-off to the tune of $1,185,000 in the New York area alone and in which his own son, Don, participated on a national level.

"I charge him with making vast loans from the billion-dollar teamster pension fund to known mobsters.

"I charge him with winning teamster support by giving regional union officials powers that belong to the international executive board.

Hoffa Loans Recalled

"I charge him with stripping my wife and my son of union posts as a further means of undermining my influence."

Mr. Hoffa asserted "the Teamsters' Central States, Southeast and Southwest Area Pension Fund has become the biggest mob target," with em-

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

N.Y. Times

Date: 9/12/75

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

9-60052-695

ployers of 500,000 teamsters contributing more than $200-million a year.

He wrote that "during my years as general president, I made loans to what the Government labeled suspicious characters, if not charging them with being outright mobsters." But he asserted "we had damned few defaults," and added, "which is more than can be said now."

While he was in Lewisburg penitentiary, he said, he refused to help Anthony Provenzano, who had headed a Hoboken local, to keep a union pension threatened because of an extortion conviction. Since then, he said, Mr. Provenzano has been involved in Florida building projects that have had more than $5-million in pension loans.

Regarding his insurance charge, Mr. Hoffa cited Louis Ostrer, who received a five-year suspended sentence after pleading guilty in 1969 to "swindling a Canadian insurance company out of $338,000."

He said that Mr. Ostrer sold to New York Teamster Local 295, "dominated by labor racketeer Harry Davidoff," a plan requiring truck employers to pay $40 a week for each employe to buy individual insurance policies for them and to build a severance pay fund.

Mr. Hoffa said that the State Insurance Department charged that the payments had been "siphoned off by outrageous commissions and administration fees," and that the insurance should have cost only $52,546, instead of $1,238,274.

He said that Mr. Ostrer had hired Mr. Fitzsimmons's son Don, who had been "peddling vending machines for a hoodlum-owned company" and the latter brought more than 60 teamster locals in seven states into the plan.

Statement by Lawyer

Julius November, a lawyer for Mr. Ostrer, said yesterday that challenges in State Supreme Court and the Appellate Division had upset the regulation involved in the State Insurance Department's citation, which was still under discussion with the department.

He said that Mr. Ostrer had repaid the money in the Canadian case; that a Federal Court conviction against Mr. Ostrer mentioned by Mr. Hoffa was awaiting decision on a motion for dismissal or new trial, and that a New York County indictment against Mr. Ostrer also cited in the book had been withdrawn on a motion by the prosecution.

Mr. Hoffa charged that Mr. Colson, as President Nixon's special counsel, had conspired with Mr. Fitzsimmons to impose a ban on Mr. Hoffa's union activities until 1980 in return for projected yearly teamster legal fees of $100,000. Mr. Colson has called such charges "false and malicious."

When Mr. Nixon commuted Mr. Hoffa's sentence, he imposed the condition that Mr. Hoffa stay out of union activities until 1980.

In the book's epilogue, Mr. Fraley says that Mr. Hoffa charged that his so-called "foster son," Charles O'Brien, had become a "turncoat," lining up with Mr. Fitzsimmons, and that the "foster son" description had been "fabricated" so Mr. O'Brien could visit Mr. Hoffa in the penitentiary.

Also participating in the news conference was C. Edward Lawrenson, executive director of the National Association for Justice, a prison reform group in Washington that is to get all of Mr. Hoffa's earnings from the book. Publication had originally been scheduled for next February, but was advanced. The first printing consists of 50,000 copies.

0-19 (Rev. 11-13-76)

Assoc. Dir. ____
Dep. AD Adm. ____
Dep. AD Inv. ____
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Serv. ____
Ext. Affairs ____
Fin. & Pers. ____
Gen. Inv. ✓
Ident. ____
Intell. ____
Legal Coun. ____
Plan. & Insp. ____
Rec. Mgt. ____
S. & T. Serv. ____
Spec. Inv. ____
Training ____
Telephone Rm. ____
Director's Sec'y ____
[redacted] ✓

Does Missing Tape Have Hoffa Clues?

NEW YORK — The victim of a recent gangland-style murder told federal agents he had a tape-recorded account of the killing of Teamster leader Jimmy Hoffa, Time magazine says.

The magazine yesterday said attorney Gino Gallina "informed the feds that he had hidden a tape-recorded account of the killing that included the voices of mobsters who had a hand in it."

Gallina reportedly said the body of Hoffa, who has been missing for two years, could be found from information on the tape.

Time said federal investigators have looked for the tape since the slaying of Gallina in New York on Nov. 5.

The Washington Post ____
Washington Star-News A-5
Daily News (New York) ____
The New York Times ____
The Wall Street Journal ____
The National Observer ____
The Los Angeles Times ____

Date 11-14-77

9-60052-[redacted]

file 9-60052

FBI/DOJ

[redacted]

OCT 26 7 02 PM '77

RECEIVED
FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Assoc. Dir.
Dep. AD Adm.
Dep. AD Inv.
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Serv.
Crim. Inv.
Fin. & Pers.
Ident.
Intell.
Laboratory
Legal Coun.
Plan. & Insp.
Rec. Mgnt.
Spec. Inv.
Tech. Servs.
Training
Public Affs. Off.
Telephone Rm.
Director's Sec'y

[redacted]

REC-79 9-6000 2513

non public source material

11 OCT 28 1977

[redacted]

1 XEROX

OCT 31 1977 PS

58 NOV 3 1977
29

[redacted]

non public source material

A REVIEW OF THE CHICAGO INDICES REFLECTS A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE APPEARING IN THE CHICAGO SUNDAY TRIBUNE, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, DATED JANUARY 7, 1973, PAGE 42, SECTION 1, ENTITLED, "CONVICTED UNION CONSULTANT RETAINS STATE LICENSE". THE LAST PARAGRAPH OF ARTICLE STATES:

"DORFMAN'S RECENT CONVICTION STILL HAS NOT DAMPENED THE ENTHUSIASM OF OTHER TEAMSTER OFFICIALS TOWARDS HIM. ON FRIDAY

NIGHT, (JANUARY 5, 1973) BETWEEN 250-300 LABOR LEADERS GATHERED AT THE CONTINENTAL PLAZA TO FETE DORFMAN ON HIS 50TH BIRTHDAY. CO-CHAIRMEN FOR THE LAVISH AFFAIR INCLUDED FRANK FITZSIMMONS TEAMSTER PRESIDENT; DON PETERS, TRUSTEE OF THE PENSION FUND AND SOL SCHWARTZ".

[redacted]

BT

#

Assoc. Dir.
Dep. AD Adm.
Dep. AD Inv.
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Serv.
Comm. Inv.
Fin. & Pers.
Ident.
Intell.
Laboratory
Legal Coun.
Plan. & Insp.
Rec. Mgnt.
Spec. Inv.
Tech. Servs.
Training
Public Affs. Off.
Telephone Rm.
Director's Sec'y

[redacted]

NOV 14 2 12 PM '77
MEB
RECEIVED
FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

[redacted]

non-public source material

ON THE MORNING OF NOVEMBER 14, 1977, DETROIT AREA RADIO STATIONS CARRIED A NEWS STORY WHICH THEY CLAIMED WAS RELEASED TO THE MEDIA BY TIME MAGAZINE ON THE EVENING OF NOVEMBER 13, 1977, AT NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK. THE STORY ALLEGES THAT GINO GALLINA, FORMER ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY IN NEW YORK CITY, WAS SHOT DOWN APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK AGO IN THE GREENWICH VILLAGE AREA.

REC-76 9-60052-2543

28 NOV 1977

[redacted]

7237

1977

OF NEW YORK CITY AND DIED APPROXIMATELY ONE AND ONE-HALF HOURS LATER AFTER SOSTAINING SEVEN GUN SHOT WOUNDS. THE STORY FURTHER ALLEGES THAT DURING THE ONE AND ONE-HALF HOURS BETWEEN THE TIME GALLINA WAS SHOT AND THE TIME HE DIED, HE ALLEGEDLY TOLD FEDERAL INVESTIGATORS OF A TAPE RECORDING WHICH OUTLINED THE CIRCUMSTANCES BEHIND THE DEATH OF JAMES R. HOFFA, THE IDENTITIES OF THE FIVE INDIVIDUALS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH AND THE LOCATION OF THE BODY. THE STORY ALSO ALLEGES THAT SUBSEQUENT TO GALLINA'S DEATH, FEDERAL INVESTIGATORS HAVE SEARCHED A SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX, EXACTHGOCATION UNKNOWN, WHICH WAS RENTED BY GALLINA IN AN ATTEMPT TO FIND THE TAPE WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

[redacted]

non public source material [redacted]

EDNY

19 JUL 78 20 04z

RECEIVED
FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Assoc. Dir. ____
Dep. AD Adm. ____
Dep. AD Inv. ____
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Serv. ____
Crim. Inv. ____
Ident. ____
Intell. ____
Laboratory ____
Legal Coun. ____
Plan. & Insp. ____
Rec. Mgnt. ____
Tech. Servs. ____
Training ____
Public Affs. Off. ____
Telephone Rm. ____
Director's Sec'y ____

[redacted]

[redacted]

ST-1[redacted] REC-50 9-60032-[redacted]

[redacted]

JUL 28 1978

non-public source material

F19

[redacted]

[redacted]

AUG 14 1978

[redacted]

non public source material

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT ON JULY 18, 1978, A LOCAL DETROIT RADIO STATION AIRED A STORY ABOUT HAIRS BELONGING TO HOFFA BEING FOUND IN JOEY GIACALONE'S CAR ALONG WITH BLOOD OF THE SAME TYPE AS HOFFA'S. [redacted]

BT

0-19 (Rev. 11-12-76)

Assoc. Dir. ____
Dep. AD Adm. ____
Dep. AD Inv. ____
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Serv. ____
Ext. Affairs ____
Fin. & Pers. ____
Gen. Inv. ____
Ident. ____
Intell. ____
Legal Coun. ____
Plan. & Insp. ____
Rec. Mgt. ____
S. & T. Serv. ____
Spec. Inv. ____
Training ____
Telephone Rm. ____
Director's Sec'y ____

[redacted]

Jimmy Hoffa: A Life Lived on Borrowed Time

Reviewed by
Joseph Volz

The reviewer is the Justice Department correspondent for the Washington bureau of the New York Daily News.

Jimmy Hoffa's gangland execution was inevitable, according to Lester Velie. Hoffa had made a desperate bargain with the Mafia decades before. He would be the mob's man in the burgeoning Teamsters.

Velie, who has been watching and writing about Hoffa for Reader's Digest over the last 20 years, even lets us in on the place where Hoffa made his pact with the devil.It was sometime in the 1930s in Detroit where Hoffa, a young street tough, had so antagonized the leading mafiosi that he was brought before a mob "court" and sentenced to death.

"Jim Hoffa convinced his Mafia judges that he was worth more to them alive than dead," reports Velie. "For, alive, he could put union power at their disposal."

In these days of non-fiction fiction and fictionalized non-fiction it is difficult to know when a larger-than-life tale slips into the narrative undetected. But whether Hoffa received a suspended sentence from the Cosa Nostra or not, there is little question among Hoffa analysts that he did have a long-running love affair with the mob. And, federal investigators believe, he died at mob hands when he sought to defy his old partners.

"Desperate Bargain" is a fitting obit but far from the definitive study that, no doubt, will be written by a professorial type from a labor institute. Velie is not a scholar, but a storyteller—witness his version of what happened when Hoffa went out to lunch that July summer two years ago and disappeared. Hoffa thought he would be sitting down with reported Detroit organized crime leader Tony Jack Giacalone and out-of-town Teamsters' strongman and convicted extortionist Anthony (Tony Pro) Provenzano of Union City, N.J.

Velie believes the prevailing Justice Department wisdom that New Jersey mobsters kidnapped Hoffa and killed him, and advances the unproven thesis that Giacalone set up Hoffa's farewell party. There have been no indictments and none are likely because of conflicting testimony on the part of eye witnesses and memory lapses on the part of Mafia suspects.

Velie argues that Hoffa lost his role as "supermob's biggest figure" when

Hoffa

The Washington Post B-6
Washington Star-News ____
Daily News (New York) ____
The New York Times ____
The Wall Street Journal ____
The National Observer ____
The Los Angeles Times ____

Date 12-13-77

9-60052-

58 DEC 29 1977

file 9-60052

NOT RECORDED
15 DEC 28 1976

FBI/DOJ

Book World

DESPERATE BARGAIN: Why Jimmy Hoffa Had to Die. By Lester Velie

(Reader's Digest Press. 258 pp. $10)

he lost the Teamsters presidency while in prison. He was of no further use to the mob and "lived on borrowed time from the moment he left prison. Instead of a conduit to the upper world, he had become a menace. He could blow the whistle."

The whole story of James Riddle Hoffa? Not quite. It is a good police reporter's account, but offers few insights into Hoffa himself—perhaps the most fascinating and complex man in the history of the union movement. We see such Hoffa footprints as the sweetheart contracts with truckers, rampant nepotism and huge loans from pension funds to cronies.

But we don't know why Hoffa trampled over so many people. Perhaps this frail book of 258 pages does not have room for Hoffa's childhood, his upbringing, his relationships with others. But without that, he comes off as a cardboard man—a composite of newspaper clippings and court transcripts.

To be sure there is an occasional glimpse of Hoffa—the uneducated father, for example, keeping his son, an all-state football tackle, off the college football team because it would interfere with his education. Or the strident Hoffa observing: "I may have my faults, but being wrong ain't one of them."

Velie seems to have a grudging admiration for Hoffa. Here is a man who could even talk his moral enemies, the cops, into joining the Teamsters. A man so beloved by the rank-and-file that they were calling in from all over the day he went to prison, offering to shut down the country.

It almost seems that Velie might be trying to give us the impression that with Hoffa's brains and drive he could have been a captain of industry if only he was not corrupted in the dangerous streets of Depression Detroit.

One also must resist the temptation to conclude that Hoffa was prepping for sainthood when he prepared to take on his timid successor-turned-tiger, Frank Fitzsimmons, as well as the mob to win back the Teamsters. Jimmy the reformer. Isn't it pretty to think so?

UP-031

(HOFFA)

DETROIT (UPI) - FBI SEROLOGY EXPERTS REPORTEDLY FOUND A TINY BIT OF HUMAN BLOOD IN THE CAR THAT FEDERAL AUTHORITIES BELIEVE WAS USED TO ABDUCT MISSING FORMER TEAMSTERS BOSS JAMES HOFFA, RADIO STATION WJR QUOTING SOURCES SAID YESTERDAY. TECHNICIANS FOUND THE MICROSCOPIC PARTICLE OF BLOOD ON A STRAND OF HAIR THAT WAS COMPARED TO SAMPLES TAKEN FROM HOFFA'S BELONGINGS.

FOR NEARLY THREE YEARS, IT WAS THOUGHT AGENTS FOUND ONLY TRACES O FISH BLOOD IN THE CAR, USED TO DELIVER A 40-POUND SALMON THE DAY HOFFA VANISHED FROM THE PARKING LOT OF A SUBURBAN RESTAURANT IN JULY 1975.

THE CAR NOW IS OWNED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BUT FORMERLY WAS THE PROPERTY OF JOSEPH GIACALONE, SON OF REPUTED MAFIA FIGURE ANTHON GIACALONE. THE ELDER GIACALONE ONCE WAS IDENTIFIED AS A SUSPECT IN THE HOFFA CASE BUT NEVER CHARGED.

ON THE DAY HOFFA VANISHED, THE CAR HAD BEEN DRIVEN BY CHARLES "CHUCKIE" O'BRIEN, A YOUNG HOFFA ASSOCIATE WHO DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS "FOSTER SON" OF THE FORMER TEAMSTERS LEADER.

UPI 07-18 11:08 AED

ENCLOSURE

The Law

by Steven Brill

Muscled by the FBI

When you've got what they want, you need all the friends you can get

ESQUIRE MAGAZINE
DATED 10/10/78

In the two years that I worked on what is generally known as an "investigative" book about the Teamsters union, I was asked dozens of times whether any threats had been made against me.

The answer, until last May, had always been that except for some loose talk among lower-echelon mob sources, I hadn't gotten any specific threats. In May that changed. The first real threat didn't come from the mob. It was from the people we pay to protect us from mobsters—the FBI.

On Thursday, April 27, at about eight-thirty in the morning, I took a call at the Esquire office from Special Agent Brevard of the FBI. "We'd like to talk to you about James Hoffa," he said, "and information you may have about the Hoffa case."

I told him that I really wouldn't have anything to say until I could consult with my lawyer.

Brevard persisted. "Can't we just come over to talk? I promise it won't take long. And it may be urgent. Please."

I said okay. I tried to reach Floyd Abrams, a top First Amendment lawyer who had been advising me on libel questions related to the book. He wasn't in his office yet but had already left his apartment.

A half hour later, two agents, Brevard and another man named Billowitz, sat around my desk. Their dress and self-conscious hushed tones drew stares from the few curious early birds already in place at nearby desks in the city-roomlike editorial offices.

"We have reliable information," Brevard began, as I took notes, "that you have three items that may be of interest to us. First, we are told that you have in your possession some memos and other documents that belong to the FBI or the Justice Department, having to do with the Hoffa case. If this is true, then a crime has been committed because these documents are not supposed to be leaked to members of the public." He paused. I said nothing.

"Second," he continued, "we are told

that you have a draft of a sealed indictment that has been prepared by the Justice Department charging certain individuals with the murder of James Hoffa." He paused again. I was tempted to ask him to repeat that. I knew from reliable government sources that no such indictment existed, and if *I* knew it didn't exist, then Brevard also had to know. Still, I said nothing.

"Third, we have been told that you have in your possession a tape-recorded confession from someone who was involved in the Hoffa murder." He stopped, waiting for a response.

"As I told you," I began, "I haven't consulted with my lawyer. So I'm just not going to comment at all on anything you've said."

I could have easily told them that I didn't have any kind of tape-recorded confession or sealed indictment. But to do that would have, by elimination, been admitting that I had the first item—government documents—which I did.

"Well, you will admit that you've talked to———[a federal official in Detroit] won't you?" Brevard asked.

"I'm just not going to comment at all on anything."

Finally, Billowitz, who had remained quiet, stood up. "Listen, will you do us a favor? Get in touch with your lawyer as soon as you can, and then give us a call and tell us what you're gonna do. You see, [illegible] danger if people on the street think you have some of these materials like a taped confession. We want to protect you."

I thanked them, we shook hands, and they left. Did some "people on the street" really think I was walking around with a taped confession in the Hoffa case or that I was claiming to have one?

When I reached Abrams, he said he would be out of town until the end of the week. So we'd get together the next Friday or Saturday and discuss how we'd respond to the FBI. I told Abrams that I was convinced the FBI was simply trying to find out what was in the book so they wouldn't be caught by surprise if I had some information they didn't have.

Monday afternoon, while working at home on a column, I called into the office for messages. One was from Special Agent Billowitz. When I dialed his number, as an afterthought, I reached into my desk for a gadget that allows me to record phone calls. In the past, I've only used it when I've told the other person beforehand, such as when I'm conducting on-the-record interviews. This time, I didn't tell Billowitz. That's not illegal, since one of the parties to the conversation—me—is consenting to the recording.

Billowitz asked if I had had a chance to discuss things with my lawyer. I told him I hadn't, then asked him to go over exactly what it was the FBI wanted to know.

He repeated the three items. I told him I still couldn't comment and that I didn't expect to talk to my lawyer until the end of the week and we hoped to be back to him by then or the beginning of the next week at the latest. Then he got tough.

"Let me just say what basically we're gonna have to do," he began. "I was hoping that we'd hear from you by Friday. . . . We have to resolve this thing one way or the other. . . . We can't just wait another week and then, who knows, another week. . . . If it is true, we've got to do something about it. . . . So what we're gonna have to do is verify it in another manner."

"Which means what?" I asked. Now came the threat.

"All I can tell you is we will verify the information that we have. And if it means

Contributing editor Steven Brill writes a regular column on law and lawyers. His new book, The Teamsters, *was published*

—2197

talking to people that you have dealt with in getting that information, we're gonna do it. And I'm not gonna mention a lot of names on the phone. . . ."

"I just don't know who you could mean."

"Well, I can give you initials of one person." Billowitz answered—at which point he provided the unmistakable initials of a gangster who had been involved in the Hoffa murder.

Nixon was right. Tapes do reveal warts and all. All signs of the Yale Law-trained reporter now vanished. I giggled. I stuttered. I was incoherent. After the first giggle, I told Billowitz that "we definitely should have a talk."

He sensed that he had scored and decided to drive it home: "That's gonna be the first person we're gonna talk to. . . . And we don't want to talk to him because I don't know what it's gonna do to you or your position. I really don't."

I spent the last five minutes of the conversation trying to buy time. It ended with him agreeing not to contact his gangster friend until I called him by eight the next morning.

The FBI's asking an underworld enforcer involved in the murder what he knew about the taped confession I had in the Hoffa case would only tip him off, wrongly, that I had such a confession. It was clear, as Billowitz had put it, what that could do to me and my position. For the first time since starting the book, I

The agent was going to talk to the mob about me, "and I don't know what it's gonna do to you or your position."

was genuinely scared. I even regretted having done the book. Perhaps Billowitz was going to talk to this guy this afternoon anyway, or, maybe, even if I told him the next morning what I had or didn't have, he'd talk to him anyway.

Abrams was unreachable, teaching a seminar at Yale Law School. I decided not to wait to talk to him. I dialed Robert Fiske Jr., the United States attorney for the southern district of New York. As the local federal prosecutor, Fiske is the Justice Department's man in New York; and the FBI, in theory at least, is an arm of the Justice Department. I would be able to get him on the phone since I knew him from other stories I had written.

I told Fiske about the conversation. (This call was *not* taped; I'm working from memory and some scant notes here.) He expressed some initial hesitation about wanting to interfere in FBI investigative activities. He also said he doubted that the FBI would threaten me, that I must have misunderstood. "Bob," I said, "you don't have to believe me or take my interpretation. I taped the conversation." I also explained that Floyd Abrams would be acting as my lawyer (a point that seemed to register nearly as well as the existence of the tape) and that all I wanted him to do until he could discuss all this with Abrams was to call Billowitz's supervisor and make sure that the Hoffa case suspect or anyone else "on the streets" wasn't asked any questions about what I had or didn't have. He assured me he'd make the call.

Abrams called from New Haven. Although he was leaving for California the next morning and wouldn't be back until Friday, when I told him what had happened, he said he'd meet me at about nine that night when he got off the train from New Haven. By nine-thirty, we had commandeered a conference room in the library of the Yale Club, across from Grand Central Station. I played my tape.

Abrams, in shirt-sleeves, paced the floor. When he heard the "what this will do to you and your position" line and the "that's the first person we're gonna talk to" promise, he looked up, shook his head, and muttered, "That's hard to believe."

We agreed, however, that the tape was our trump card. The improper conduct it proved was such that we were sure Fiske would make the FBI back off.

"It's impossible to imagine a more exciting movie . . . an Oscar contender that stands a good chance of rivalling the cult status of Cuckoo's Nest"

— Rolling Stone

The problem was, I told Abrams, I couldn't be sure that the agents wouldn't still talk to that source or other underworld sources about me.

The next morning I called Billowitz's supervisor, just to be sure he had gotten Fiske's message. His men were on hold, he said. But he also confirmed—this time by name, not initials—that they intended, on his instructions, to talk to the mobster if they couldn't get my cooperation. It was then—when I knew the threat wasn't just from one misguided agent—that I decided to write about the incident some day.

The next day Abrams and Fiske agreed to meet with me the following Monday. The agents would be kept on hold until then. Abrams was assured.

The next morning Fiske and I bumped into each other getting off a plane in Washington. We were both headed for the Justice Department, and we shared a cab. Except for his assurance that he didn't think I was in any danger, we didn't discuss my case.

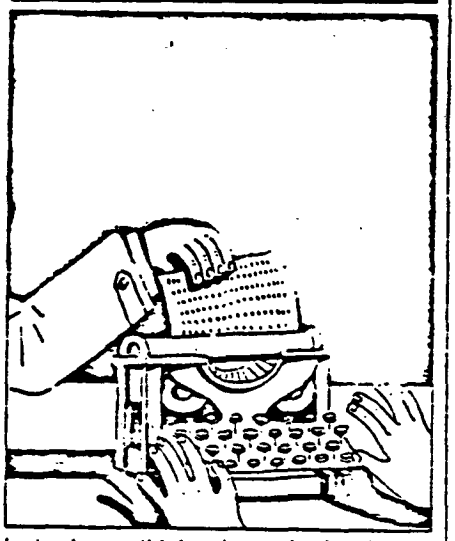
Nor did I discuss my case at the Justice Department, where I was interviewing top officials for an article on Attorney General Griffin Bell.

That Monday afternoon, as Abrams and I and an associate from his firm sat in the reception area of Fiske's office, a young assistant U.S. attorney walked by. Stopping to say hello to Abrams, who knew him and had stood up to greet him, he looked down at me and whispered to Abrams, "Are you here on a criminal matter?" I felt in the dock—as if I were the wrongdoer.

We were ushered into the office of Fiske's executive assistant, Barry Kingham (who has since gone into private practice). Fiske wanted Kingham to hear the whole story first before he decided what to do.

I laid out what had happened, and explained that I had the tape to prove it. Abrams, who had taken notes when he had listened to the tape, repeated the most important lines to Kingham. Then, he explained what kind of a First Amendment and due process violation this was. Even if by now, because of recent court decisions, there are some circumstances under which reporters have to testify before grand juries, the government has to make some showing of need first. And, most important, the whole process is supposed to come through a series of legal steps scrutinized by a court, with reporters having the opportunity to contest the request. "If the government wants some of Steve's research," I remember Abrams saying, "then they should subpoena it in court so I can fight it." Instead, these FBI agents were short-circuiting that whole process, going on a fishing expedition for information they weren't even sure existed (and in the case of the "sealed indictment," that they

What kind of control does the FBI have over the way it interrogates reporters and citizens?



had to know didn't exist) and using threats of physical violence to coerce me. Kingham asked me to send him the tape the next morning so he could listen to it. Then he'd discuss the matter with Fiske and the FBI and get back to us next week. Meantime, the FBI would remain on hold.

A few days later Kingham told Abrams by phone that the FBI didn't feel they had threatened me, although he personally could see how I might have taken it that way, and that they were holding firm on their request to question me. Wasn't there some way I could talk to them a little bit to end the matter? he asked.

When Abrams relayed the message to me, I stressed that the problem was that I could answer the questions about whether I had the taped confession and the indictment, but that the government-documents question would tip off the FBI to what I was on to in my book, would betray sources, and was just plain irrelevant to any real law-enforcement need they had. Moreover, how could I be sure that if I denied that I had a tape, they wouldn't go ask underworld people anyway? Besides, the whole process of submitting to their questions before the book came out was like a newspaper reporter being forced to talk to the police before he breaks a major news scoop involving a crime. I didn't want to do it and certainly didn't think they should be able to threaten me into doing it.

We toyed with the idea of appealing to the Attorney General or the FBI director but then decided on a less drastic step that might end the whole thing quickly.

I called Kingham. The real danger to me, I told him, was that because of the FBI talking to mob operatives, the underworld might think I had a confession that I didn't have. So, I said, I've decided that my only chance to deflate those rumors, if the FBI persisted, was to get this entire episode—Billowitz's tape-recorded threat and all—out into the headlines along with my vow that I didn't have such a tape. "You mean you'd go to the press?" Kingham said. "Barry," I responded, "I am the press, and the FBI came to me." Kingham said he'd talk more to the FBI, then to Abrams.

Within a few days Abrams had won an agreement from Kingham and Fiske. In return for my assuring Fiske, orally, that I had no such tape-recorded confession, the FBI would not question anyone, including the Hoffa suspect, about the supposed confession or anything else having to do with my work. Also, I would not be asked to comment in any way on any government documents I had or didn't have, and the government would drop its interest in that. As for the nonexistent sealed indictment, Kingham had agreed all along that this question was absurd, and it was dropped. Although I hadn't promised as a result not to "go to the press" with the episode, now I had no incentive to; on the contrary, to do so would *introduce* the question of that supposed confession rather than answer a rumor that had already been raised. (Now that the book has been published, this isn't a concern because it's clear from the book that I had new information on the Hoffa murder but no such confession.)

What if I hadn't had access to the U.S. attorney? What if the U.S. attorney and his executive assistant weren't well-motivated officials willing to stick their necks out and interfere in an FBI investigation? What if I didn't have access to a heavyweight lawyer who could encourage them in that direction?

Which in turn raises the general questions of what guidelines the FBI operates under when seeking information from a reporter, or, for that matter, from any citizen. Official Justice Department guidelines require the personal approval of the Attorney General before a reporter can be subpoenaed. What does it take before he can be questioned in this way? And what kind of control does the FBI have on how it interrogates any citizen so that threats aren't made that short-circuit the legal process? With all the post-Watergate investigation, reform, and congressional oversight of the FBI, is this how the Bureau's agents are conducting themselves across the country?

Remember, this was not the Farber case or a grand-jury testimony case: I was not casting myself as a reporter who, rightly or wrongly, refused to cooperate with the authorities. I hadn't had the chance to reach that decision before I had been threatened. ###

(Rev 8-26-82)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:
- ☐ Teletype
- ☐ Facsimile
- ☐ _____

XX AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:
- ☐ Immediate
- ☐ Priority
- ☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:
- ☐ TOP SECRET
- ☐ SECRET
- ☐ CONFIDENTIAL
- ☐ UNCLAS E F T O
- ☐ UNCLAS

Date ~~10/26/89~~

TO: [redacted]

FROM: [redacted]

[redacted]

Enclosed are [redacted] two copies of the "Playboy" article, November 1989.

On July 30, 1975, former TEAMSTER President JAMES R. HOFFA disappeared. This disappearance continues to remain unsolved. DONALD FRANKOS reported to "Playboy" magazine that he was informed by member(s) of the alleged "hit team" responsible for the HOFFA disappearance of the facts surrounding said disappearance. Said report was published in the "Playboy" magazine, November 1989 edition.

[redacted]

9-60052-[illegible]

[redacted] ENCLOSURE

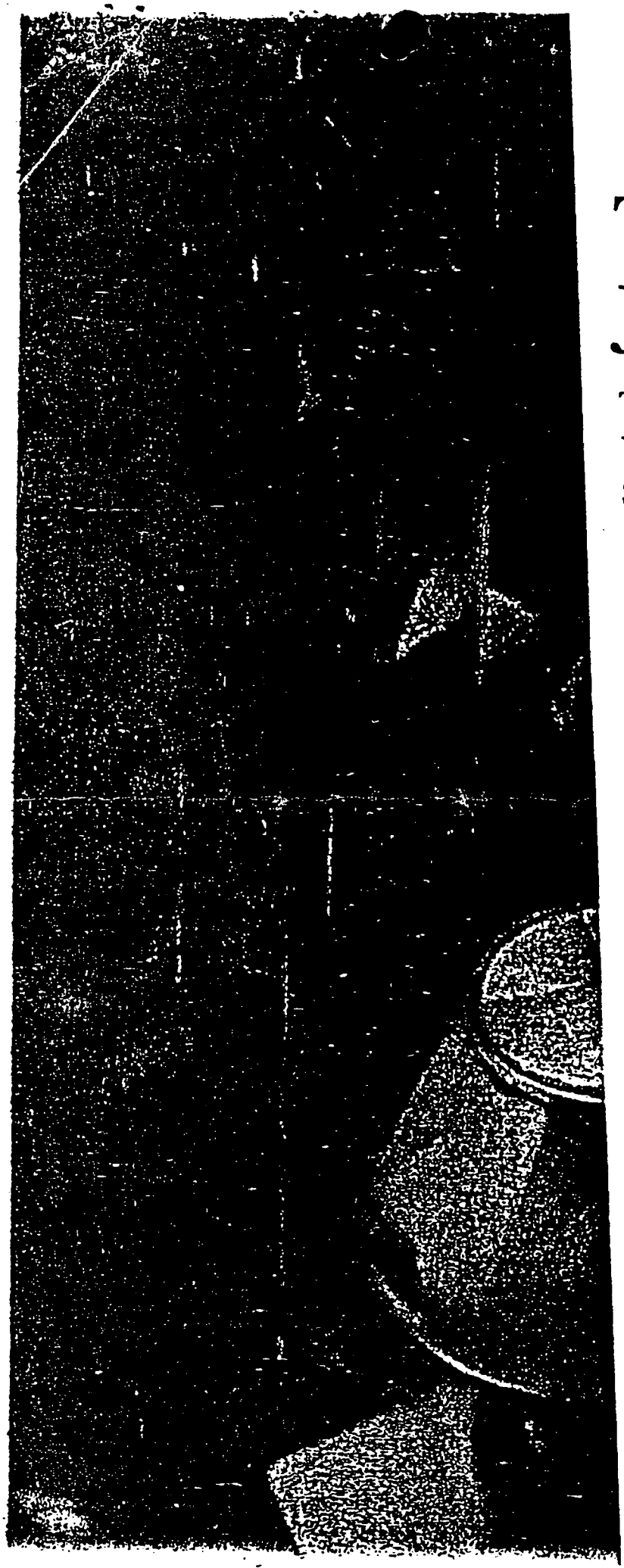
25 NOV 15 1989

"ENCLOSURE ATTACHED"

[redacted]

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ (Number) _____ (Time) Per 3058

non public source material



The Hit on Jimmy Hoffa

THE MOST NOTORIOUS, UNSOLVED CRIME OF THE SEVENTIES, EXPLAINED

- *Who killed Jimmy Hoffa?*
- *Why was he killed?*
- *How was he lured to his death?*
- *Where was his body buried?*

Introduction: *Donald Frankos—Federally protected witness #38995066—has spent the past 30 years bouncing in and out of the New York State prison system on a succession of charges: drug running, aggravated assault, grand larceny, contract murder. His criminal career—on the street and in prison—has brought him into contact with the most notorious Mobsters of our time: Anthony "Fat Tony" Salerno, Joseph "Crazy Joe" Gallo and John Gotti. These Mob ties, along with his career in organized crime, have made Frankos, a.k.a. Tony the Greek, a prized source of information on the underworld. Frankos has stories to tell, and the Government has been eager to listen. His most spectacular revelations deal with the July 30, 1975, disappearance of former Teamsters leader Jimmy Hoffa, a crime that remains unsolved. Frankos, who claims to have been part of the hit team assembled to carry out the killing, re-creates Hoffa's death, dismemberment and burial in this exclusive account for* Playboy.

PLAYBOY: You claim to have participated in the most notorious crime of the Seventies: the killing of Jimmy Hoffa. Tell us about it.

FRANKOS: In 1973, I had crap games on two floors of the Hotel Wilson, on Fifty-eighth Street in New York. I was sitting in the lobby around four o'clock in the morning, when John Sullivan—Fat Tony Salerno's main hitter—told me Fat Tony wanted to meet me. I went up the following day to see him with Sally Bugs [Briguglio], a soldier in the Genovese crime family. We got in John Sullivan's Mercedes and we drove up

ILLUSTRATION BY GARY KELLEY

to a Hundred and Fifteenth Street between First and Second Avenue to his social club—it was like an office where he done all of his criminal enterprises.

Fat Tony was sitting in the kitchen there. He was a little squat guy with a cigar sticking out of his mouth; he had a gruffy voice and he vibrated authority. John Sullivan introduced me. Fat Tony got up behind the table he was sitting at and he came and he kissed me. You know, them Mafia kisses. And he says, I heard a lot of good stories about you and too bad you're only half-Italian, because I would like you to stay with my crew.

We sit down and we start talking and he says, I need you and John for a very important hit that's coming up very shortly. This hit concerns a guy that's doing time in the Federal system. He done some bad things and we're looking to kill him. The hit won't be going into effect right away, but Fat Tony just wanted to keep me and John Sullivan on hold.

PLAYBOY: You had already done hits for Salerno?

FRANKOS: I'd done about four hits that he knew about, but he never gave me the orders. The orders came from one of his captains in his crime family.

PLAYBOY: How long had Salerno known Sullivan?

FRANKOS: John Sullivan was doing business with Fat Tony Salerno since the Sixties. Fat Tony needed Irish guys to run the West Side, because they were already involved in corruption there. Without these Irish guys, Fat Tony couldn't operate. They were vicious killers. They didn't use no diplomacy.

PLAYBOY: So you guys weren't strangers?

FRANKOS: They knew we were all right. In this criminal enterprise, everybody knows each other, but you don't necessarily have to meet them. They hear about you. You could become a legend overnight if you do a big hit. Then, when you do meet, it's like you know each other for years.

They knew we were free-lance hitters. We worked for the Israeli Mob, we worked for the Albanians, we worked for the Greeks, we worked for the Italians' organized-crime families and we worked for the Irish. And we done some work with the Puerto Rican Mobsters. We free-lanced out to them.

PLAYBOY: What did Fat Tony tell you about the hit?

FRANKOS: He didn't go into details to me, but he told me that there was going to be a hit on a guy in Lewisburg, the Federal penitentiary. And that he was going to supply the pistols and the silencers, and he knew that we used meat cleavers and buzz saws to chop up the body.

PLAYBOY: Buzz saws?

FRANKOS: Like you use to cut down trees. You plug them in or you can use them on batteries. That was our forte at the time. I was involved in a couple of them—I chopped up a couple bodies, OK?

Before we left there, Fat Tony says the hit will earn us anywhere from one hundred thousand to two hundred thousand; a very important hit. They need two good hitters on this hit, OK? But he's going to keep us on hold because this guy's up for parole soon; he didn't mention the name right there and then. This guy's up for parole very shortly and if he does come out, that's when we're going to go and do the work on him. But until then, stay loose and when this guy comes out, then you do your work. Before I left, he gave me five thousand dollars in hundred-dollar bills, for coming out of prison, and I thanked him for

A MOMENT OF MURDER. According to Frankos, Hoffa was killed by two hired gunmen in a Mafia safe house near Detroit. We asked two artists to try to capture the look and feel of the murder scene. On page 74, Gary Kelley depicts Hoffa's final moment of realization and dread; on these pages, Kinuko Y. Craft imagines the way it was when the killers fired the fatal shots.

that. He kissed me and I got back into the Mercedes and we drove back downtown.

As we were going downtown, John Sullivan mentioned to me that the hit would be going like this: Tony Provenzano, who was in charge of the Local 560 Truckers' Union in Jersey, was one of the most powerful union delegates at that time. But he was also a captain in the Genovese crime family. Tony Pro was doing time with Jimmy Hoffa in Lewisburg Penitentiary. They had a discussion in the yard. Jimmy Hoffa says, When I come out, I want to go back as a leader of the unions. Tony Pro says, No, we got our man in there right now, so you just step down. You're too hot. They had a big argument, and Jimmy Hoffa told him, I'll go to the grand jury and I'll expose you and Fat Tony Salerno and I'm going to tell them how you were shaking down our unions and taking money from our union funds to open up criminal enterprises and businesses on your own. And Jimmy Hoffa smacks Tony Pro in the eye.

Tony Pro got a visit from his brother Nunzio Provenzano, who was also a captain in the Genovese organized-crime family. Tony Pro told him, Jimmy Hoffa's gonna turn on us, and not only that, he smacked me in the yard in front of a couple inmates. I want this guy hit. But Hoffa has a rabbi [criminal mentor] in Detroit named Tony Giacalone. Tony Pro always referred to Giacalone as that piece of shit. One particular time, he mentioned, This Giacalone is fuckin' everybody's wives.

PLAYBOY: He didn't approve?

FRANKOS: Tony Pro was an old-time Mustache Pete, and Mustache Petes don't care for that. They have, like, a little honor amongst themselves. I tell you, organized-crime figures are more honorable than the Feds.

PLAYBOY: How so?

FRANKOS: I've seen two faces of evil. I've seen organized crime on all levels. I've seen Albanian wise guys—a wise guy in criminal terminology is a person in organized crime. I've seen Greek wise guys. I've seen Italian, Colombian, Israeli and Puerto Rican wise guys. And you take all those crews and put them together and in their little pinkie, they got more honor than the entire Justice Department. If I wanted to pick between organized crime and the Feds, as far as honorability and integrity go, I would go with organized crime. You can deal with them better, and they'll tell it like it is.

PLAYBOY: How was the Hoffa hit planned?

FRANKOS: In the late part of 1973, I was bringing Jimmy Coonan's wife, Edna, up to see him in Sing Sing. And John told me to tell Jimmy about the work he got to do and he can make himself fifty thousand dollars on this hit when he comes out. So I took this message up to Jimmy Coonan and I told him the circumstances and how the hit is going to go down and who was going to get killed . . . Jimmy Hoffa. OK?

Now, before all this materialized, in January 1974, I got arrested with a concealed .357 Magnum that I used to keep on my possession on the floor of my crap game at the Hotel Wilson, in case anybody tried to take off these business guys that came to gamble. A precinct that we weren't paying off ended up busting me and another guy with the pistols. I had to go to court. Even though John Sullivan had this particular judge in his pocket, the judge says no, I have to do some time. John was trying to get me a light sentence so I could be out there for that hit. But they ended up giving me two and a half to five in January 1974.

PLAYBOY: Where were you doing time?

FRANKOS: At that time, I was in The Tombs. That's the house of detention in Manhattan, One Hundred Center Street. Now, they told me Jimmy Coonan's coming out very shortly and the hit will be soon as this Coonan comes out and soon as this other guy comes out. We found out he's due to make parole in the summer of 1975.

PLAYBOY: We heard you mention that date on the tapes you gave us. It's a matter of public record that Jimmy Hoffa was paroled by Richard Nixon in December 1971. Your date is off by four years.

FRANKOS: I would have looked all these dates up if I was bullshitting you, you know? I'm not here to ask Tony Salerno no questions. My job is to do the hit and get the fuck out. I just got the dates wrong. Fat Tony said we want this guy hit very soon. We'll let you know when to hit him.

PLAYBOY: There was talk that Gerald Ford was getting ready to give Hoffa a full pardon in 1975, which would have nullified the conditions Nixon put on him when he was released in 1971. It would have allowed him to run for Teamsters' Union president again.

FRANKOS: OK. That's got to be it. That's what Salerno was trying to tell me. I'm going back fifteen years now. Everything I'm telling you is by memory. It's not what I have read or what I was told. Everything comes out of my memory. The only thing I'm sure of is the killing. Believe me, I remember.

PLAYBOY: Go ahead with your story.

FRANKOS: Now, in the meantime, I get sent up to Dannemora. They put me right next to Joe "Mad Dog" Sullivan and I explained the whole situation to him.

PLAYBOY: Is he related to John Sullivan?

FRANKOS: No. No relation. Just the same name. They were close friends. Now, I told Joe, When are you coming out? He says, I'm coming out December 1975. I says, If this hit don't come down, if I get out afterward, I'll tell John to take you on this Jimmy Hoffa hit with them. He say That sounds good to me. Now, me ar Joe Sullivan, we were going to testify f Jerry "The Jew" Rosenberg—the famo jailhouse lawyer—concerning somethi that happened to him in the county jai.

PLAYBOY: How did you know Rosenberg

FRANKOS: In 1963, I was at Sing Sing, ta ing books and magazines over to t death house. That's when I first met hi and his codefendant, Anthony Portelli used to go by their cells and shoot t breeze with them.

PLAYBOY: Go on with the Hoffa story.

FRANKOS: They brought us down to t Federal institution on West Street, a that's when Coonan and John Sulliv came to visit me and Joe Sullivan. A they were telling us how to kill this g and how much money we got. They w putting money on the books for us a they were bringing us packages and t were giving the correction officers do there money so they could supply us w booze and cocaine and whatever needed. We lived comfortably down prison there.

Around the late part of July 1975— not sure of the date—John came up see me with Jimmy Coonan and brother Jackie. And they told me on visit that they were going to go up Michigan and they were going to t care of Hoffa. They made an agreem for the contract to be for two hund thousand dollars. And since you're out, we're going to give you a little p centage of the money. Then they as me when Joe Sullivan's coming out. I t them in December. They said, Tell I we're going to take care of him with s money and we're going to go ahead w the hit.

PLAYBOY: Let's go back a bit. How did get your introduction to Salerno?

FRANKOS: In 1972, I came out of D nemora prison, in New York, with C Joe Gallo. I met Crazy Joe on the str originally, 'cause he used to have all baboot games and he ran all them b out joints on Eighth Avenue in the T ties. I was shaking down a couple Gr down there that I knew . . . you know, nice way. Ali Baba—he was Joe Ga right-hand man—told me, Leave t alone, because I got Joe Gallo with and I says, Fuck you and fuck Joe. I at them stages that I didn't care a who the wise guy was. When he we Auburn in the late Sixties, Joe C locked by me for about eighteen mo I got very close to him. I taught him to play bridge. He was flamboyant, a ulous dresser. Even in prison, he wa maculate. His handkerchief hac match his pants and all that.

So when I came out, him and Car Tramunti, the boss of the Lucchese c family, sent me to work for Vi

(continued on page

Jimmy Hoffa

(continued from page 80)

"Fat Tony Salerno told Giacalone, Hoffa's not running no place, because he's going to be dead."

"Chin" Gigante, the leader of the Genovese crime family. They gave me ten thousand in cash to buy some clothes and get myself situated with an apartment in Manhattan.

Now, at that time, John Sullivan was an Irish boss on the West Side of Manhattan. He ran the docks. He ran all the peep shows and the massage parlors and them smut bookstores on the West Side for three organized-crime partners—Fat Tony Salerno, Matty the Horse Ianniello and Chin Gigante. I knew John Sullivan from years ago—we both grew up on the West Side—and he told me to stay with him, that he'd give me a crap game off Fifty-eighth Street in the Hotel Wilson. I was an enforcer at the dice game, so nobody could take off that dice game and there was no problems like people arguing that they got ripped off. I had a Spanish kid and an Italian kid with sawed-off shotguns in briefcases watching downstairs in the lobby for any guy that looked to stick up them games. We couldn't call the cops. We held justice right in the street.

At that time, we were making ten thousand dollars a night. We worked four nights a week, so we were bringing in forty thousand. Out of the forty thousand, we had to kick back twenty-five thousand to Chin Gigante and Fat Tony. I used to skim off the top, too. I used to take fifteen hundred, two thousand a night under the cuff, you know.

PLAYBOY: You weren't a virgin at this time. You'd been around those guys a lot.

FRANKOS: I made my bones with them guys. I done work with them. I killed guys with them. I went away doing time for them. I was a stand-up guy with them. I was a muscle guy, but I was a low-key type of criminal. Nobody knew my business and everything like that, you know. The ones that did know my business, they never told nobody.

PLAYBOY: How was the Hoffa murder carried out?

FRANKOS: Tony Giacalone was a boss of the Detroit Mob. He was a rabbi to Jimmy Hoffa. Fat Tony called Giacalone on the phone, and Giacalone said, Why don't you leave Hoffa alone, because he's a scared rabbit and once you've scared somebody, they're going to run to the Feds on you. And tl what you're trying to do—force this gu run to the Feds. Fat Tony Salerno told (calone, He's not running no place, bec he's going to be dead. And if you get volved, you're going to be dead also. step away from him. You gotta take orc from me. I run this show. You get t Chuckie O'Brien, Jimmy Hoffa's steps and make him as bait to lure Jimmy H to a sit-down in Mount Clemens, Michig The only guys Hoffa would trust O'Brien and Giacalone. So you just tell kid O'Brien to go with Jimmy Hoffa to t meet in Mount Clemens, where we co whack him.

Now, he relayed the message to O'Bri The kid was reluctant at first, but then had to go for it, because they were going kill him if he didn't. They told him, H not your blood father, even though grew you up. You gotta do this now. If y don't do it, and you tip your father c we're going to kill you and your father a your whole family. So the kid says he'll for it, but what's he going to get out of They offered him a million dollars ca and they were going to put him in a po tion as a union boss, but not on the bool For the rest of his life, he will be taken ca of, as far as money goes.

They met at a diner, and Giacalone w there, when O'Brien came with Sally Bug He was like a flunky to Tony Provenzan Tony Provenzano, his brother Nunzio an

FOR GIFT DELIVERY ANYWHERE* CALL 1-(800) 238-4372. *EXCEPT WHERE PROHIBITED. MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED.
STOLICHNAYA VODKA 80 AND 100 PROOF, DISTILLED FROM GRAIN. IMPORTED BY MONSIEUR HENRI WINES, LTD., WHITE PLAINS, NY 10604 © 1989

non-public source material

Giacalone were supposed to meet [with Hoffa] in the house in Mount Clemens, Michigan, for a sit-down to straighten everything out that happened in Lewisburg. And make amends.

So they picked up Jimmy Hoffa and Jimmy Hoffa didn't want to go for it. He says, Where's Giacalone? O'Brien says, Call him up and he'll explain everything to you. Jimmy Hoffa calls up Giacalone, and he says, I'll be at the house. They let the kid take him to the house. O'Brien told his father he checked the house already and it was safe. So they got in the car. In the meantime, Jimmy Coonan——

PLAYBOY: Who was with Hoffa then?

FRANKOS: Sally Bugs and O'Brien. Hoffa was in the front seat, Sally Bugs was doing the driving and the kid was in the back, because Hoffa won't trust nobody in the back, only O'Brien. Hoffa knows about getting hit in the back of the head.

In the house, Jimmy Coonan and John Sullivan were waiting. As soon as you walk in the house, on the left is a large living room. Adjacent to the living room is a little kitchenette. They positioned themselves in that area. They had a .22 with a silencer on it and the bullets were dumdum bullets—the type of bullets that explode the head.

When Hoffa walked in, he made a turn to sit down and Coonan and John Sullivan rushed out and Coonan hit him twice in the forehead with the bullets—exploded his brains.

Jimmy Coonan is a bull of a guy, an ex-fighter and everything. He put Hoffa on his back and he carried him down the stairs. They had everything situated in the basement. There was a large table and over the table was a huge light. Jimmy Coonan and John had goggles and rubber gloves that doctors use to operate on patients. They plugged in the bucksaw and they also had a meat cleaver to cut away any tendons. On the table was all these black-plastic bags and cut rope. Coonan was cutting, and Sullivan was bagging 'em up. Coonan severed Hoffa's head and, with a pocket knife, he cut a lock of hair from the side of Hoffa's head and kept it for good luck.

PLAYBOY: You seem to know about their actions in great detail. Why?

FRANKOS: John Sullivan and Jimmy Coonan came to visit me and Joe Sullivan in jail—I think it was the Friday after Hoffa got whacked—to tell us that everything was straightened out. Coonan threw Jimmy Hoffa's lock of hair on my table and he told me, This is our friend's lock. It's a good-luck charm for me. And it *was* a good-luck charm. He was out almost fourteen or fifteen years.

PLAYBOY: Continue with your story.

FRANKOS: Coonan handed the head to John Sullivan, and he put it in the bag and tied it up with secure ropes and they threw it on the side. Jimmy Coonan started to sever both arms off. He made four pieces out of the two arms. Then he severed the two legs off and made them in two parts, by the kneecap. He took the torso and they made three bags out of the torso and they put the torso in the bags. Next to the table was a meat freezer, and they stuck the bags in there. It took him about an hour, he told me, to clean up. They washed everything up and they went upstairs.

Bugs went outside to a pay phone and made a phone call to Giacalone and he told him to bring a bag man over, because they want their money. While they were waiting for the money, Bugs went to a tiny delicatessen over there, and he bought meatball heroes and Pepsis and he went back to the house and they ate the meatball sandwiches.

Now the discussion was where to put the body. Bugs calls Giacalone and says, These guys want to know if they can take the body parts to one of your places where they mash them cars. Giacalone says to Bugs, I'm talking to you, I don't want to talk to them. I don't want to get no conspiracy. I don't know John Sullivan, I don't know Jimmy Coonan, and they can't use the place. They handled the body, let them handle the burial, too, to its final resting ground.

John Sullivan asked Bugs, Is this house safe? And he says, Yeah, you could keep the body parts down there for a couple months until we find someplace where we can bury 'em or burn them up.

PLAYBOY: It's hard to believe that on an important hit like this, they didn't have a plan beforehand to dispose of the body.

FRANKOS: They made an arrangement with Tony Giacalone, but he didn't want to be bothered with it. He owns a place where he used to dispose of a lot of bodies.

PLAYBOY: You're talking about the place run by Raffael Quasarano and Peter Vitale?

FRANKOS: Yes—They could crush the body and make a fender out of him. But they were too afraid to even have Hoffa be crushed over there. They didn't want no evidence at all. Quasarano and Vitale were scared tremblers. You hear me? They were tremblers. They didn't want to be involved, because they knew the FBI would be on their asses. These guys cannot do no time and they were weak and Giacalone knew they were weak. If they knew anything about anybody being taken someplace to be crushed, it'd be all over town in two seconds. So they left everything up to Fat Tony Salerno. They figured these guys will chop him up and take them pieces back to New York. But Jimmy Coonan said, Fuck them and we'll keep the body here and youse take care of it. They didn't want to be bothered with transporting the body. They didn't know nobody around there. They got the money and got out.

It was a power thing, a rival-gang thing. Detroit don't like New York, 'cause New York is more powerful and more flamboyant than Detroit. Like, if you don't take it, then we're not going to take it. You done the hit, you dispose of the body. Finally, they agreed to take the body when Joe Sullivan came out of prison.

PLAYBOY: Weren't they afraid that body was going to find the body o course of those five months?

FRANKOS: No. They weren't worrie cause the house was secured. No co ing to be looking around there.

PLAYBOY: When was the body buried? [redacted]

FRANKOS: Joe Sullivan came out of five months later and he picked body and put it in a big drum. H another guy named Augie Manor truck that had a lot of oil drums back from an organized-crime tr firm. They put the drum with Hoff in the middle of the truck, so in c state troopers wanna find out what is in there, they'd have to oper drum.

They transported the body from gan to Jersey, where there was a co tion site in Meadowlands. The building some sections of Giants S there, and wise guys ran the ceme ing business. Joe Sullivan was on th at that time for John Gotti's C crime family, and he was just chec picking up four or five hundred c week to show his parole officer working. So he took the body part buried 'em right in the cement. Let me just bury the son of a bitch it over with, and that's where they to rest. His final resting place.

PLAYBOY: And that's where the bod

FRANKOS: Yeah. That's where he is

PLAYBOY: How much were you and livan paid?

FRANKOS: They ended up giving J van twenty-five thousand dollars f ing the body. I ended up gettin thousand to keep me satisfied in my conference and everything. P were giving me anything I wanted four or five correction officers used to give them reefer, cocain Regal for me. Plus, they were p the female correction officers so get laid, too. They was taking car

PLAYBOY: What happened to Manc

FRANKOS: When I came out in 1981 livan said, Listen, we got to kill th Manori, because he was instrun burying the body. But he didn't wa Augie Manori for that reason; h to marry Augie Manori's wife [la we ended up killing Augie Ma shot him in the head with a 9mm, his stomach, wrapped him up in dumped him in the Hudson Ri the body went right down. You k body goes right down.

PLAYBOY: Did Joe Sullivan ever Hoffa's burial site?

FRANKOS: In 1981, in September, I of prison and Joe Sullivan was w me. We killed two people over in the Genovese crime family. I don go into that, because it's being i ed. But after the hit was made, w

at Meadowlands and watched a Giants game. We were getting free tickets at that time. We walked into the flats part of the bleacher seats. To the right of us, there's the goal post. And we sat down in the section that Jimmy Hoffa is buried underneath. The Giants made a few touchdowns, and we sat directly up from Jimmy Hoffa's final resting place. And we said, Do you think Jimmy's watching the game? Hey, Jimmy, this touchdown is for you.

PLAYBOY: What has happened to the hitters since the Hoffa murder?

FRANKOS: Joe Sullivan blew Sally Bugs's head off on the Lower East Side, on Mulberry Street. Bugs was a stool pigeon. Fat Tony Salerno is doing a hundred years. Tony Provenzano is dead. Jimmy Coonan is doing seventy-five years. Joe Sullivan is doing anywhere from seventy-five to life in state prison. And I'm here with twenty-five to life. They can never get John Sullivan. He's been out since the late Sixties. In fact, he's the only one that's out there today who was an actual killer.

PLAYBOY: There's one more—Chuckie O'Brien.

FRANKOS: O'Brien is out. I don't even consider him a criminal.

PLAYBOY: Why not?

FRANKOS: It's like me taking a pistol to your head and tellin' you, You're comin' with me. I'm gonna put another pistol in your hand. If you don't shoot that guy, I'm gonna shoot you directly in the head. You're gonna be a dead man. He didn't have no alternatives.

PLAYBOY: Have you talked to the FBI about all of this?

FRANKOS: They came to me for the story; I didn't go to them. They brought in an FBI agent out of New York. His name was Arthur Ruffels. I'll never forget that name. They told me they had information from a very high-power authority that I was the actual killer with John Sullivan and Joe Sullivan, OK? I took a lie-detector test with the FBI concerning Jimmy Hoffa and I passed it with flying colors. The only thing they didn't ask me was if I was there. They were afraid to ask me that, because it would make them look like shit—I was in prison at the time Hoffa was hit. They knew I had furloughs, but they didn't want to expose that. It was in their Federal prison system that I was getting these furloughs, and the guy who was giving these furloughs was under surveillance for ten years.

PLAYBOY: Did they ask you if you had a furlough at the time of the hit on Hoffa?

FRANKOS: No. They proposed the question, but [former U.S. Attorney] Rudolph Giuliani didn't want to do it, because they had to open up a big investigation and it would make them look like shit.

PLAYBOY: It's a question that has been on our minds.

FRANKOS: It's going to make it very, very, very hot for them. They wanted me to testify against this guy who was selling furloughs, but the statute of limitations ran out on them.

PLAYBOY: Who was getting out on furloughs?

FRANKOS: Guys like me and high-powered *mafiosos*. We had all the counselors at that time working for us. We gave the counselors twenty-five hundred to thirty-five hundred, depending on how long you wanted to stay out.

PLAYBOY: You arranged furloughs because you had jobs you wanted to do outside prison?

FRANKOS: Yes.

PLAYBOY: What kind of jobs were they?

FRANKOS: I committed approximately nine murders on furloughs.

PLAYBOY: If you knew you had a hit coming up, you would arrange for the furlou advance?

FRANKOS: Yes. The money was given guy on the streets. Friends of mine meet him in a night club or one of own clubs. He'd get a girl, usually, a envelope, and say, This is for The G

PLAYBOY: Going back to the house the Hoffa hit was committed: You s know it very well. Have you ever there?

FRANKOS: I was there twice. I com something in '75, you know, while I prison, OK? And in 1981. I comm couple of things in Michigan. But going to go into the first time I wa because I don't want no new indictr

PLAYBOY: You've handed over to us fourteen tapes detailing your entir organized crime and in the Gover witness-protection program. Why make them?

FRANKOS: I made these tapes be might be here one day and gone to The way things were going, I th was going to be dead pretty so might as well tell my story, so you what we're dealing with, the Mafi Government.

PLAYBOY: Why did you think you dead soon?

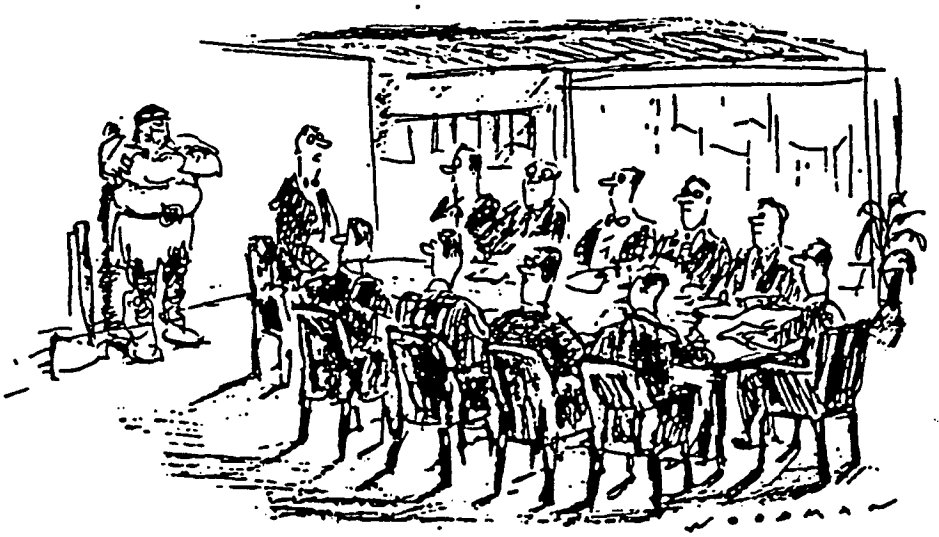
FRANKOS: Because I'm in a positio don't look too good at all. I'm l four years in a cell. I'm controlle ous correction officers. They m day take me outside and say I wa escape and shoot me in the head it done before. I've seen a lot of r die in jail—I'm not talking only a lot of power criminals in jail. A den, everybody that I knew a that got arrested, six months to a they die from stomach cancer. I what the hell they might be fe you know? And I killed guys in j doctored up the books so it don If they want you, they're going I'm not being paranoid. I'm just tious.

PLAYBOY: So you wanted to leave your life, in case anything hap

FRANKOS: I was through with t ment. I'm not going to get no the Government. I just said, O me make these tapes up. Send cousin, in case something doe me, in case I do die in jail. Wh and gone, I'll be like Van G You know, Van Gogh wasn't p he was alive, OK? I figured th my destiny. I die, then comes the tapes. But one day, I was in the cell and I had the tap and I said, Let me call *Playbo*

PLAYBOY: And the rest is histo

FRANKOS: The rest is history. told you, to my knowledge, is you had a lie detector over t take it for you right now.



"Gentlemen, before we go any further, I want you all to realize that this next decision hasn't been easy for me. . . ."

[redacted]

DONALD FRANKOS REPORTED TO "PLAYBOY" MAGAZINE THAT HE WAS INFORMED BY MEMBER(S) OF THE ALLEGED "HIT TEAM" RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HOFFA DISAPPEARANCE OF THE FACTS SURROUNDING SAID DISAPPEARANCE. SAID REPORT WAS PUBLISHED IN THE "PLAYBOY" MAGAZINE, NOVEMBER 1989 EDITION. [redacted]

non public source material

FD-36 (Rev. 8-29-85)

489

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:
- ☐ Teletype
- ☐ Facsimile
- ☒ AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:
- ☐ Immediate
- ☐ Priority
- ☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:
- ☐ TOP SECRET
- ☐ SECRET
- ☐ CONFIDENTIAL
- ☐ UNCLAS E F T O
- ☐ UNCLAS

Date 1/17/92

TO [redacted]

FROM [redacted]

SUBJECT [redacted]

non public source material

[redacted]

Enclosed are the following:

[redacted]

19-60052-2930

[redacted]

(6) 1 copies enclosures retained by OCS, ROOM 3042

[redacted]

RM 3050

[redacted]

Approved: [redacted] Transmitted _____ (Number) (Time) Per _____

DE 183A-1155

[redacted]

10. Two newspaper articles both dated 1/15/92, one from the DETROIT NEWS and the other from the USA TODAY.

[redacted]

non public source material

FD-350 (Rev. 5-8-81)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Hoffa ordered hit on JFK, accuser says

■ **Lacks credibility:** Teamster chief's daughter calls story 'work of a sick and desperate mind.'

By Richard Willing
NEWS WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — Accusations that Jimmy Hoffa ordered the murder of President John F. Kennedy is the "work of a sick and desperate mind," the daughter of the former Teamsters leader said.

Hoffa: Accused of hiring mob

Barbara Hoffa Crancer, a federal administrative law judge in St. Louis, said Tuesday's story in the New York Post "has every appearance of coming from someone who's desperate for money."

"With the focus on the assassination (through the current movie *JFK*), it seems to especially lack credibility," said Crancer, who knew the accuser, lawyer Frank Ragano, as one of her father's business associates.

In an interview in Tuesday's Post, prize-winning investigative reporter Jack Newfield quotes Ragano as saying he carried messages between Hoffa and two Southern mob leaders in a plot to kill Kennedy.

Hoffa's former lawyer said Hoffa instructed him, in early 1963, to tell Florida Mafia leader Santos Trafficante and New Orleans boss Carlos Marcello that "they had to kill the president."

Ragano, also Trafficante's attorney, said he passed the message. After the Nov. 22, 1963 assassination in Dallas, Ragano quoted Trafficante as saying: "The SOB is dead. Our problems are over. I hope that Jimmy is happy now ... we're out of trouble now. We will build hotels again. We'll get back into Cuba now.

"Jimmy owes me and he owes me big."

Hoffa, who disappeared from a Bloomfield Township restaurant parking lot in 1975, and has not been seen since, has long been an object of speculation in the Kennedy assassination. At the time of Kennedy's murder, Hoffa faced federal jury tampering charges brought by the Justice Department, then headed by the President's brother Robert F. Kennedy.

In an interview with Reuter, Newfield said of Ragano: "I think he is credible and what people have been waiting for — someone who has had

Please see Hoffa, 4A

Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) The DETROIT NEWS DETROIT, MICH. Pg. 3A

Date: 1/15/92, WEDNESDAY
Edition:

Title: HOFFA ORDERED HIT ON JFK ACCUSER SAYS

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office:

Indexing:

FBI/

Hoffa: Ordered hit on JFK, accuser says

From page 3A

an attack of conscience and wants to tell the truth in his old age.

Rogano, who said he was never questioned by the Select House Committee on Assassinations, said he was willing to tell his story again to Congress under oath, the Post said. Newfield said Ragano, 68, of Tampa, would be making another statement soon.

Ragano did not return a call to his office.

Barbara Hoffa Crancer described Ragano as a "hanger-on" who was "always looking to my dad to get him jobs." Several years ago, she said, he attempted to raise money from old Hoffa friends and acquaintances for a movie based on Hoffa's life.

It's suspicious, Crancer said. Ragano said nothing then about a possible Kennedy connection.

"You'd think if he knew the story then, he would have used it to raise money." She accused Ragano of trying to take advantage of publicity generated by Oliver Stone's movie, *JFK*.

Trafficante is dead and Marcello, now in his 80s, reportedly suffers from Alzheimer's disease. His whereabouts are unknown.

Ragano told the Post Hoffa's and Trafficante's deaths absolved him of the requirement to maintain confidentiality.

Last year, Ragano represented former Detroiter Charles "Chuckie" O'Brien, Hoffa's self-styled "stepson," in O'Brien's unsuccessful challenge to a government order expelling him from the Teamsters.

At the time, O'Brien called Ragano a "good lawyer who is taking this out of the goodness of his heart."

O'Brien was suspected — but never charged — in Hoffa's abduction.

■ The Associated Press contributed to this report.

THE NATION

Mob lawyer's claim fuels JFK controversy

By Bruce Frankel
USA TODAY

NEW YORK — Conspiracy buffs and those skeptical about the official explanations of President Kennedy's assassination received a boost Tuesday from two sources.

▶ Mob lawyer Frank Ragano became the first person to claim a role in the killing. He told the *New York Post* he carried a message from Teamsters boss Jimmy Hoffa to Mafia godfathers demanding a "hit" on the president.

▶ Rep. Henry Gonzalez, D-Texas, said he will introduce legislation to open sealed Kennedy assassination records when the House reconvenes later this month.

UPI (1966 photo)
HOFFA

Already, the movie *JFK* is re-igniting the public's longstanding obsession with the assassination and is likely to further undermine acceptance of Warren Commission findings that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in killing Kennedy.

Nearly 75% of those questioned in a new *Time*/CNN poll of 1,500 adults believe the truth hasn't been told about the assassination. The poll had a margin of error of 2.6 percentage points.

The idea of a mob role isn't new.

But, "he's what we've been waiting for for the last 20 years — the older guy who's gotten an attack of conscience and who knows secrets," says Jack Newfield, who interviewed Ragano for the *Post*.

But Steven Brill, author of *Teamsters*, says Ragano "was a peripheral figure. ... Hoffa didn't order those guys to do anything. ... When he forgot he was their tool is when he got killed."

Ragano says he now believes he conveyed a fatal message from Hoffa in early 1963 to Florida mob boss Santos Trafficante and New Orleans mob boss Carlos Marcello.

The story supports the conclusion in 1979 of the House Select Committee on Assassinations that Marcello, Trafficante and Hoffa had the "motive, means and opportunity" to kill the president. The panel never questioned Ragano.

A panoply of conspiracy theories have flourished from almost the first reports of Kennedy's shooting: right-wingers in Dallas, the Mafia, Castro, the Soviet Union, the CIA and the FBI have all been "linked" to the crime.

Hoffa's daughter, Barbara Ann Crancer, 53, a Missouri administrative law judge, says that Ragano has other motives.

Now appealing a second tax-evasion conviction, he "is a desperate and very sick man" trying to sell "his books by attacking a dead person."

"Nowhere in my heart do I believe my father is capable of doing such a thing," says Crancer who is [illegible] the Justice Department to open FBI files on Hoffa's 1976 disappearance.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FD-350 (Rev. 5-8-81)

USA TODAY
(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) pg. 3A

Date: 1/15/92, WEDNESDAY
Edition: USA TODAY

Title: Mob lawyer's claim fuels JFK controversy.

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office:

Indexing:

FBI/D

489

TE[illegible]

18 JAN [illegible]

FEDERA[illegible]
OF INVE[illegible]

Off. of [illegible] Affs.
Telephone Rm.
Director's Office

[redacted]

0,2

non public source material

[redacted]

[redacted]

BE ADVISED USA TODAY, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1992, AS WELL AS THE DETROIT NEWS, SAME DATE, PUBLISHED ARTICLES WHICH

9-60052-2931

[redacted]

REPORTED MOB LAWYER FRANK RAGANO CLAIMS HE, RAGANO, CARRIED A MESSAGE FROM TEAMSTERS BOSS, JIMMY HOFFA, TO MAFIA GODFATHERS DEMANDING A "HIT" ON THE PRESIDENT (KENNEDY). [redacted]

non public source material

[redacted] HOFFA'S DAUGHTER, BARBARA ANN CRANCER, A MISSOURI ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE COMMENTED IN THE ARTICLES ON

RAGANO, HE "IS A DESPERATE AND VERY SICK MAN" TRYING TO SELL "HIS BOOKS BY ATTACKING A DEAD PERSON." [redacted]

non public source material

NNNN

0-93 (Rev. 01/25/91)

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
)ERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATION MESSAGE FORM

489

TRANSMIT VIA:
☒ Telctype

PRECEDENCE:
☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☒ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:
☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☒ UNCLAS E F T O
☐ UNCLAS

[redacted]

non public source material

[redacted] THE APPEARANCE OF POLYGRAPH EXAMINER NAT LAURENDI, A FORMER NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT DETECTIVE, ON THE TELEVISION SHOW "A CURRENT AFFAIR" ON FRIDAY, JULY 23, 1992. THIS TELEVISION SHOW CONCERNED THE DISAPPEARANCE OF FORMER TEAMSTER PRESIDENT JIMMY HOFFA AND STATEMENTS MADE BY

9-60[illegible]-2939

******* FOR COMM CENTER USE ONLY *******

NOTE: Copy Designations Are On The Last Page Of This Teletype!!!

Approved By [redacted]

MRI/JUL [redacted]

Transmitted [redacted] AUG 26 1992

[redacted]

ISN 23

0-93A (Rev. 01/25/91)

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATION MESSAGE FORM

^PAGE 2 UNCLAS E F T O

"JOHN DOE, SELF-PROCLAIMED HIT MAN" THAT HE PARTICIPATED IN THE MURDER OF JIMMY HOFFA. LAURENDI CONDUCTED A POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION OF "JOHN DOE" AND ADVISED THAT THE RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS ASKED DID NOT SHOW DECEPTION.

[redacted]

non public source material

FD-36 (Rev. 11-17-88)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:
- ☐ Teletype
- ☐ Facsimile
- ☒ AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:
- ☐ Immediate
- ☐ Priority
- ☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:
- ☐ TOP SECRET
- ☐ SECRET
- ☐ CONFIDENTIAL
- ☐ UNCLAS E F T O
- ☐ UNCLAS

Date 1/20/93

TO [redacted]

FROM [redacted]

SUBJECT : [redacted]

non public source material

Enclosed for the Bureau are four newspaper clippings from "The Detroit Free Press" concerning the disappearance of JAMES R. HOFFA. These articles were published in the December 19, 20 and 21, 1992, editions of "The Detroit Free Press".

2 - Bureau (Enc. -4)
2 - Detroit
[redacted]
(4)

9-60052-2944

1 copies 0 enclosures
retained by OCS, ROOM 3076
1/28/93
[redacted]

"ENCLOSURE ATTACHED"

ENCLOSURE

[redacted]

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ (Number) (Time) Per _____

FD-350 (Rev. 5-8-81)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

The Detroit Free Press

Date: 12/19/92
Edition:

Title: HOFFEX

Character: 281A-DE-67821
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Detroit

Indexing:

HOFFA
THE SECRET FILES

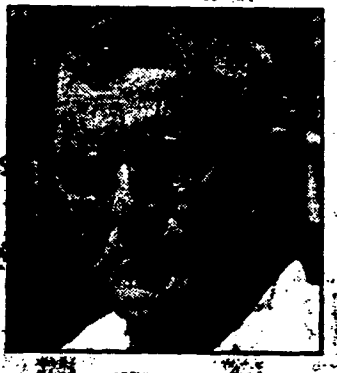
James Riddle Hoffa

Rose from Detroit Local 299 to lead the Teamsters from 1957-67, when he entered federal prison for conspiracy, fraud and jury tampering. Paroled in 1971, Hoffa was bent on regaining Teamsters office when he vanished July 30, 1975.

THE CAST

Anthony (Tony Pro) Provenzano

Newark, N.J., area Teamsters boss identified by federal authorities as a lieutenant of organized crime. Convicted labor racketeer who spent time with Hoffa at the federal penitentiary in Lewisburg, Pa.



Louis (the Pope) Linteau

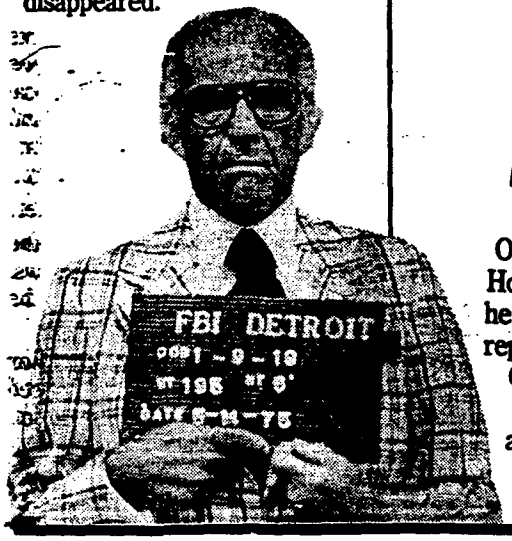
Former president of a Pontiac Teamsters local and confidant of Hoffa's. Hoffa stopped to visit him en route to a meeting the day he vanished. Linteau discovered Hoffa's abandoned car.

FBI/

Charles (Chuckie) O'Brien

Teamsters organizer in Detroit and longtime aide to Hoffa, whom he sometimes called Dad. Had a falling out with Hoffa and was preparing to take a union post in Florida when Hoffa disappeared.

Above: Jimmy Hoffa talks to reporters in Washington on March 7, 1967, before beginning a prison sentence for jury tampering. Left: Hoffa with granddaughter Barbara Jo and daughter Barbara Crancer in 1966.

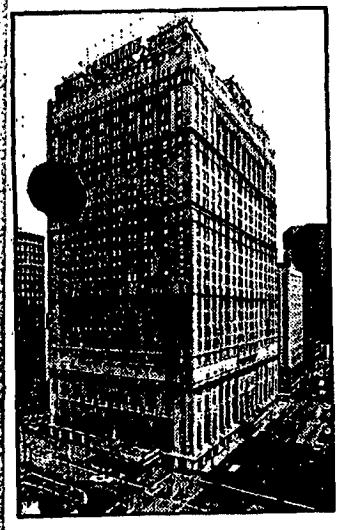


Anthony (Tony Jack) Giacalone

On the day he vanished, Hoffa told several people he was going to meet this reputed Detroit mob boss. Giacalone was a visible presence most of the afternoon in Southfield.

In 1971, Teamsters President Frank Fitzsimmons, left, tried to get the imprisoned Jimmy Hoffa a presidential pardon.

CHAIN OF EVENTS



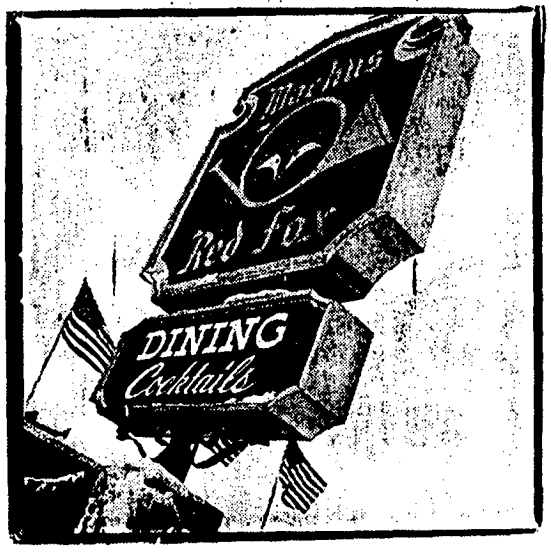
1

The day before he disappeared, Jimmy Hoffa had lunch with Detroit Mayor Coleman Young at the failing Book Cadillac Hotel. They discussed a possible bailout of the downtown hotel using Teamsters pension money.

2

Brothers Anthony and Vito Giacalone, identified by authorities as leaders of organized crime in Detroit, visited Hoffa only once at his northern Oakland County home, 18 days before the labor leader disappeared.

Vito Giacalone

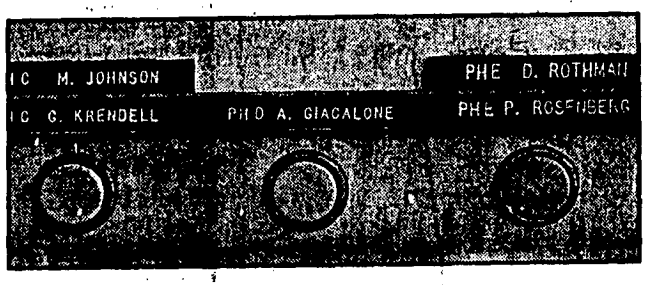


3

Teamsters official Charles (Chuckie) O'Brien, a longtime Hoffa aide, waited for his ride to work every day at the shopping center that includes the Machus Red Fox restaurant, where Hoffa was last seen.

4

The day Hoffa vanished, Anthony Giacalone spent much of the afternoon at the Southfield Athletic Club, where people took note that he was unusually outgoing. He also spent an hour in the office of a Southfield lawyer.



6

A local real estate broker, emerging from a long lunch at the Red Fox, encountered a sweaty Hoffa waiting alone in the parking lot. They shook hands and the broker said he could never forget Hoffa's "steel bar" grip.

Hoffa told several people that Anthony Giacalone was among the people he was going to meet on the day he vanished, but Giacalone denied he had any such meeting scheduled.

HOFFA'S HOME
ORION TOWNSHIP
LAPEER ROAD
75
PONTIAC
AIRPORT SERVICE LINES
59
75
OAKLAND COUNTY
TROY
TELEGRAPH ROAD
MACHUS RED FOX RESTAURANT
MAPLE ROAD
75
BETWEEN 1AND 1:30 P.M., JIMMY HOFFA LEFT HIS HOME IN ORION TOWNSHIP, TELLING HIS WIFE HE WOULD BE HOME BY 4 TO COOK DINNER.
AROUND 1:30 P.M., HOFFA ARRIVED AT AIRPORT SERVICE LINES IN PONTIAC LOOKING FOR OWNER LOUIS LINTEAU, WHO WAS NOT THERE. HOFFA LEFT WORD WHERE HE COULD BE FOUND.
TELL LOUIE I'M GONNA MEET TONY...AT THE RED FOX IN BLOOMFIELD.

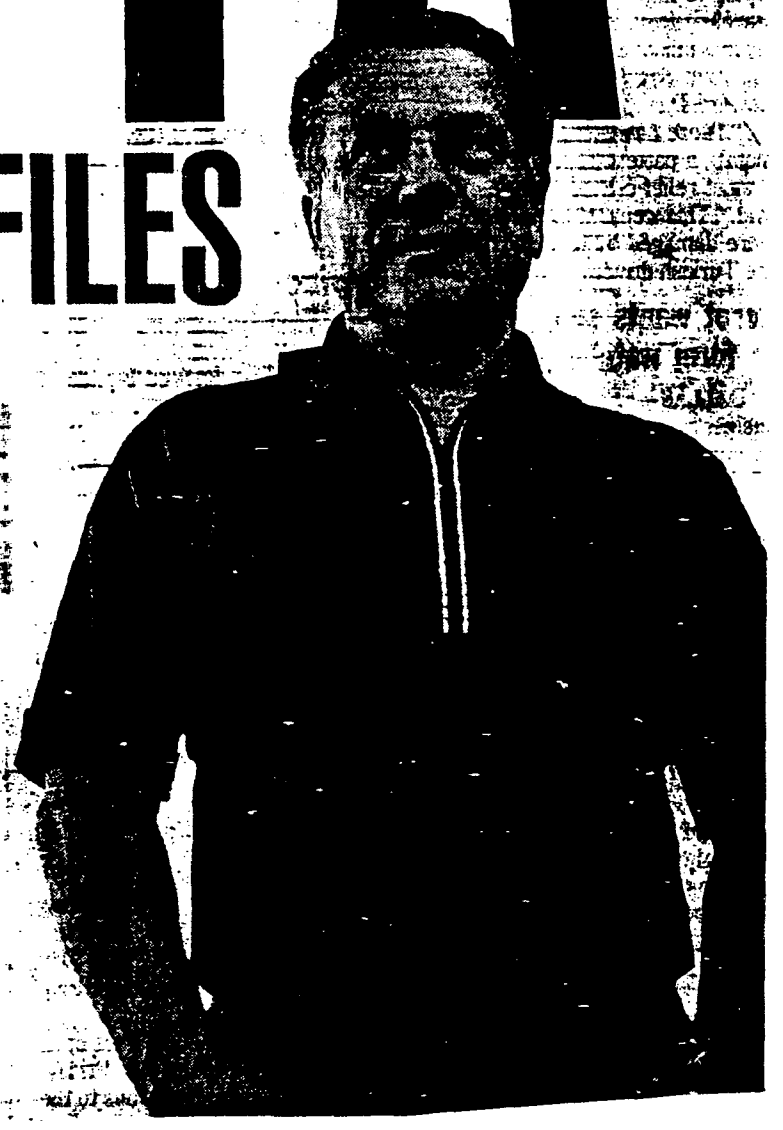
MOSES HARRIS/Detroit Free Press

WELCOME
JAMES HOFFA
13

HOFFA

THE SECRET FILES

The mystery changed lives, families and the American labor movement forever.



Jimmy Hoffa is the most famous missing person in America, the stuff of legend, mystery and tragedy.

Authorities are convinced they know what happened to the dynamic labor leader, who was last seen alive on July 30, 1975, in a restaurant parking lot in Bloomfield Township.

This is the story of how those conclusions were reached — as detailed in previously secret law enforcement files obtained by the Free Press, other police records examined for the first time and interviews with many of the people involved. The source material includes the daily updates from Detroit agents to FBI headquarters, transcripts of tapped phone calls, informants' reports and interviews with suspects.

Interest in Hoffa has been rekindled by a biographical movie due out at Christmas. But neither the movie nor the many books about Hoffa afford a full picture of the first days of the mystery, a larger-than-life story of Teamsters, mobsters, secret meetings, frustrating searches and trails to nowhere.

Unheeded warning: 'You don't know who you're bucking'

©Copyright 1992, Detroit Free Press

BY JACK KRESNAK
AND JOE SWICKARD
Free Press Staff Writers

Over lunch in the presidential suite at the tattered Book Cadillac Hotel in downtown Detroit, Coleman Young was talking deal and Jimmy Hoffa was listening.

Two tough guys from the streets of Detroit, they spoke the same language. They shared the bond of having risen against the odds and the establishment to positions of enormous power. Along the way, both had made plenty of friends and some serious enemies, but neither backed away from a battle.

"The mayor always enjoyed people with a wide life experience," said Malcolm Dade, then a mayoral aide, who joined Young and Hoffa for the meeting on July 29, 1975. "He wouldn't have much to say to the queen of England, but Jimmy Hoffa certainly had experience."

Now, the mayor was asking the exiled former president of the Teamsters whether it was possible to swing a loan from the union's pension funds to keep the Book in business. Though his parole banned him from union activities, Hoffa still had clout with some Teamsters people.

Dade recalled that the short, thickset Hoffa projected his usual self-confidence during the meeting and was attentive to the mayor's proposal, but noncommittal.

Hoffa had left a much different impression just before the meeting in a chance encounter with Ricardo Lubienski, at the time a Detroit Common Pleas Court judge.

Searching for a cigarette machine prior to a judges conference, Lubienski was startled to recognize one of the few other people in the Book's lobby.

TONY SPINA/Detroit Free Press

"My God, it's Jimmy Hoffa," Lubienski thought, remarking to himself that this supposed dynamo of a man appeared "small, lonely and vulnerable."

The judge and Hoffa shook hands and exchanged a few words. Lubienski reminded Hoffa that the Teamsters had helped his campaign for judge.

Nice guy, Lubienski thought as they parted.

Mentally reconstructing that brief meeting, countless times Lubienski keeps coming back to the eerie image of Hoffa looking isolated in the lobby.

Certainly, James Riddle Hoffa had a lot on his mind that was more important to him than saving the Book. At 62, he was 3½ years out of

See HOFFA, Page 12A

Despite warning, Hoffa was set on regaining power

HOFFA, from Page 1A

prison and determined — with his usual bulldog intensity — to win court clearance for a bid to reclaim the Teamsters presidency.

Toward that end, Hoffa had a crucial meeting on tap for tomorrow, out in Bloomfield Township.

"Pete, you like to breathe, don't you?" Hoffa recently had asked Peter Karagozian, an old union pal. "That's how bad I want to get back in."

Hoffa said he had some scores to settle in the union. Karagozian advised him to get a bodyguard, warning, "You don't know who you're bucking."

Hoffa shrugged it off: "They haven't got the guts."

About 250 miles away, Detroit labor lawyer James Philip Hoffa, 34-year-old son of the union legend, was enjoying a vacation with his wife and two boys at a cottage on the banks of Boardman River, south of Traverse City. The finicky northern Michigan weather had been good. He was relaxed.

In St. Louis, Hoffa's daughter, Barbara Crancer, also a labor lawyer, was in the middle of one of the most hectic summers she could remember. On top of a crushing work schedule, Crancer's husband, Robert, a steel company executive, was in the hospital, recovering from surgery after a serious car crash. There also were back-to-school things to do for the couple's 12-year-old daughter.

What else is going to come up, Crancer wondered.

On July 30, 1975, Jimmy Hoffa awoke as usual at 6:30 a.m. at his home on Square Lake, a small lake off M-24 between Pontiac and Holly.

"I'll cut."

"You wrap."

Once a summer-only residence in northern Oakland County's cottage country, the place had been refurbished and insulated by Hoffa for year-round living.

At 7:45 a.m., he took a call from the president of a New York City Teamsters local. Although technically no longer a Teamster, Hoffa kept up with union matters and was in regular contact with local leaders.

It was important to keep his network alive for the triumphant return he envisioned. A meeting that afternoon would help clear the way.

Hoffa told his wife, Josephine, he would be gone for a while in the afternoon, but expected to be home by 4 p.m. and would grill steaks for their dinner. After 39 years of marriage, she knew he would not be late.

The meeting, to which Hoffa finally had agreed after several broken dates, was to be a sit-down with Anthony Provenzano, a New Jersey Teamsters boss known to friends as Tony Pro — and known to federal investigators as an associate of the Mafia.

Hoffa and Provenzano had been feuding since they did time together at the federal penitentiary in Lewisburg, Pa. — Hoffa for fraud, conspiracy and jury tampering, Tony Pro for racketeering and extortion. Hoffa blamed Provenzano and his pals in the mob for much of the federal heat that had come down on the Teamsters and their president in the 1960s.

Brothers Anthony and Vito Giacalone — Tony Jack and Billy Jack to friends and the police who regularly tailed them — had lobbied hard for the peace meeting. The Giacalones described themselves as businessmen but authorities regarded both as captains of the Detroit Mafia.

Hoffa expected Tony Jack to be at the meeting, which undoubtedly dominated his thoughts as he puttered in the yard and chatted with Marty Woehl, the 11-year-old boy next door.

Woehl remembered that the conversation ended around 9 a.m. when Hoffa went inside to answer the phone. The boy, who did occasional errands for Hoffa, always had liked his neighbor.

"He treated you like a real person; he gave you respect," Woehl said. "And when you're a kid, you really appreciate that."

Woehl, who still lives in the house next door, said that was the last quiet day in the neighborhood for quite some time.

That morning, Charles Lenton O'Brien — everybody called him Chuckie — was in the basement of Marvin Adell's house on Inkster Road in Bloomfield Township, getting dressed for work.

He donned a white shirt and sport coat. A necktie would be a choker for the 5-foot-8, 200-plus-pound O'Brien on what promised to be a hot day.

O'Brien had been bunking with Adell, a wealthy industrialist and longtime friend, for about a year, since O'Brien's first marriage went on the rocks.

The arrangement was about to end because Chuckie, who worked for the Teamsters at union headquarters on Trumbull near Tiger Stadium in Detroit, had remarried and was transferring to a job with the union in Florida.

Chuckie's new wife, Brenda, had a family business in the South, and he was ready to get out of Detroit — and the long shadow of Jimmy Hoffa.

The son of a Teamster who was killed in the union's violent, formative years — when Hoffa muscled his way to the top — O'Brien had been sponsored by Hoffa into various union jobs. As a young man, he was almost embarrassingly devoted to Hoffa, describing himself as Jimmy's foster son and calling Hoffa "Dad."

But the relationship between Hoffa and O'Brien, 40, had soured. Hoffa believed O'Brien had squandered some of his money while Hoffa was in prison. O'Brien had increasingly allied himself with Frank Fitzsimmons, Hoffa's handpicked successor as union president, and now his rival for power. Fitzsimmons had helped O'Brien get the Flori-

See HOFFA, Page 13A

HOFFA
THE SECRET FILES

HOFFA, from Page 12A

da job.

People in the union's power circle regarded O'Brien as a onetime trusted Hoffa underling who didn't shy away from tough jobs, but lately was more a braggart and gossip, with a growing reputation for embroidering the truth.

Since O'Brien didn't have a car, Adell gave him a lift on weekdays to a shopping center at Maple and Telegraph roads, where Teamster organizer Bobby Holmes Jr. picked him up for the ride into Detroit.

This day, O'Brien was early enough to buy a Free Press and was sitting on a strip of grass reading when Holmes arrived. He was at work by 9:15 a.m., but soon would have a very fishy reason to leave.

Hoffa readies for meeting

Around 11 a.m., Anthony Giacalone — Uncle Tony to Chuckie O'Brien — drove a black-over-peach Cadillac with Florida license plates into the parking lot of the Travelers Tower on Evergreen Road in Southfield. His destination was on the first floor, the Southfield Athletic Club.

Giacalone usually kept to himself at the club, or spent time in the steam room. But today, he was outgoing, greeting other members, shaking hands and signing up for a 12:30 session with masseur Greg Ryan.

Chuckie O'Brien had decided to skip a union meeting he was scheduled to attend in Toronto and spent most of the morning packing up personal things for his upcoming move. He ambled out of his second-floor office around 11:15 a.m. and saw a seven-foot-long cardboard carton sitting on the receptionist's desk.

"A fish," the receptionist said.

A salmon, to be exact, sent frozen by a Seattle Teamsters official to Detroit local leader Bobby Holmes Sr. O'Brien hefted the awkward box and guessed it to weigh about 40 pounds. Sloshing sounds came from inside and O'Brien figured the big fish had been sitting at the airport for a few days.

With little else to do, he offered to run it out to Holmes' Farmington Hills residence before the fish went bad.

A union-owned station wagon used for errands was gone, so O'Brien called his buddy Joey Giacalone, son of Uncle Tony, at his office at Lift All, a heavy machinery firm on West Vernor. Sure, Joey said, I'll pick you up, you drop me back here and then you can use my car to deliver the fish.

Joey Giacalone arrived at the Teamsters office a little before noon in his new, burgundy Mercury Marquis Brougham. O'Brien walked out with the unwieldy carton over his shoulder, irked that it was dripping pink liquid onto his white shirt.

Spreading newspapers to catch the seeping mess, O'Brien and Giacalone put one end of the box in the rear footwell of the big Mercury and angled the other end out the opposite window.

Holmes was away, at the union meeting in Toronto. He was surprised to learn O'Brien was a no-show, asking a companion, "Where the hell is the little bastard?"

Holmes' wife, Vi, was dealing with a cranky infant son when O'Brien arrived at midday with a thawing fish dripping blood all over her clean floors.

O'Brien hustled the box into the kitchen and opened it. Vi Holmes recoiled at the sight of the fish staring up at her.

"I can't stand it," she said.

Don't worry, said O'Brien, grabbing a knife and chopping off the head.

"I'll cut," he said. "You wrap."

They quickly reduced the salmon to a tidy stack of steaks. O'Brien made a couple of calls that no one seemed to answer and then left, taking with him the soggy fish box, and the head and tail.

Jimmy Hoffa ate lunch at home with Josephine, then cleaned up for his meeting. He decided against his usual business suit, donning a blue Ban-Lon shirt with a zipper front, blue pants and blue shoes.

Hoffa wore his trademark, workingman's white socks. Jo said he always wore them because dark socks weren't absorbent enough for his sweaty feet. Even when he was union president, he wore custom-made socks that were black from the ankle up and white cotton on the bottom.

Before leaving home, Hoffa called William Aumock, a business agent with a sign-painters' union local in Hazel Park. Hoffa asked him to find someone to paint a mural at the lakefront house, which everyone still referred to as "the cottage."

Hoffa said he didn't want a gift; he'd pay for the painting.

About 1:15 p.m., Hoffa was piloting his green Pontiac Grand Ville south. He didn't use his seat belt and had inserted a plastic card into the clasp to silence an irritating buzzer.

Before his meeting, Hoffa wanted to stop in Pontiac to see "the Pope."

It was an unusual nickname for Louie Linteau, who, at 61, had a weathered face, crew cut hair and a foul mouth. Friends had hung him with the moniker years ago because he seemed to be everywhere all the time.

Linteau was a former president of Teamsters Local 614 in Pontiac and had been a close friend of Hoffa's for decades. Hoffa had secretly helped him start his new limousine company, Airport Service Lines, in an old garage at 200 N. Paddock in Pontiac.

Hoffa stopped by once in a while to use the weight lifting equipment in an exercise room Linteau set up at the rear of the place.

Airport Service employees said Hoffa was obviously in a hurry when he arrived around 1:30 p.m. They told

him Linteau had left 10 minutes earlier to go to the bank and take an employee, Cynthia Green, to lunch.

Speaking to dispatcher Elmer Reeves — but talking loudly enough for two other employees to hear — Hoffa said he was on his way to a restaurant in a shopping center at Telegraph and Maple, the Machus Red Fox.

Hoffa said he had a meeting there with Tony Giacalone and two other guys. He said their names, but Reeves and the other employees didn't catch them as Hoffa left.

At 2:10 p.m., about the time Tony Giacalone was getting off the massage table, Linteau was on the phone to Local 299 in Detroit, asking whether a secretary for the local had paid out of her own pocket for Chuckie O'Brien's plane ticket to Florida. Linteau knew about O'Brien's past money troubles with Hoffa, former president of Local 299.

And through O'Brien, Linteau also knew Anthony Giacalone. In fact, he had paid Giacalone $135,000 for a Florida condominium. Linteau later would say he had heard that O'Brien was turning to Uncle Tony for money and wonder aloud how O'Brien was going to pay the debt.

A string of no-shows

The parking lot was hot. So was Jimmy Hoffa. His company was late.

At 2:15, Hoffa stalked to the pay phone on a post in front of Damman Hardware, directly behind the Red Fox, and called home.

"Where the hell is Giacalone?" he asked Josephine. She said she hadn't heard from anyone.

A few people recognized him, including a suburban developer who thought it odd to see such a famous figure pacing and fidgeting by himself in a parking lot.

Two Southfield real estate brokers and a client saw Hoffa as they emerged from the Red Fox after a long lunch.

One of the brokers approached him.

"You probably don't remember me," he told Hoffa, "but we met when you spoke at the Lions Club downtown a couple of week ago."

The broker remembered Hoffa was "cordial as all hell" and told him the Lions were "a great bunch of guys."

They shook hands and parted, and the broker would never forget Hoffa's grip: "Like shaking hands with a steel bar," he said.

While Hoffa perspired, a freshly barbered Tony Giacalone got into the elevator of the Travelers Tower about 3 p.m. and pushed the button for the fourth floor. He walked into Suite 442 for an hour's visit with lawyer Bernard Humphrey.

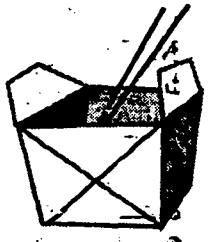
Louis Linteau returned to his office around 3 p.m. and was told that Hoffa had been there. The meeting made sense to Linteau. He knew about the trouble between Provenzano and Hoffa and he knew that the Giacalones had visited Hoffa at home July 12 — the only time they were ever in his house. Hoffa told Linteau that a meeting was arranged.

At 3:27 p.m., Linteau got a call from Hoffa. He was furious.

"That dirty son of a bitch Tony Jocks set this meeting up, and he's an hour and a half late," Hoffa said.

Calm down, Linteau said. Drop by the office on your way home.

Hoffa said he would and Linteau waited for him until 6:30, then left for a meeting at the Pine Knob outdoor theater.



They went out for a Chinese dinner. Back home, O'Brien flipped on the 11 p.m. news. Nothing caught his eye and he went to bed.

Josephine Hoffa had been waiting since 4 p.m., steaks at the ready. But her husband never called. It was so out of character, she was worried, but she wasn't sure whom to call. Jimmy hated people meddling in his business — especially the police.

Linteau was back in his office by 9:40 p.m. Still no word from Hoffa. He called the house.

"Let me talk to Jimmy," Linteau said to Josephine.

"Where is my husband?" she cried.

Linteau tried to reassure her, then hung up and called the Red Fox.

"You mean *the* Jimmy Hoffa?" a hostess said when he asked. There was no paging system, so she quickly walked through the restaurant, checking tables and the bar.

No Hoffa, she said.

Linteau called Anthony Giacalone.

"Have you heard from the Little Guy?" he asked.

"No, why?" Giacalone answered.

"He's not home and he was supposed to meet with you," said Linteau.

Giacalone said he had no such meeting scheduled and had spent most of the day at the Southfield Athletic Club.

Linteau was worried. He called Josephine and told her he would be right over.

Chuckie O'Brien, at the end of his workday, had caught a ride with Joe Valenti, an official of Teamsters Local 214 in Detroit, to a car wash at Grand River and Orchard Lake Road in Farmington, where Adell picked him up.

They went out for a Chinese dinner.

Back home, O'Brien flipped on the television to watch the 11 p.m. news. Nothing caught his attention and he went to bed.

The closing crew left the Red Fox around 1 a.m. A few workers noticed the green Pontiac in the parking lot, but didn't give it much thought.

COMING UP

Sunday in the Free Press Comment section: Jimmy's Gone. The police are called. Young Hoffa seeks answers from Chuckie O'Brien.

FD-350 (Rev. 5-8-81)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Date: 12/20/92
Edition: The Detroit Free Press 5G

Title: HOFFEX

Character: 281A-DE-67821
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Detroit Division

Indexing:

Hoffa's children want FBI to open up

BY JOE SWICKARD
Free Press Staff Writer

The FBI is convinced it knows who killed Jimmy Hoffa, how and why.

But the answers are locked away in cabinets jammed with thousands of documents, reports and memoranda — and the FBI isn't talking about the case agents dubbed "HOFFEX," bureaucratic shorthand for Hoffa-Extortion.

Hoffa's children — Barbara Crancer and James P. Hoffa — believe it is time to open those files.

"There is no reason not to," said Crancer, a labor lawyer when her father vanished and now a circuit judge in St. Louis. "We're ready to deal with whatever's in there."

Crancer filed a Freedom of Information request for the files in 1987, and followed up in 1990 with a lawsuit to open HOFFEX. The Free Press has filed a similar suit seeking access to the documents.

In both cases, the FBI is arguing that the Hoffa case is still an open investigation, with possible arrests and prosecution in jeopardy if its evidence is made public.

Crancer gained one victory when a federal judge ordered the government to compile an index of all its documents so a determination could be made of what might be too sensitive to release and what could reasonably be made public. But the government is in a second stage of appealing that ruling, and Crancer has yet to see such an index.

In the Free Press case, U.S. District Judge George LaPlata in Ann Arbor reviewed docu-

"Even if we do win on principle, I'm sure they are going to fight us about everything ... every page in the file cabinet. I could see it taking 20 or 30 years, but I'm willing to see it through."

FBI/r

ments chosen and submitted to him by the FBI and decided in 1991 that the government was right, the files should remain closed.

LaPlata said that the case was not languishing and that the release of FBI information would allow suspects to destroy evidence, fabricate alibis or intimidate witnesses.

Free Press attorney Herschel Fink said LaPlata "set a terrible precedent" by basing his decision on the FBI's "handpicked documents."

"It's tantamount to allowing the government the power to police itself," he said. The Free Press is appealing the ruling.

Kenneth Walton, formerly the special agent in charge of the Detroit FBI office and now a congressional investigator, said the Hoffa case cannot be viewed in stark black-and-white terms.

"The case had been solved from a law enforcement viewpoint," he said. "But it is not solved from a prosecutorial standpoint."

Walton said that many of the witnesses who talked to the FBI would never repeat their stories in court, and some have since died.

Likewise, others gave solid but secondhand information that does not meet courtroom standards for evidence, he said.

And evidence not withstanding, the files should remain closed to protect FBI informants and methods, Walton said.

Crancer, who inherited her father's bulldog determination, is unimpressed with the arguments and prepared for a long battle.

"Even if we do win on principle, I'm sure they are going to fight us about everything ... every page in the file cabinet," she said. "I could see it taking 20 or 30 years, but I'm willing to see it through.

"Why shouldn't we know what happened to our father?"

FD-350 (Rev. 5-8-81)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Date: 12/20/92
Edition: The Detroit Free Press 1G

Title: HOFFEX

Character: 281A-DE-67821
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Detroit Division

Indexing:

HOFFA
THE SECRET FILES

Paroled from federal prison 3½ years earlier, former Teamsters President Jimmy Hoffa had announced his plans in 1975 to again seek the union leadership. He would run against Frank Fitzsimmons, once his protege.

On July 30, Hoffa left home for an afternoon meeting. He told people the participants would include Anthony (Tony Jack) Giacalone, reputed by federal authorities to be a captain of organized crime in Detroit.

Hoffa was seen waiting outside in the parking lot of the Machus Red Fox restaurant in Bloomfield Township. He made at least two calls from a pay phone outside the hardware store behind the restaurant.

Hoffa was due home at 4 p.m., but he never arrived.

This account of the initial days of the Hoffa investigation is based on law-enforcement files obtained by the Free Press and recent interviews.

SECOND OF THREE PARTS

FBI/

HOFFA
THE SECRET FILES

THE CAST

Curt Grennier
Chief of detectives of the 60-member Bloomfield Township Police Department, was the first officer in charge of the Hoffa investigation, quickly sensed it was no ordinary missing person investigation.

James Philip Hoffa
Son of the famous union leader; a labor lawyer who was 34 when his father disappeared. Short and solidly built like his dad, he quit the Michigan State football team after two seasons to concentrate on his studies.

Barbara Crancer
Hoffa's oldest child, also a lawyer, lived in St. Louis, where her husband was a steel company executive. She was haunted by a mental image of her father, seated and slumped over, as her flight took off for Michigan.

Frank Fitzsimmons
Hoffa's handpicked choice to succeed him as Teamsters president when Hoffa went to prison; then became Hoffa's rival for control of the union. Made a quiet visit to Detroit five days before Hoffa vanished.

'MAYBE HE TOOK A LITTLE TRIP'

Chuckie O'Brien, whose relationship with Jimmy Hoffa had gone sour by 1975, says the FBI painted him as a fall guy.

Joey Giacalone

Son of Anthony Giacalone. Loaned his new Mercury to Chuckie O'Brien the day Hoffa vanished, so O'Brien could deliver a thawing, dripping salmon to a Teamsters official in Farmington Hills.

Jimmy Hoffa confers with Frank Fitzsimmons during a Teamsters convention in Miami Beach in 1966.

James Hoffa grilled O'Brien about his whereabouts the day that Jimmy Hoffa disappeared.

Chuckie O'Brien, a onetime assistant to Jimmy Hoffa who referred to him as Dad, keeps photos and memorabilia of Hoffa with him in Florida.

Above: Barbara Crancer holds a photo of her with her father, Jimmy Hoffa.

CHAIN OF EVENTS

1

The Hoffa children rush by air to Detroit after their mother calls to say Dad never came home the night before. Both know it is way out of character and suspect the worst.

IRA ROSENBERG/Detroit Free Press

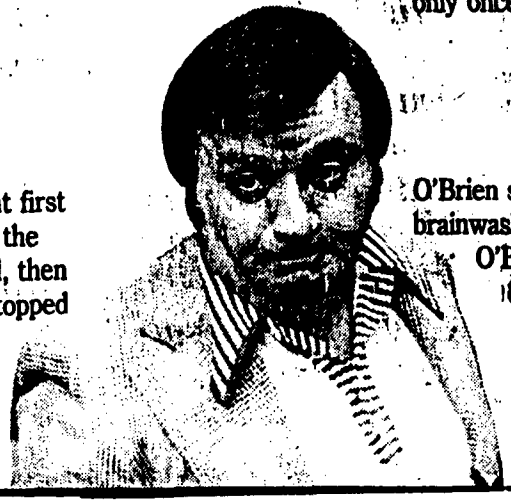
A police officer stands at Jimmy Hoffa's impounded car in 1975.

2

Bloomfield Township police tow Hoffa's car to a garage and nervously pop open the trunk, half expecting to find a body. The trunk is empty. State police, Detroit Police mob experts and the FBI arrive to help.

3

Chuckie O'Brien, right, at first won't say where he was the afternoon Hoffa vanished, then tells Hoffa's son that he stopped by the Southfield Athletic Club to see Anthony Giacalone.



4

A horde of reporters descend on the Hoffa property on Square Lake. The first word from police is "no reason to suspect foul play," but speculation is rampant that Hoffa was kidnapped and killed.

5

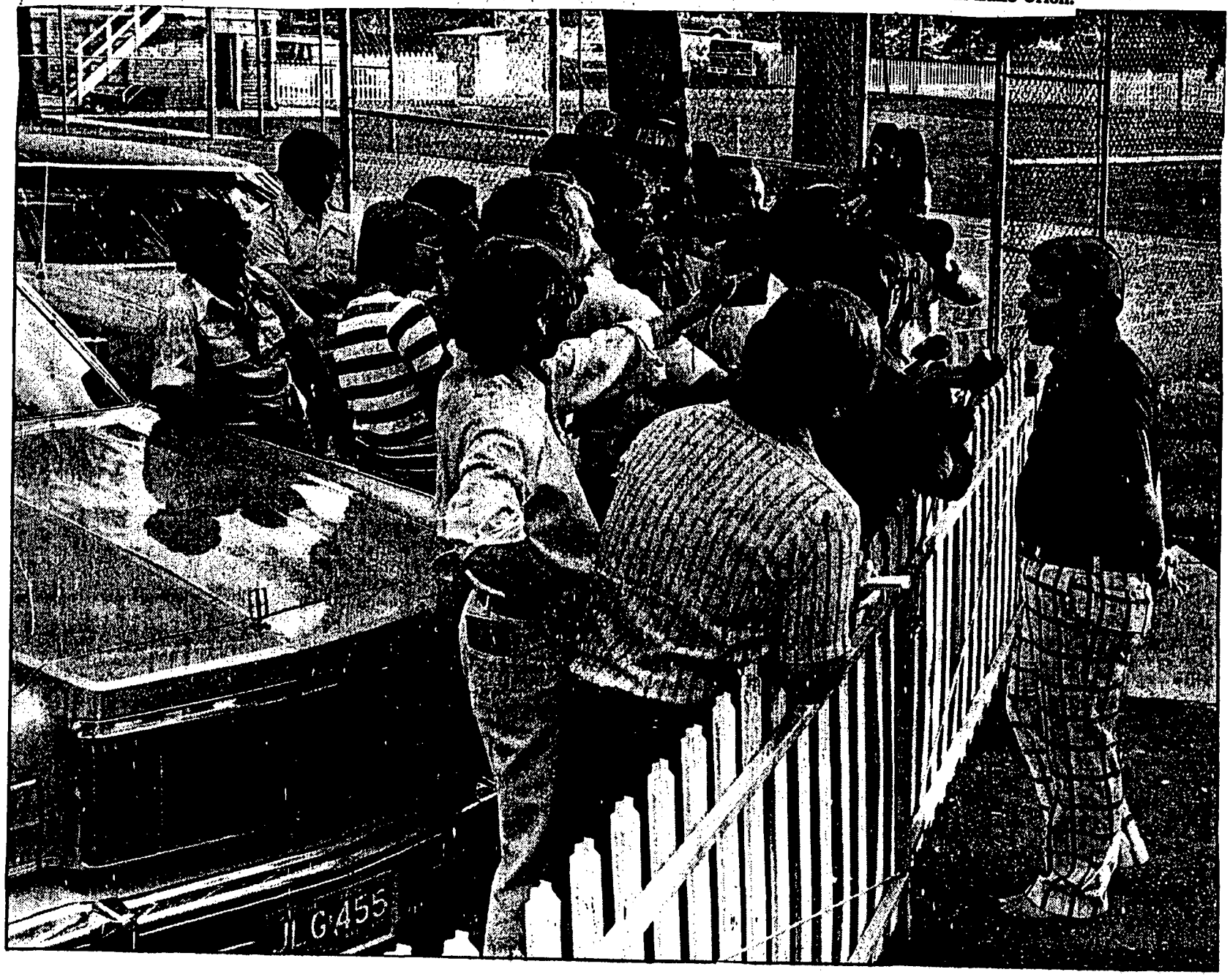
Detroit police begin intense surveillance of the Giacalone brothers, watching their Cadillacs come and go and eavesdropping on conversations; Hoffa's name comes up only once.

6

O'Brien speculates that the FBI has brainwashed Hoffa's son into believing O'Brien was involved in the disappearance. He says authorities have driven a wedge between the two of them.

Family begins its own search for answers

James Hoffa talks to reporters Aug. 8, 1975, more than a week after the disappearance, at the Hoffa home in Lake Orion.



HOFFA
THE SECRET FILES

BY JACK KRESNAK AND JOE SWICKARD
Free Press Staff Writers
© 1992, Detroit Free Press

"What do you mean Dad didn't come home?"

As the sun was rising July 31, 1975, James Hoffa couldn't believe what his mother was telling him over the phone about his father. He knew there had to be real trouble.

Hoffa told his mother he would charter a plane to get home as quickly as possible from his vacation spot near Traverse City. His family could follow by car.

At 7:30 a.m. Missouri time, the telephone rang in Barbara Crancer's St. Louis home.

"Your father didn't come home last night," Josephine Hoffa told her daughter.

"I'll be there," Crancer said.

She got someone to watch her 12-year-old daughter and raced to the hospital bed where her husband was recovering from a car accident.

"Mom's sick," Crancer told him, not wanting to upset her husband. "She needs me." From his hospital bed, Robert Crancer would learn later watching the evening news why his wife had rushed out of town.

As her flight to Detroit rose, Crancer rested her head against the window and closed her eyes. In her mind, she saw Dad wearing a blue, zipper-front shirt, blue slacks and his blue shoes.

Her father was seated, but slumped over.

Crancer pressed her head against the cool glass.

And somehow she knew right then.

"I'll never see him again," she told herself.

At the Hoffa home on Square Lake, Josephine had grown increasingly frantic through the night as she sat waiting with longtime friend Louis Linteau. Five times, a dark, compact car had pulled into the long driveway, backed out and left, leaving Josephine near hysteria.

Linteau had fallen asleep around 3 a.m., but Josephine shook him awake three hours later. Was it time to call the police?

Linteau told her to wait a while longer and drove back to his office in Pontiac, where Jimmy was supposed to stop after Tuesday's meeting at the Machus Red Fox.

There was no sign of him in Pontiac, so Linteau again called Anthony Giacalone, one of the people Hoffa had said he was supposed to meet.

"Did I wake you?" Linteau asked.

"No, I was making coffee," Giacalone said.

"The Little Guy never came home last night," Linteau said.

Giacalone was irked.

"Like I said last night," he told Linteau, "I was at the Southfield Athletic Club."

Any idea where he could be? Linteau asked.

"Maybe he took a little trip," Giacalone said.

By 7:45 a.m., Linteau was in the Red Fox parking lot, looking over a Pontiac that appeared to be Hoffa's.

But the driver's-side door was open and Linteau knew that Hoffa always locked his car. So he opened the glove box and found Hoffa's registration. He noted the plastic card to silence the seat belt buzzer.

Linteau decided it was time to call in the law.

When the missing person report came into Bloomfield Township police, Chief of Detectives Lt. Curt Grennier thought it might be a joke.

But within a few minutes, a patrol officer had confirmed that the empty, unlocked car in the Red Fox lot was owned by Jimmy Hoffa.

Grennier left immediately for the restaurant. He remembers thinking that if this did turn out to be something big, he didn't want any mistakes that could come back to haunt him or his 60-member department.

Grennier also was aware of recent violence involving the Teamsters.

Three weeks earlier, the car of Local 299 Vice President Richard Fitzsimmons — son of international union President Frank Fitzsimmons — was destroyed in a daylight bombing outside Nemo's, a popular saloon near Tiger Stadium.

When they arrived at the Red Fox, Grennier and Capt. James Keller, the department's chief of operations, agreed that Hoffa's car should be towed to the garage at the police station, up Telegraph to near Long Lake Road.

Soon, Hoffa's son gave verbal authorization to pop the trunk.

Grennier and other police who gathered around half expected to find Hoffa's body inside.

But the trunk was empty.

Grennier recalls thinking at that moment that "we aren't going to find him by ourselves." But he had no way of knowing how massive and frustrating the search would become.

Loyalty goes out the window

While Hoffa's car sat at one end of the Red Fox lot on that Thursday morning, Chuckie O'Brien was dropped off as usual at the other end to await his ride to work at Teamsters offices in Detroit.

O'Brien was indebted to Frank Fitzsimmons for rescuing him from a union organizing project on the Alaska pipeline, an assignment insiders said was a payback for blowing money and time in California while supposedly recruiting farm workers.

Now Fitzsimmons had agreed to send O'Brien to a Teamsters office just north of Miami, which pleased his new wife, Brenda Burger, who was from Arkansas and not interested in living in the North.

O'Brien even had regained his union credit cards, which were revoked after his California misadventure.

Born in Kansas City, Mo., and a graduate of a military academy, O'Brien came to Detroit in 1952 and signed on as junior organizer with the Teamsters. Five years later, he was assigned to be an assistant to Hoffa.

In 1967, O'Brien was promoted to an international organizer, but titles meant little. For a long time, O'Brien basically took care of special favors and errands for Hoffa, and began describing himself as the union leader's foster son.

He took credit for burglarizing a reporter's apartment to look for law enforcement files and for pulling a gruesome stunt involving Detroit News Editor Martin Hayden.

Riled by the newspaper's anti-Hoffa stance, O'Brien claimed he was part of the crew that sent Hayden a gift package containing a human head — its eyes propped open with toothpicks — from a medical school cadaver.

O'Brien explained the prank years later with a rueful grin, saying he was young at the time, and "when you're young, you do goofy things."

When Hoffa went to prison in 1967, O'Brien was on the limited visitors list and hired a plane to fly a Happy Birthday banner over the penitentiary every year on Hoffa's birthday, Valentine's Day.

But their relationship started to sour after Hoffa's release in December 1971.

Hoffa believed O'Brien had squandered some of his money and knew O'Brien was increasingly in debt to the Giacalones. Hoffa, who valued loyalty, also saw O'Brien aligning more with Fitzsimmons, whom Hoffa saw as his rival for control of the union.

Hoffa also pulled some old levers to crush O'Brien's dream of running for president of Detroit Local 299, Hoffa's old local and the power base he planned to use to retake the union helm.

There was even word at an April 1975 Teamsters convention that O'Brien was trying to spread a rumor that Hoffa could be cooperating with his old enemy the FBI in an investigation of the union.

It didn't have much credibility coming from O'Brien, who had a reputation for embellishing facts.

Bloomfield Township police, meanwhile, had few clues at all and one of the department's first steps was to put out a call for help. Soon, state police evidence technicians were poring over Hoffa's car.

The FBI technically had no reason to be involved in a local missing-person case, but Special Agent Robert Neumann was sent in to keep an eye on the situation.

Detroit Police sent an organized crime expert.

An interview team of Grennier, Neumann, State Police Detective Sgt. Joseph Koenig, Bloomfield Detective Wally Quarles and Sgt. William Noseworthy of the Detroit Police set out to talk to Linteau at his Pontiac office.

On Aug. 3, young Hoffa's private, unlisted telephone rang. "You're next," someone said, and hung up.

Linteau's secretary had to bring in extra chairs to accommodate all the cops who filled Linteau's small, spare office at the rear of his limousine service.

The Pope, as he was known, was in fine form, relating what he knew of events leading to Hoffa's disappearance, punctuating with profanity and bouncing to his feet to make a point. He was sure that Hoffa had called him at exactly 3:27 p.m., railing that Tony Giacalone was late for their meeting.

Quarles couldn't figure out Linteau.

Here was a crude, foul-mouthed man in a cheap office in the back of a garage talking about famous people such as Jimmy Hoffa as if they were intimate friends.

It didn't make sense.

"How did he get to rub elbows with Hoffa and the rest of these guys?" Quarles asked himself. "We're talking about mob connections and a lot of big names and Louis Linteau. Who the hell is Louis Linteau?"

"You couldn't tell if he was giving us bullshit or nothing but the truth," Grennier said. "He'd never shut up, always going off on tangents."

In the course of his story, Linteau also let drop the name of Charles O'Brien. He told the police that everyone knew O'Brien as Chuckie.

Linteau had left a message for

See HOFFA, Page 5G

O'Brien earlier in the day, and O'Brien called back around 2 p.m., after the police were gone.

"The Old Man is missing," Linteau said. "Where were you? Where were you?"

O'Brien wanted to know where Hoffa's son was. Linteau said the young Hoffa was on his way home, maybe already there. Then he demanded again to know where O'Brien had been all day.

O'Brien called the Pope a "no-good asshole" and hung up.

He reached James Hoffa a short time later at the son's home in Troy.

Although the two were hardly friends, much less family, O'Brien said: "Louie says Dad is missing."

Hoffa asked O'Brien to "cover the house" in Troy for messages, visitors or trouble while he joined his mother at Square Lake.

Sure, said O'Brien, except he had no car.

Once again he called Anthony Giacalone's son, Joey, who was headed north anyway, with tickets for a Chicago concert at Pine Knob. They stopped first at Giacalone's lakeside condominium in St. Clair Shores, where O'Brien chatted with Uncle Tony while Joey showered and changed.

By now the Hoffa story was all over the news, and Chuckie would recall later that Uncle Tony expressed concern about his missing acquaintance.

At the Hoffa house, son James was giving police more insight into "the kinds of dealings" his father was involved in, and why he was certain this was more than a missing person case.

James Hoffa said that on May 15, he hosted a meeting between his father and Vito and Anthony Giacalone in his law office on the 33rd floor of the Guardian Building in downtown Detroit. He said Anthony Giacalone wanted Jimmy Hoffa to make peace with Anthony (Tony Pro) Provenzano, a New Jersey Teamsters official.

Hoffa said that the Giacalones told his father that Provenzano was openly criticizing and threatening Jimmy Hoffa. He said it was clear his father wanted nothing more to do with Tony Pro and turned thumbs-down on a meeting. Young Hoffa said his father had excluded him from a meeting at the house with the Giacalones two weeks ago.

He said the Giacalones also wanted Jimmy Hoffa to get his hands on documents that were to be used by a federal strike force to obtain a grand jury indictment against Anthony Giacalone in an alleged insurance scam. Jimmy Hoffa said he was unable to help, but they parted on good terms, young Hoffa said.

The detectives left the family with a small tape recorder rigged with a suction cup microphone. The family was instructed to record all telephone calls.

The detectives said they would be in touch and walked out the door — into a horde of reporters and photographers, barely being kept at bay by a friend of the Hoffa family.

The police looked at one another, and nodded to Grennier. It was his case.

The 39-year-old detective squinted into the camera lights and stepped into the evening news for the first of what would become many times.

Grennier said he had "no reason to suspect" foul play, although "we're giving it every consideration — let's put it that way."

Reporters repeatedly asked whom Hoffa was supposed to meet at the Machus Red Fox. Grennier would only say "there's a lot of speculation."

One of the questions was particularly stupid: "Is Mrs. Hoffa upset?"

Grennier can't recall exactly what he said, except that "you give a dumb answer to a dumb question."

Marty Woehl, the boy next door, has never seen anything like it.

"They were there from all over the world — Hong Kong, England, everywhere," he said. "I had my autograph book with me."

The reporters mostly ignored him as he pedaled his bike up and down the two-lane road in front of the Hoffa place, eavesdropping on their chatter.

"I was just a kid," he said. "They treated me like I was a tree."

Today if Hoffa's name comes up, Woehl mentions that he was the famous man's neighbor, but "people don't believe me, so I let it drop."

At the Bloomfield Township Police Station, messages were waiting and telephones were ringing with inquiries from everywhere. And no one had even typed up a missing person report yet.

O'Brien gets a grilling

After the police left, Jim Hoffa kept running the scenario as he knew it over and over in his mind, and kept coming up with questions.

Where was Anthony Giacalone?

Did Provenzano make it to the meeting?

Why would Dad wait around so long?

Was Dad taken somewhere else for the meeting?

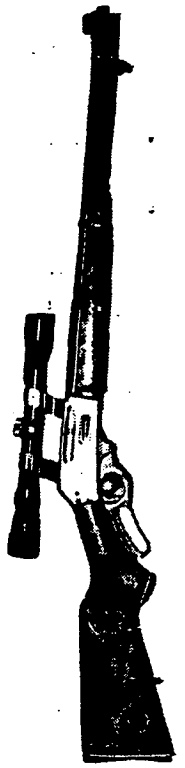
Who could get Dad into a car?

Where was Frank Fitzsimmons?

And where the hell had Chuckie O'Brien been Wednesday?

Hoffa began making phone calls, trying to account for everyone's movements.

Around 3 a.m. Aug. 2, he called O'Brien, still stationed at Hoffa's house in Troy.



He had all the lights on and a .30-.30 rifle slung across his lap. Nobody was going to pull anything with him around.

O'Brien said Hoffa's wife and children were asleep; he had all the lights on and a .30-.30 rifle slung across his lap. Nobody, he assured Hoffa, was going to pull anything with him around.

Hoffa told O'Brien to come to the cottage right away. O'Brien balked, saying he didn't want to leave Jim's wife and kids. Hoffa said they'd be all right, especially since another Teamsters official was there, too.

O'Brien got to the cottage about 4 a.m.

Jim Hoffa, the only one awake, began to recount what he knew so far.

O'Brien told him to calm down, reminding him that one of his father's lessons was to never lose your cool in a crisis.

"You're spinning," O'Brien said. "Take your pants off and lay down; you need a rest."

Hoffa told him he was a lawyer and would handle the situation. He made it clear he wanted the truth from O'Brien.

He said he knew O'Brien skipped out on a union business trip to Toronto the day of the meeting, and knew his father would never get into a car with someone he didn't trust.

"You didn't go to Toronto like you were supposed to, Chuckie? Why didn't you go? Where were you, Chuckie?" he asked.

O'Brien told him about cleaning out his desk and delivering the fish.

Afterward, he said he had stopped by the Southfield Athletic Club to see Uncle Tony.

O'Brien said he felt himself "reaching the boiling point" under Hoffa's interrogation. He left around 4:45 a.m.

The two men have not seen each other since.

Snooping turns up little

On the morning of Aug. 1, an undercover team of Detroit police officers set up surveillance of the Giacalone brothers, watching for anything that might be a clue to the Hoffa case.

They were parked on a winding, shaded street just off Lake St. Clair in Grosse Pointe Shores, watching the home of Vito Giacalone.

In the driveway were two Cadillacs — Vito's black one and Tony's peach-and-black model — plus a white Lincoln Continental driven by their old friend Silverio (Sal) Vitello, a figure in Greektown gambling circles.

After an hour, the Giacalones and Vitello all left in the Lincoln for Sterling Heights, where they dropped in on Stanley Sobo, a dry cleaner with a long police record that included a conviction for bombing a competitor.

After a quick visit, the Lincoln headed west to the Troy Hilton, where the trio entered the coffee shop. Undercover officers Cynthia Wisniewski and Sgt. Dale Heberly followed them, arm in arm, and took the next booth.

Carefully pulling out a small notebook and pencil so she wouldn't be noticed, Wisniewski jotted down the snatches of conversation she could overhear.

Vitello brought up Hoffa's name, saying a "mutual friend" had shown him a box from Alaska that Hoffa wanted.

"But he's not going to get it," Vitello said.

For the next nine days Detroit police ran a painstaking surveillance of the Giacalones, watching them get their cars washed, go to the Southfield Athletic Club, drive to restaurants for lunch and dinner, and turn away reporters.

Once, on the evening of Aug. 9, surveillance officers saw Anthony Giacalone yell obscenities at a television news crew that had filmed him with his wife leaving their apartment at 24000 E. Jefferson in St. Clair Shores. Swearing loudly, Giacalone grabbed the camera from the news crew and tore out the film.

But that brief conversation overheard by Wisniewski in the coffee shop — and never really understood — was as close as the police ever got to the Giacalones in the Hoffa investigation.

A fee out of this world

Chuckie O'Brien's hasty exit from the Hoffa house left him feeling defensive. He wailed to anyone who would listen how he was wounded by accusations he could have anything to do with hurting the man he called Dad.

He believes such seeds were planted by Linteau.

"That Louie," O'Brien says, "a real wire — jumping around all the time, calling here and calling there.

"The Old Man always said if anything happens, sit tight, wait and see what's going on. That, they didn't do," O'Brien said in a recent interview. "Young Jimmy was listening to that screwy Louie Linteau. ... He was brainwashed by the FBI. I became the enemy. They worked on Jimmy Jr.'s mind — the deceit they put between us, the bitterness."

Young Hoffa didn't believe O'Brien's protests then and still dismisses them.

"He's a pathological liar. It's a sickness," said Barbara Crancer, James Hoffa's sister.

James Hoffa remembers that on Aug. 3, his private, unlisted telephone rang and someone said "you're next," then hung up. Hoffa told the FBI it sounded like O'Brien.

The phone at the Hoffa house continued to ring night and day. James Hoffa turned off the tape recorder when he recognized Frank Fitzsimmons on the line, but Hoffa's former protege shed no light on the mystery, only asking whether there was anything he could do.

The family quickly had another phone line installed so they could dial out without missing an incoming call that might be important.

James Hoffa talked to his sister about calling Peter Hurkos, a Dutch housepainter who had become a famous psychic. When they learned that Hurkos would command a $15,000 fee, the children decided against it.

On Aug. 8, Barbara Crancer got a call from Josephine Provenzano, 19-year-old daughter of Tony Pro in New Jersey, and a friend of the Hoffa children.

Crancer asked about Josephine's father. The teenager said he was in the backyard, but he never came to the phone.

"We want our dad back," Crancer told Josephine.

COMING UP

Monday in the Free Press: Leads, tips, wild goose chases and the return of Chuckie.

In the Red Fox lot, Hoffa got into Joey Giacalone's car, driven by Chuckie O'Brien, who had borrowed it earlier to deliver a fish.

Hoffa believed he would be taken to a meeting with Anthony Provenzano and Anthony Giacalone to smooth out problems between Hoffa and Tony Pro.

In reality, it was a setup for an assassination carried out by New Jersey Teamsters close to Provenzano — Thomas Andretta and the Briguglio brothers, Gabriel and Salvatore.

The mob wanted to keep Hoffa from getting back in the union and clamping down on the mob's easy access to union pension funds during the presidency of Frank Fitzsimmons.

The killing was probably quick, and the body most likely destroyed not far from the murder site, somewhere in the Detroit area.

Investigators and others involved in the case say the murder probably was authorized at the highest levels of organized crime, which did not foresee all the pressure it would generate on its operations.

The HOFFEX theory was somewhat substantiated by later discoveries: records of telephone calls from Provenzano's Teamsters local to O'Brien's home number several weeks before Hoffa vanished.

The same number was found on a slip of paper at the home of Salvatore Briguglio in Paramus, N.J., when FBI agents arrived to search it the day after he was slain.

"Don't you guys ever quit?" Briguglio's son asked when the family's mourning was disrupted by the FBI search.

Charles (Chuckie) O'Brien has his own theory about Hoffa: The government killed him as an excuse to delve into the powerful Teamsters and left Chuckie to be the fall guy.

"It got so crazy," said O'Brien, who spent 10 months in prison in 1979 for a labor law violation and falsifying a loan application. "People saying they saw this and people saying they saw that. It just made me crazy.

"There's no way there was a meeting with Tony Giacalone or Tony Provenzano, and I don't care what anybody says. It just never happened that way. ... I'd have to be an insane maniac to use Joey's car and take Mr. Hoffa."

Although many of the key figures have died or gone to prison for various crimes, the FBI still regards the Hoffa case as open. The bureau used the case as a springboard for a series of other investigations that struck deep into organized crime and led to government control of the Teamsters.

"Hoffa was never found, but you have to balance the fact that the massive resources devoted to it paid off in the end," said Koenig, the top state police member of the Hoffa investigative team. "There were a number of cases ... where there were convictions and people put in jail, putting really kind of a damper on mob activity in the Detroit area for many years."

That doesn't make James Hoffa feel much better about his father's fate.

"What amazes me with all the informants the FBI has, all the supposedly bad guys who have turned over over the years, that they've never been able to come up with anyone who has said, 'Oh, by the way, let me tell you about Mr. Hoffa,' " he said.

"And now after 17 years, I really don't think they're going to solve it. It makes me real sad that's not going to happen."

Central Sanitation was destroyed by fire in 1978. Part of its property is now occupied by the new Wayne County Jail in Hamtramck.

Everybody searches a field

On Sept. 26, 1975, some reporters covering the Hoffa disappearance were told about a tremendous break coming the next day — so secret even the FBI didn't know.

Seems a one-time FBI informant from California with loose Teamsters connections had told U.S. Labor Department investigators and U.S. Sen. Henry (Scoop) Jackson, D-Wash., that Hoffa's body was buried in a field in Waterford Township.

Jackson decided to bypass the FBI with his information, relaying it instead to Michigan Gov. William Milliken, the state police and Attorney General Frank Kelley. Plans were made to search the field on Sept. 27, a Saturday, and, of course, word leaked out, but nobody knew how far.

Ralph Orr, Free Press labor writer at the time, recalled that the newspaper got one of the leaks and thought it had the story to itself. Editors convened a midnight meeting in the newsroom to parcel out assignments for what surely would be the scoop of the century.

Shortly before dawn, Free Press reporters reached the rendezvous point where state police detectives had gathered. So did dozens of other reporters and camera crews — enough to form a strange caravan en route to the field, complete with backhoes.

Quarles, the Bloomfield detective, made sure he was clad for the expedition from head to toe, lest poison ivy be lurking.

Attorney General Kelley insisted on being present for the search and Michigan State Police Detective Sgt. Joseph Koenig picked him up at Oakland Pontiac Airport. Kelley arrived at 5 a.m. wearing tennis clothes and carrying a racket.

Someone from the state police decided to call Assistant Oakland County Prosecutor Richard Thompson, since if anything was found, the local office would probably handle criminal charges. Thompson called his boss, L. Brooks Patterson, to let him know Frank Kelley was working his turf.

"Although we weren't officially invited," Thompson said, "we decided to go. . . . When we got there, it was like a big circus. This huge field was cordoned off, helicopters from the TV stations were flying all over, people were selling hot dogs and popcorn along the side of the road."

The circus went on for two days, and private citizens kept looking afterward, especially with Hoffa's family posting a $200,000 reward for information.

But the field never yielded anything except dirt.

In October, Koenig, and FBI agents Jim Esposito and Bob Garrity took off after another tip: Hoffa's body was at the bottom of a swimming pool behind a Bloomfield Hills mansion near Turtle Lake.

The owner of the mansion couldn't be reached to give police permission to cross his property, so the three investigators borrowed a canoe and paddled across a swamp to the site described by the tipster.

The pool house had been abandoned years before, and the pool inside was empty. The cops poked around for a few minutes, but their hopes sank and they began paddling back.

On the way, their borrowed canoe sprung a leak and sank, too. In their suits, the investigators sloshed their way back to dry land.

The weeks were beginning to pile into months. The investigators plodded on, but they also realized that crimes of violence are usually solved within days — or not at all. And they didn't even have a body yet.

1,000 talks with lawyer

Ralph Picardo, a former Teamster in Anthony Provenzano's New Jersey Local 560, contacted federal agents on Nov. 5 from the East coast prison where he was serving a murder sentence.

Picardo said he had been visited by two of his many mutual friends with Provenzano, brothers Stephen and Thomas Andretta. He said Stephen had indirectly let slip that Tony Pro's outfit was involved in Hoffa's slaying, saying he had remained in New Jersey to provide Provenzano's card-playing alibi.

Based on Picardo's story, the FBI rushed after subpoenas to get the Andrettas and two of Provenzano's other top associates, brothers Gabriel and Salvatore (Sally Bugs) Briguglio, to Detroit for police lineups and grand jury questioning.

Stephen Andretta astounded court officials by leaving the grand jury room 1,000 times to confer with his lawyer, William Bufalino Sr. Bufalino handed out autographed footballs around the courthouse to mark the 1,000th time.

Andretta was finally jailed for contempt when he refused to testify even after being given immunity from prosecution. But he kept silent.

State Police Detective Koenig said he passed the time during a long wait prior to lineups at the Oakland County Jail by playing chess with Thompson, the assistant Oakland prosecutor.

He said he kept one eye on the four suspects from New Jersey, and was drawn repeatedly to the short, squat Salvatore Briguglio.

"You could see that his brain was in turmoil and he was having difficulty coping with it," Koenig said. "We all agreed he'd be the one to focus on."

But with no hard evidence, they never got much of a chance.

On March 21, 1978, Sally Bugs was shot to death by two hooded gunmen at a restaurant in New York's Little Italy.

There was a flicker of hope about a case against Stephen Andretta in January 1976, when a previously silent witness told Bloomfield Township police he was sure he had seen Andretta at the Red Fox restaurant almost a month to the day before Hoffa vanished from its parking lot.

During his standoff with the grand jury, Andretta said he had never been in Michigan before. The witness said he recognized Andretta from news accounts and was certain Andretta was lying.

A businessman who did not want his name known, the witness said he was parked in an isolated section of the same lot on June 26, 1975, doing some paperwork, when a Lincoln or Cadillac, black over gray, parked in front of him.

The witness said a man who looked like Andretta walked from the car to the restaurant and back. He said the man noticed him in his car and walked over.

"What are you doing?" he asked the businessman.

"Don't I know you?" the businessman replied.

"No, I don't think we ever met," the man said, then glanced at the businessman's paperwork and walked back to his car.

It was intriguing information, but useless unless the businessman was willing to testify before a a grand jury. He never did.

Another lead to nowhere.

The most popular solution

Based on information that was good, but not good enough, the FBI eventually refined its theory of the case, as outlined in a January 1976 memo called HOFFEX. It remains the most agreed-upon scenario of what happened to Jimmy Hoffa:

FD-350 (Rev. 5-8-81)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

The Detroit Free Press
1A

Date: 12/21/92

Edition:

Title: HOFFEX

Character: 281A-DE-67821
or
Classification:

Submitting Office: Detroit

Indexing:

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

HOFFA
THE SECRET FILES

Jimmy Hoffa was missing, and as the summer of 1975 dragged into its dog days, his family and police were convinced that the former union leader, once among the most powerful men in America, was dead, probably murdered.

Bent on regaining power in the volatile Teamsters union, Hoffa had left his Lake Orion home July 30 for an afternoon meeting and never returned.

Police and Hoffa's family were certain the Mafia was involved. Hoffa, after all, had encountered some shady characters in his rise to the top — people who didn't want him back in the game.

In the Detroit area, Hoffa was the No. 1 topic. If killers could do it in broad daylight to someone as famous as Jimmy Hoffa, folks said, they could do it to anyone, anywhere, anytime.

Everybody had a theory. But nobody who might really know was talking.

Last of three parts.

INSIDE

The trail grows colder as FBI agents come up empty in a swamp, a waste-disposal plant and grand jury rooms.

FBI/

THE CAST

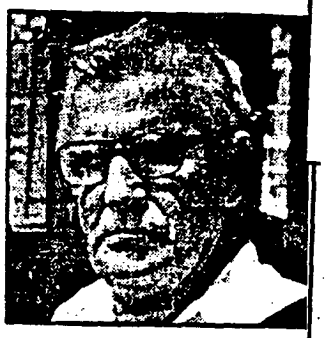
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Josephine Hoffa
fell ill about three weeks after the disappearance. The missing union leader's wife died in 1980, at age 62.

James P. Hoffa
is 51 and a Detroit labor lawyer. Jimmy Hoffa's son has recently considered running for the Teamsters presidency, if he can fulfill union membership requirements.

Barbara Crancer
is 54 and a lawyer, recently appointed a circuit judge in St. Louis. She continues to battle for release of the FBI files on her father.

Chuckie O'Brien
is 57 and semiretired in Boca Raton, Fla., after serving federal prison terms for making a false loan application and accepting an improper gift from an auto dealer. The man who once considered himself Hoffa's foster son works part-time for a friend's landscaping service and as a volunteer organizing Red Cross golf benefits.



Louis (The Pope) Linteau
He was found dead of natura causes in 1978 at age 64 i his office and spartan living quarters at the rear of his limousine service in Pontiac

Anthony (Tony Pro) Provenzano
He died in prison at age 71 in 1988 while serving time for labor racketeering and for murder in the 1961 death of Anthony Castellito, secretary-treasurer of Loca 560, whose body never was found.

Vito (Billy Jack) Giacalone
He served time in prison foı a 1977 conviction for possession of a concealed weapon. He's 69 and under indictment for income tax evasion.

Anthony (Tony Jack) Giacalone
He served time in prison for a 1976 income tax evasion conviction and a 1979 extortion conviction. Now 73, he maintains homes in Florida and the Detroit area and is recovering from open-heart surgery.

Salvatore (Sally Bugs) Briguglio
Considered a suspect in the Hoffa case, he was indicted in the Castellito killing, then shot to death at age 45 by two hooded gunmen outside a restaurant in New York's Little Italy on March 21, 1978.

Gabriel (Gabe) Briguglio
A suspect in the Hoffa case, he was convicted of labor racketeering in 1979. He's now 53 and driving a truck in New Jersey.

Thomas Andretta
A Hoffa suspect, he was convicted of labor racketeering in 1979. He's now 55 and a forklift operator in Las Vegas.

Frank Fitzsimmons
Hoffa's successor as president of the Teamsters died in office in 1981.

Lt. Curt Grennier
He retired from Bloomfield Township police in 1988. Now 57, he lives in northern Michigan.

Detective Wally Quarles
He is 53 and handles special assignments, chief's office, Bloomfield Township Police Department.

Joseph Koenig
He is 46 and in 1987 was promoted to inspector, assistant commander of Michigan State Police Criminal Investigation Division.

Bob Neumann
He is an FBI agent in West Palm Beach, Fla.

Bob Garrity
He is an FBI agent in Pittsburgh, Fla.

CHAIN OF EVENTS

1978 file photo

The FBI searched a Hamtramck sanitation plant for Hoffa's remains.

1

Police pursued tips that Hoffa's body was in a cornfield near Jackson, a gravel pit near Milford, a field in Waterford Township and an empty pool house behind a Bloomfield Hills mansion. The FBI searched a Hamtramck waste disposal facility where the body supposedly was destroyed.

2

One of the FBI's first official communiques about the Hoffa disappearance recounted an interview with Hoffa's son in which James P. Hoffa asserted that Chuckie O'Brien had to be involved in Hoffa's disappearance.

3

The FBI made several attempts to duplicate the movements of O'Brien on the day Hoffa vanished, using the times and places O'Brien gave agents. But the re-creations always finished with 60-90 minutes to spare.

4

In its first working theory of the case, the FBI declared that Hoffa probably thought he was being taken to the Southfield Athletic Club for a meeting when "a hit man was waiting at a select spot and either shot or strangled Hoffa."

1975 file photo

Cops sweep a Michigan field.

5

Police and FBI agents spent hours with a secret informant who swore he had seen Hoffa get into a maroon car driven by O'Brien. Police were crestfallen when the informant finally said his vision came from God.

6

O'Brien's private, unlisted telephone number was found in the home of Salvatore Briguglio, one of the New Jersey mob figures suspected of killing Hoffa, in an FBI search on March 22, 1978 — the day after Briguglio was shot to death in New York.

1975 file photo

Chuckie O'Brien, center, stands silently as his lawyer answers questions about Jimmy Hoffa's disappearance at Teamsters headquarters in Detroit. Investigators left the building with the feeling O'Brien wasn't telling all.

1975 file phot

Spectators watch authorities search for Hoffa's body in September 1975. Many investigators believe the remains are in the Detroit area.

File photo

A $200,000 reward prompted residents to search, too. These women found water, but no body.

THE BODY

IT PROBABLY NEVER LEFT

The lack of hard evidence has left room for theories to abound about what really happened to Jimmy Hoffa.

Even among investigators, there is little agreement on details of Hoffa's death and the disposition of his body.

Hoffa was declared legally dead on Dec. 9, 1982, seven years and five months after he vanished.

The prevailing law enforcement theory is that Hoffa got into a car with someone he trusted, then was killed. Some investigators believe he was killed in the car, others that he was taken to a nearby location and killed.

Knowing Hoffa's fearless nature and strength — he once rushed and overpowered a man who pulled a gun in a Tennessee courtroom — some investigators think he must have been rendered quickly unconscious in the car, possibly with chloroform.

The killers probably disposed of Hoffa's body right away, in the Detroit area. There was no need to haul it — as some informants have claimed — to a landfill or Giants Stadium in New Jersey, or out to the middle of Lake Michigan.

He's also been said to be buried at the end of dirt road in the Arctic Circle and under or in just about every freeway, bridge or major building erected in southeast Michigan since 1975.

The FBI focused on Central Sanitation Services in Hamtramck. Informants said the giant shredders, compactors and incinerators there were used on 10 organized crime victims.

A search with scent dogs was fruitless. The plant burned in 1978; the site is home to the new Wayne County Jail.

By Joe Swickard

WILLIAM DEKAY/Detroit Free Press

Wally Quarles, holding the Hoffa file, recalls bad tips and poison ivy.

ANOTHER LEAD TO NOWHERE

BY JACK KRESNAK AND JOE SWICKARD
Free Press Staff Writers
© 1992, Detroit Free Press

Wally Quarles was hot, tired, frustrated and itching like mad.

The Bloomfield Township Police detective had just spent eight hours on a scorching Saturday rooting around a cornfield and woods south of Jackson, searching for the body of Jimmy Hoffa.

Quarles had been working the Hoffa case for three days with virtually no sleep when he got the tip around 1 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 2, about the cornfield. The caller wouldn't give a name, but he sounded good, he knew things, and his directions were precise.

So Quarles, desperate for a lead, had headed west at first light and assembled a posse of a dozen cops to help.

But it had been a totally wasted day — at a time when the beleaguered Bloomfield Township department didn't have a day to waste on the biggest case in its history.

On top of it all, Quarles had gotten poison ivy and was facing a two-hour trip home with painfully irritated hands, arms and legs.

"That was the most miserable ride of my life," the detective said. Even with medication, it was a week before Quarles' suffering eased.

That first weekend after his father vanished, Jimmy Hoffa's son James was feeling sick, too.

Increasingly, he was convinced that Chuckie O'Brien, the Teamster his father had once treated like a son, was involved in what probably was the murder of Jimmy Hoffa. No matter how much leeway he allowed, the young Hoffa couldn't account for O'Brien's time on the Wednesday afternoon Hoffa's father disappeared from the parking lot of the Machus Red Fox restaurant at Maple and Telegraph roads.

O'Brien and young Hoffa had parted on bad terms before dawn Friday when Hoffa refused to stop grilling O'Brien about his whereabouts on the day in question. O'Brien had promised, though, to begin some groundwork for his own investigation of the mystery.

O'Brien had once been a special assistant to Jimmy Hoffa, the union leader's right-hand man for whatever needed doing. But now, his reputation was becoming that of a loudmouth, gossip and hanger-on.

O'Brien was then way down the list of people police wanted to interview about Hoffa. Anthony (Tony Jack) Giacalone, the reputed

See HOFFA, Page 5A

FBI agents, police follow leads to nowhere

HOFFA, from Page 1A

organized crime captain Hoffa said he was going to meet the day he vanished, was still at the top.

In fact, while police sweated and young Hoffa fretted on that Saturday, O'Brien and Giacalone, the man he called Uncle Tony, were in the cool confines of the barbershop at the Southfield Athletic Club.

Jeffrey Schultz, the club's executive vice president, said he was surprised to see Giacalone show up that day, because of all the publicity linking him to Hoffa.

But Giacalone told Schultz he was "not about to hide my head in a hole because of some lousy news stories."

O'Brien left the club just ahead of Giacalone and noticed Uncle Tony's "security" — the undercover police who had been tailing him for two days.

That night, O'Brien attended the wedding of his friend Bobby Adell, the former Detroit fire commissioner whose wealthy brother Marvin had been letting O'Brien live in his basement since O'Brien's divorce. O'Brien stayed at the wedding reception until 3 a.m. but was up at 7:30 to catch a ride to Metro Airport from Hymie Cooper, an employee of Marvin Adell.

O'Brien was getting ready to kiss Detroit good-bye and take a Teamsters job near Miami arranged for him by Frank Fitzsimmons, the union president who had succeeded Hoffa and then drawn Hoffa's public wrath for the way he ran the nation's largest labor organization.

During the ride, O'Brien looked out the back window of Cooper's car and said, "I'll bet they're following me."

But nobody was.

The FBI takes over

Nothing was going right for the local and state police trying to crack the case.

A tape recorder police had given the Hoffa family to record all their telephone calls kept eating the tapes. Finally a detective went out and bought a new Sony.

But Sunday at 6:30 p.m. came good news.

The FBI called and announced they were assuming jurisdiction.

Previously barred from taking on a purely local missing person case, the FBI now said communications had been received demanding a ransom for Hoffa and implying he had been taken across state lines. That was enough to make a federal case of it — and bring to bear the FBI's massive, nationwide resources and expertise, the same force that spent a decade gathering the evidence that sent Jimmy Hoffa to prison for almost five years.

The communications were never fully explained, but Bloomfield Township police were too relieved to ask many questions.

Within the hour, FBI agent Bob Neumann, who had been informally advising the local police, and agents Bob Garrity and Mort Nichol were at the Hoffa cottage, reinterviewing family members.

James Hoffa, a near match for his father in intensity, immediately told the agents that the family considered Chuckie O'Brien the "prime suspect." He said O'Brien had stolen money from his father, thrown in with the Giacalones to extricate himself from serious personal financial problems and had shunned Jimmy Hoffa's overtures at reconciliation.

In the spare language of the bureau's internal communication, an agent sent a report to FBI headquarters in Washington:

"Detroit has determined that Giacalones were aware of O'Brien's financial plight . . . and insured commitment of O'Brien by furnishing him with the financing he needed.

"It is the belief of James P. Hoffa that O'Brien was instrumental and a direct participant in disappearance of Hoffa, and planning of events leading up to disappearance."

Agents also were given a note written by Hoffa that seemed to be his itinerary for Wednesday, July 30: "TG 2:30 Wed 14 Mile Tel Fox Rest Maple Road."

On Sunday morning, Aug. 3, other agents arrived at the Hoffa cottage to install equipment to monitor all calls. One agent was finishing a connection when he tapped into a conversation of Hoffa's daughter, Barbara Crancer.

"No, I'm very surprised," she was saying about the G-men who had dogged her father for years. "Actually, they're very nice."

They were also very intense.

A Southfield real estate broker who had shaken Hoffa's hand in the Red Fox lot was visited at least nine times by the FBI in the first few weeks of the investigation. He said news accounts of Mafia involvement terrified him and he insists to this day on anonymity.

"I was afraid to turn the ignition on my car," he said. "It really got to me."

While the heat was on in Detroit, Chuckie O'Brien was in West Memphis, Ark., enjoying a brief reunion with his new bride. When federal investigators reached him, O'Brien agreed to talk, but wanted to meet on friendly turf.

So, a meeting was arranged for the afternoon of Aug. 6 at Teamsters headquarters on Trumbull in Detroit.

There, for the first time, investigators heard Chuckie's fish story and about the borrowing of Joey Giacalone's car. O'Brien also revealed that after dropping off a salmon sent as a gift to Teamsters official Bobby Holmes, he had stopped by the Southfield Athletic Club to see Anthony Giacalone.

O'Brien said he stayed just briefly with Uncle Tony, leaving by 3 p.m. to beat rush hour traffic.

Agents were intrigued as O'Brien went on to mention his visit to Giacalone's condominium the day after Hoffa vanished, a dinner the next evening with the Giacalone family at the St. Clair Inn, and his Saturday visit with Uncle Tony back at the club.

How could Chuckie so nonchalantly socialize with a man publicly implicated in the Hoffa case?

"It was personal time," O'Brien would explain years later. "We were almost family."

He said "Dad and Uncle Tony" — as O'Brien referred to Hoffa and Anthony Giacalone — would never meet anyplace so public as the Red Fox. For two such well-known figures, "it'd be like meeting on television on the Channel 7 News," he said.

O'Brien characterized his supposed falling out with Hoffa and Hoffa's reported feud with mob-connected New Jersey Teamster Anthony (Tony Pro) Provenzano as "all just newspaper talk."

O'Brien said he had been in the Memphis area since leaving Detroit three days earlier. He neglected to mention a stop at Teamsters headquarters in Washington for a meeting with Fitzsimmons.

Bloomfield Township Lt. Curt Grennier said the session left him feeling that a smug O'Brien was trying to hoodwink the police.

"It was like he was saying 'Ask me any question you want, but you're not going to learn a whole lot,' " Grennier said. "We kept pressing and pressing. . . . We were pretty sure that he wasn't telling us everything, not that he was lying, but he wasn't divulging some things."

As the detectives left Teamsters headquarters on Trumbull near Tiger Stadium, they were mobbed by reporters and cameramen who followed them down the sidewalk. But the police weren't talking.

Then a reporter spotted O'Brien leaving the building, and, almost as one, the media pack descended on him. A reporter who was standing the wrong way got a TV cord wrapped around his neck and was dragged halfway down the block.

The police huddled afterward to review the three-hour O'Brien interview. They compiled a list of problems:

- On the day Hoffa vanished, O'Brien could not account for his time from about 2:30 until 4 p.m., when he was back at his office. That period was critical in the Hoffa disappearance.
- O'Brien claimed he was at the Southfield Athletic Club at 2 p.m. that day, but no one saw him there.
- He said he was waiting for a ride to work as usual at 8 a.m. July 31, less than 100 feet from the Red Fox lot where Hoffa's abandoned car sat, but claimed he never noticed it.
- He claimed he heard of the disappearance on the morning of July 31 and it enraged him. But others said O'Brien was told around 2 p.m. that day and waited about 20 minutes before making some telephone inquiries.
- He said he was on good terms with both Jimmy Hoffa and son James, but everyone else seemed to know otherwise.

After he left the Teamsters offices, O'Brien called the Hoffa home. Police were eavesdropping, as usual.

"I told them the truth," O'Brien told James Hoffa.

"I want you to take a polygraph," Hoffa told him.

"I'll have to talk to my lawyer about that one," O'Brien said.

Young Hoffa hung up on him.

By the end of the day, as O'Brien headed back to Memphis and his bride, the FBI had formulated its first working theory of the case:

Hoffa met Anthony Giacalone's brother, Vito (Billy Jack) Giacalone, at the Red Fox, and they drove toward the Southfield Athletic Club. But "a hit man was waiting at a select spot and either shot or strangled Hoffa."

But the Giacalones weren't volunteering anything. Grand jury subpoenas produced nothing but a string of nonanswers.

And authorities still had no one credible who saw Hoffa leave the Red Fox lot — until the call from a man who would be known only by one of the code numbers the FBI assigns informants: DE 7223-PCI.

The secret witness told FBI agents he saw Jimmy Hoffa get into a black Lincoln with two men.

Under questioning by agents, he refined it to a maroon car, and insisted it was driven by Chuckie O'Brien. The color maroon was key. Few people knew that O'Brien had told investigators about borrowing Joey Giacalone's new maroon Mercury the day Hoffa vanished. The Mercury also had the long, boxy look of a Lincoln.

The informant was given a lie detector test.

The results were teletyped immediately to FBI Director Clarence Kelly:

"It was concluded that DE 7223-PCI was not truthful."

But the witness was insistent, signing a sworn statement. Another test was given, this time concluding: "Possible deception."

See HOFFA, Page 6A

HOFFA
THE SECRET FILES

HOFFA, from Page 5A

Agents took DE 7223-PCI back to the Red Fox lot, and he pointed out the wrong spot when asked where Hoffa's car had been that day.

But at least one agent who was on the case said the informant remained "a very believable guy."

"He came up with the story on the maroon car, and we thought it was a pretty secret piece of information. We didn't realize that it had appeared in a newspaper article somewhere, very obliquely. . . . We had every reason to believe him. So we did."

The FBI set up a meeting for the informant with Robert Ozer, head of the federal strike force in Detroit working on a grand jury investigation of Hoffa.

DE 7223-PCI told his story yet again.

"This is almost too good to be true," an agent said.

Then DE 7223-PCI added a postscript.

"I'm just trying to help you guys out," he said. "God told me to do this."

The man said his knowledge of Hoffa's abduction had come in a vision sent by God.

Investigators were crushed.

"We felt like idiots," said one FBI agent. "Oh, God, that was a downer."

'Nothing to gain'

New Jersey state police, meanwhile, had tracked Anthony Provenzano down at the Franklin Diner on Route 17 in Hasbruck Heights, N.J., where Sgt. Jim Sweeney of the intelligence bureau conducted an interview.

Hoffa had told several people that he expected Tony Pro to be with Anthony Giacalone at the July 30th meeting.

Provenzano, a New Jersey Teamsters official and ex-convict with reputed underworld ties, told Sweeney he was a close friend of both Jimmy Hoffa and Frank Fitzsimmons and would have "nothing to gain" by Hoffa's disappearance.

Provenzano said he and Hoffa were inseparable in prison, even ate most of their meals together, but had not seen each other since their release.

"He's my type of man," Provenzano said. "Aggressive and hard working."

Provenzano speculated that the only people who stood to benefit from Hoffa's death were his family, who would get insurance money, and black Teamsters, who could make a play for union power with Hoffa out of the way.

On the afternoon of the supposed meeting, Provenzano said he was playing cards at his New Jersey union hall with his brother Salvatore and a pal, Stephen Andretta.

Back in Detroit, authorities obtained a search warrant for Joey Giacalone's 1975 maroon Mercury Brougham, the car O'Brien had borrowed. It was seized Aug. 9 at 2 a.m. from Giacalone's St. Clair Shores condominium.

Preliminary tests showed no sign of human blood on the seats or in the trunk of the car. But numerous hair samples and unknown microscopic particles were taken, as well as several fingerprints.

In the trunk, agents found a Remington Wingmaster model 870 .12-gauge pump shotgun, serial number T056008V. The gun had a black pistol-type grip, an extra-long tube with room for additional shells, and a metal folding stock on which was stamped "For Law Enforcement Only."

Joey Giacalone readily admitted the shotgun belonged to him. Agents confirmed that he bought it on March 17, 1975, at Peter's Gun Shop in Roseville. Agents also found an empty black pistol holster under the front passenger seat. In the glove box were numerous rounds of .38-caliber bullets, several .22-caliber Magnum rounds, a handkerchief and a shirt.

In all, agents collected enough evidence to fill two cartons — each measuring three feet by three feet by three inches — for shipment to FBI labs.

Later, FBI technicians would go over every speck, nit, thread or hair found inside the car. One "single, three-inch brown head hair" from the car had "characteristics similar" to Hoffa's hair, and may have had blood on it.

Three trained tracking dogs, two of them brought in from Philadelphia, picked up Hoffa's scent in the backseat of the Mercury.

But none of it added up to a case against anyone, and the investigation began taking some strange turns as tips continued to pour in.

On Aug. 11, police and FBI agents searched a 100-acre gravel pit owned by Jimmy Hoffa's brother William near Highland on the Oakland-Livingston county border. Later, infrared photos of the pit were taken from a military plane, but there was no sign of a body or disturbed earth to mark a grave.

On Aug. 12, James Hoffa received a ransom letter demanding $1 million in small bills.

"If law is around, good-bye James Riddle Hoffa," the note read. "We send back nuts, not ears. He is already wounded. We had to cut him up a bit." The note, signed Queen Liz, directed Hoffa to deliver the money to the 711 Bar on Michigan in downtown Detroit at 2 p.m. on Aug. 19.

He didn't go. No one else showed up, either, except police.

The FBI decided it was time to talk again with O'Brien, but an agent let slip on Aug. 17 that no one seemed to know where he was.

Headlines and TV news screamed for a day that a key witness in the Hoffa case had vanished. O'Brien's son saw an NBC news account in West Memphis, Ark., and turned to his father.

"Dad," he said, "you're missing."

The next day, O'Brien left his wife again to fly into Detroit for what he expected to be a nice, quiet interview. Instead, the Metro Airport gate area was packed wall to wall with reporters and photographers, yelling questions and fighting for position.

"It was insane," O'Brien said. "The FBI went and leaked this, and you wouldn't believe it there. It was insane."

This session was conducted in a police office at the airport, and agents tried to pin Chuckie down about the car, the fish, the club and just when he had gone where.

Discrepancies kept cropping up.

O'Brien now said he had spoke to Anthony Giacalone the night before Hoffa vanished, and Uncle Tony said he was going spend the whole afternoon of July 30th at the Southfield Athletic Club.

O'Brien added details about his own brief meeting that day with Giacalone, saying Uncle Tony had given him two $100 bills as graduation presents for O'Brien's children.

And O'Brien said he left the club at 3:15 p.m. — later than he'd claimed before.

O'Brien finally gave the agents a timetable, ticking off what he had done that day and when. It did not at all match the story he had just told.

But above all, O'Brien was adamant that Hoffa was not in the maroon Mercury that day.

"Never," he insists to this day. "If he was in there, you might just as well put Hitler in there, too. No way was he in there."

"I loved the Old Man," O'Brien said, and he left town again.

A few days later, FBI agents tried to duplicate Chuckie's movements of July 30. No matter how many times they ran through his timetable, they always came up with 60-90 minutes of extra time.

In late August, the FBI laid out a startling scenario to get a search warrant for Central Sanitation Services, an industrial waste disposal firm in Hamtramck owned in part by Raffael (Jimmy Q) Quasarano.

In a sealed affidavit filed to get the warrant, agents said they had been told by two FBI informants that Hoffa's body was "totally destroyed" by the disposal company's commercial size shredders, compactors and incinerators. One said 10 other gangland victims had gone the same way.

According to the affidavit, Teamster President Fitzsimmons had made an unusual, solitary trip to Detroit the weekend before Hoffa disappeared and secretly met with Quasarano at Larco's Inn on West McNichols.

The affidavit noted that rather than using any of the luxury autos available from the union in Detroit, Fitzsimmons got around during his visit in a car borrowed from Ron Roxburgh, Central Sanitation's president.

Fitzsimmons acknowledged the Detroit visit to the FBI, but denied meeting with Quasarano and Vitale, the affidavit said.

The bureau got its warrant and the FBI took trained dogs into the plant to hunt for any scent of Hoffa. Nothing was found.

FD-36 (Rev. 11-17-88)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:
- ☐ Teletype
- ☐ Facsimile
- ☒ AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:
- ☐ Immediate
- ☐ Priority
- ☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:
- ☐ TOP SECRET
- ☐ SECRET
- ☐ CONFIDENTIAL
- ☐ UNCLAS E F T O
- ☐ UNCLAS

Date 2/28/94

TO : [redacted]

FROM : [redacted]

SUBJECT : [redacted]

Enclosed for the Bureau is a newspaper clipping from the Detroit Free Press regarding the U.S. Supreme Court ruling to continue the sealed status of files concerning the disappearance and presumed murder of former TEAMSTERS UNION president JAMES R. HOFFA.

[redacted]

*non public source material

9-60052-2962

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ (Number) (Time) Per _____

FD-350 (Rev. 5-8-81)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Highest court keeps the Hoffa case files secret

BY JOE SWICKARD
Free Press Staff Writer

The FBI files on the Jimmy Hoffa mystery will remain closed to public inspections, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled Tuesday.

In a decision issued without comment, the high court refused a Free Press argument that the files should be opened because there is no realistic prospect that anyone will ever be tried for the 1975 disappearance and presumed murder of the former Teamsters Union president. The files — thousands of pages — were sought under the federal Freedom of Information Act.

U.S. lawyers say investigation continues

Justice Department lawyers said releasing the documents would "interfere with the ongoing investigation by providing a detailed road map of the government's past and future investigative efforts."

If the files were unsealed, those responsible for Hoffa's disappearance then could plant false leads, intimidate witnesses and fabricate alibis, government lawyers argued.

Free Press Executive Editor Heath J Meriwether said the court decision "means that people will never find out what happened."

Free Press lawyer Herschel Fink said the government position needs "a reality check. . . . Maintaining the fiction of bringing the kidnappers to justice after almost two decades is preposterous," Fink said.

Hoffa disappeared after going to a meeting at the Machus Red Fox restaurant in Bloomfield Township. Hoffa, who was mounting a campaign to regain the union presidency, told family members and associates that he was going to meet alleged underworld figures at the restaurant.

Hoffa was last seen in the restaurant parking lot where his car was found the next morning. No trace of Hoffa has been found.

It is widely believed that Hoffa was killed soon after being picked up at the restaurant and that his body was disposed of in a mob-related refuse facility.

The late New Jersey union leader and alleged gangster Anthony (Tony Pro) Provenzano is thought to have been behind the crime.

Despite intense investigations and grand jury proceedings, no one was ever charged.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Date: 2-23-94
Edition: Detroit Free Press
P. 13

Title:

Character: 281A-DE-G7831
or
Classification:
Submitting Office:

Indexing:

FBI/DOJ