[redacted]

December 18, 1959

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Justice Department
Washington, DC

ATTENTION: Mr J Edgar Hoover

Gentlemen:

Last night we saw another Desilu productions of "The Untouchables".

It was a moving account, as were the others, of the moral courage of FBI, and their dedication to law and order.

We simply want to say that we are grateful to you, your men, and your entire department for the outstanding service you are rendering to this country, cleaning out the scum of society, and upholding what is right.

Thank you for a job well done!

Sincerely yours,

[redacted]

EX - 124
REC- 77

94-52549-36

[redacted]

DEC 29 1959

[redacted]

mrl
ack 12/28/59
HEM

3 autostats made
12/30/59
[illegible]

mg
B6

EX-124

REC-77

December 28, 1959

94-52549-34

[redacted]

Dear [redacted]

It was very thoughtful of you and your family to write me on December 18, 1959, regarding the television program, "The Untouchables."

I am most grateful for your generous remarks concerning the FBI; however, I would like to explain that the program you mentioned erroneously allows the public to gain the impression that the actors are portraying the activities of FBI Agents. Many of the investigations depicted on the program were actually handled by the FBI, but the television interpretations of these cases have included fictitious events and information. The FBI has had no part in these programs.

Your expression of confidence is deeply appreciated, and you may be sure that my associates and I will make every effort to carry out our responsibilities in a manner deserving of such approbation.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED 27
DEC 28 1959
COMM-FBI

DEC 28 1 57 PM '59
REC'D-READING ROOM
F B I

1 - Chicago - Enclosure
1 - Mr. DeLoach - Enclosure

NOTE: Bufiles reflect no information identifiable with [redacted] or the members of her family.

GEM:bew (6)

Tolson
Belmont
DeLoach
McGuire
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Trotter
W.C. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Gandy

MAIL ROOM ☐ TYPE UNIT ☐

JAN 5 1960

94-52549-37 IN THIS FILE SKIPPED DURING SERIALIZATION.

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4-22-65
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DO-6

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

5:14PM December 23, 1959

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Deloach
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Trotter
Mr. Nichols
Mr. W.C. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

Mr. DESI ARNAZ telephoned through secretary and operator from Los Angeles, California for the Director. Mr. Arnaz was advised of the Director's absence from the city. Mr. Arnaz then asked for Mr. Tolson and was advised that Mr. Tolson was also out of the city. He then asked where he could get in touch with the Director and was told that the Director was in a travel status and that [redacted] was sitting on Assistant Director DeLoach's desk and would be happy to talk to him. The call was referred to Mr. [redacted]

[redacted] advised that Mr. Arnaz was calling to plead the case of Mr. Robert Stack who Mr. Arnaz said was misquoted in TV Guide as saying he knew an FBI agent who had so many rules and regulations to follow he couldn't even blow his nose. (Mr. Stack wrote a letter to the Director on December 17, which the Director said not to acknowledge.) Mr. Arnaz went on to say what a worthwhile man Mr. Stack is and kept on pleading Mr. Stack's case.

[redacted] is preparing a memorandum.

rpy

EX-133 REC 32

89-52549-38

12-24-59

58 JAN 4 1960

13 DEC 29 1959

4-750 (Rev. 4-17-85)

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FBI/DOJ

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: December 28, 1959

FROM : M. A. Jones

Tolson
Belmont
DeLoach
McGuire
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Trotter
W. C. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Gandy

SUBJECT: "THE UNTOUCHABLES" T.V. program
DESILU PRODUCTIONS, INC.
DECEMBER 24, 1959

Captioned program was monitored on Thursday, December 24, 1959. The T.V. program, entitled, "You Can't Pick the Number," concerned the numbers racket and local gambling. Eliot Ness (Robert Stack) and his group of "The Untouchables" are involved in breaking up a numbers racket in Chicago. There appeared to be no basis for Federal jurisdiction, but Ness and his "Federal" men were given credit for this investigation.

The principal character is a Mr. Morrison, a family man who has been in the numbers racket for years and has attempted to run it as honestly as possible. He is portrayed as an honest, hard-working individual with a devoted son and wife. A numbers syndicate moves in on his territory as one of his collectors is killed for "welching" on a numbers pay off. Morrison is killed when he attempts to cooperate with Ness.

A Chicago police captain was portrayed as an inside member of the numbers syndicate.

Following the death of Morrison, his son agrees to cooperate with Ness. He leads "The Untouchables" to a dairy which is being used as a "front" for the numbers racket. Considerable shooting and killing goes on during the raid. The bookkeeper of the numbers racket flees from the dairy and proceeds to the apartment of the head of the numbers racket. This individual is engaged in a poker game with a group of men, among whom is the police captain. Ness breaks into the room, confiscates the records of the numbers syndicate, and it is implied that with this information a successful prosecution would result.

REC-135 74-53549-40

There was no mention made of the FBI during the program. It was announced that next week's program would concern, "The Underground Railway." This program will be monitored.

RECOMMENDATION:

25 DEC 30 1959

None. For information.

1 - Mr. DeLoach

GEM:bla
(4)

57 JAN 6 1960

4-750 (Rev. 4-17-85)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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☐ For your information:

☑ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
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FBI/DOJ

January 4, 1960

REC-82 105 EX-105 94-52549-41

PERSONAL

[redacted] 86

Desilu Productions, Inc.
780 North Gower Street
Hollywood 38, California

Dear George:

On returning to the city, I received your letter of December 30, 1959. I appreciate very much indeed your writing me as you did.

I have shown your letter to Mr. Hoover and he joins me in sending you kindest regards and best wishes for the New Year.

Sincerely,

Clyde Tolson

CT:DSS

MAILED 27
JAN 4 1960
COMM-FBI

Tisco
Ohr
Parsons
Belmont
Mohan
Loach
Tone
Mohr
Sullivan
Room

F-191

JAN 8 1960

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: January 4, 1960

FROM : M. A. Jones

Tolson
Mohr
Parsons
Belmont
Callahan
DeLoach
Malone
McGuire
Rosen
Tamm
Trotter
W.C. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Gandy

SUBJECT: "THE UNTOUCHABLES"
DESILU PRODUCTIONS
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1959

The captioned TV program demonstrated another instance wherein violations of Federal law under the primary jurisdiction of the FBI are portrayed as being handled by Eliot Ness and his "Untouchables" who are described as "Federal" Agents.

The program began by showing an escape from a Federal penitentiary in 1933 of Frank Holloway and James Wickes. Holloway was serving a life sentence for his part in a bank holdup. In the escape, Wickes breaks a leg and is run over purposely by Holloway with the escaped car.

Holloway, through the "underground railway," manages to proceed across the country where he locates his loot which he had left with an associate. The experiences of Holloway in evading police road blocks and in having his appearance altered by plastic surgery and dental work are portrayed. Holloway picks up the bank loot but is followed by Ness. With the cooperation of local police, Ness closes in on Holloway. Holloway is shown as he tries to make an escape in a car. The car crashes and burns with Holloway and the bank loot inside.

The program was again narrated by Walter Winchell.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

REC-70 94-52549-14

1 - Mr. DeLoach
GEM:bew (4)

25 JAN 8 1960

CRIME RECORDS

62 JAN 12 1960

4-750 (Rev. 4-17-85)

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☐ For your information:

☑ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
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FBI/DOJ

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: January 8, 1960

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: "THE UNTOUCHABLES"
DESILU PRODUCTIONS
JANUARY 7, 1960

Tolson
Mohr
Parsons
Belmont
Callahan
DeLoach
Malone
McGuire
Rosen
Tamm
Trotter
W. C. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Gandy

Captioned T.V. program broadcast locally last night at 9:30 p.m., was entitled "Syndicate Sanctuary." It was designed to show how hoodlums had taken over a small town after killing the honest candidate for mayor.

The program opened by showing the honest candidate for mayor hard at work in connection with his campaign. He leaves his office and hails a cab which obviously has been waiting for him to come out. Upon his arrival at his home the cab driver tells him that the door on the curb side of the taxi is jammed and tells him to leave on the street side. The candidate for mayor does so and is run over by a car driven by a member of the mob.

Eliot Ness and his group of "The Untouchables," who are described as "Federal" agents, enter the scene because they have information to the effect that Calum City is the headquarters for a large narcotics operation. Ness works one of his men into the main night club and gambling establishment owned by the head of the mob. He also works closely with the daughter of the slain candidate for mayor. At the inquest of the death of the mayorial candidate, Ness asks embarrassing questions of the rigged coroners meeting and causes some concern to the police chief who is in the pay of the mob.

The inside man learns that the mob plans to kill the cab driver because he refuses to take an extended vacation from the area. Ness and one of his men follow the two mobsters who take the cab driver to an abandoned mine and confront them just as they are about to kill the cabbie. A fight ensues. Ness and his man overcome the hoodlums and learn that the headquarters of the mob is located in a rear room of the police department. Just as they are about to leave, a third member of the mob arrives and starts shooting. The mine caves in trapping the two mobsters but Ness, his fellow agent and the cab driver manage to get out.

EX-102 REC-65 94-52549-45

Ness manages to draw a good number of police officers away from the police station in an effort to locate him and the cab driver and then walks into the station. Because he has handcuffed himself to the cab driver, the police locked up both of them. The head of the mob is notified by the police chief and the mob then

1 - Mr. DeLoach
GEM:paw (4)

53 JAN 22 1960

RECD 11 JAN 18 1960

CRIME REC.

Jones to DeLoach memorandum
RE: "The Untouchables"

proceeds immediately to the police station intending to kill both Ness and the cab driver. After their entry into the station reinforcements for Ness arrive behind them and a blazing gun battle ensues. All the mobsters are killed including the police chief. The program ends on the note that the narcotics operation was smashed after the evidence in the back room of the police station was presented in court.

There was no mention made of the FBI; however, a viewer could logically have obtained the impression that "The Untouchables" were representing the Bureau of Narcotics.

B6 [redacted]

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

GRR 1/9 JPW 1/9

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: January 15, 1960

FROM : Mr. A. Jones

SUBJECT: "THE UNTOUCHABLES"
DESILU PRODUCTIONS
JANUARY 14, 1960

Tolson
Mohr
Parsons
Belmont
Callahan
DeLoach
Malone
McGuire
Rosen
Tamm
Trotter
Sullivan
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

The Desilu production of "The Untouchables" as shown last night at 9:30 p.m. was entitled "The Noise of Death." The program was monitored by Special Agent [redacted] b6

The general theme of the program concerned a Mafia leader named Joe Bucco who had outlived his usefulness to the Mafia. The story showed how his assistant gradually usurped his authority.

Eliot Ness and his men called "The Untouchables" entered the story as Prohibition Agents and thereafter attempted to obtain the identity of the Mafia leaders in order to break their hold on the Italian element.

The Mafia eliminates the cousin of Bucco's wife in a typical Mafia slaying. The fact that Bucco is not notified prior to the slaying provides his first indication that his position with the Mafia was weakening. His assistant shortly thereafter makes it clear that he has been selected to take over.

The program then portrays the general rule of the Mafia for the elimination of an undesirable which is to first "wine and dine" the victim and then shoot him. Bucco is given a final party and is thereafter killed by the Mafia.

Though he promised Ness that a gold key he would give Ness after his death would provide most revealing information, Ness learns that the record of Bucco's voice contained in the locked cabinet opened with the key provided no information. The program ended on this note.

There was no mention of the FBI.

REC-19 94-525494

b6 [redacted]

1 - Mr. DeLoach
GEM:paw (4)

F-193

57 JAN 27 1960

CRIME REC.

PERS. FILE

Jones to DeLoach memorandum
RE: "The Untouchables"

86

[redacted]

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

1/16

1/16

4-750 (Rev. 4-17-85)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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☐ For your information:

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FBI/DOJ

Jan 30/59

Dear Edgar -

Would you care to have copies of future correspondence in this matter?

Hope you had a lovely holiday - Sincerely

[redacted]

Elliott Ray Am

K

B6 94-52549-47

12 JAN 20 1960

file 8/gen

K

ENCLOSURE (letter)

EX-135

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

94-52549-47

EX-135 REC-3

January 13, 1960

(1) [redacted] B6

Dear [redacted]

[redacted]

Sincerely,

EDGAR

MAILED 20
JAN 13 1960
COMM-FBI

NOTE: [redacted] It is pointed out that an announcement was made over the end credits of the telecast regarding the Ma Barker Case which explained to the FBI, though not featured in the program, had the principal jurisdictional responsibility for the Barker Case and solved it. [redacted]

[redacted]

GEM:paw
(4)

Tolson
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Parsons
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Callahan
DeLoach
Malone
McGuire
Rosen
Tamm
Trotter
W.C. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Gandy

JAN 26 1960

Mr. Mohr

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

JAN 13 1:47 PM
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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

4-750 (Rev. 4-17-85)

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FBI/DOJ

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson
Mohr
Parsons
Belmont
Callahan
DeLoach
Malone
McGuire
Rosen
Tamm
Trotter
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: January 22, 1960

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: "THE UNTOUCHABLES"
DESILU PRODUCTIONS

Captioned TV program shown over Channel 7 at 9:30 p.m. last night was entitled "The Star Witness." This program was again narrated by Walter Winchell.

"The Star Witness" centered about the attempt by a former bookkeeper named William Norbert to leave his hoodlum employers who he had served under the front of Midwest Enterprise. The head of the syndicate, Luigi Rinaldo, a former lieutenant of Al Capone, had allowed Norbert to leave his syndicate on the promise that Norbert would not discuss his former activities. Rinaldo leaves town. One of his men who is left in command thereupon orders that Norbert be beat up. After the beating, Eliot Ness and his group of "The Untouchables" learn of the beating and talked to Norbert at the hospital. Upon learning of the contact by Ness with Norbert the syndicate orders the bookkeeper killed.

An attempt is made to kill Norbert by some hoodlums who drive by his home and fire a machine gun at him. Norbert, then realizing that the syndicate intends to kill him, calls Eliot Ness and agrees to cooperate with the "Federal" agents by giving testimony against the syndicate.

In an effort to protect Norbert, Ness keeps Norbert in travel status and sends his wife and daughter to stay with relatives. The syndicate makes repeated attempts to locate Norbert but without success. The wife and daughter are located. The daughter is purposely run over by a truck. Norbert then, contrary to the advice of Ness, proceeds to where his daughter is hospitalized. The syndicate intercepts him as he is about to see his daughter. After a scuffle, the gangsters are about to kill Norbert. Ness and his men arrive at this point and kill one of the gangsters. Norbert is not harmed. Rinaldo is finally brought to trial. His gang makes preparations for killing Norbert when he enters the courthouse. Ness, however, had placed his men at strategic points as lookouts and is aware of the plans to kill Norbert. Ness disguises Norbert as a painter and produces him as "The Star Witness." After the bookkeeper is sworn in, Ness and

1 - Mr. DeLoach

GEM:paw (4)

REC-61 94-52549-49

EX-135

JAN 27 1960

CRIME REC.

50 FEB 1 1960

his men close in on the mobsters. Another shooting takes place as Ness kills one of the gangsters who had a high-powered rifle for use in killing Norbert when he entered the courthouse. Rinaldo is convicted and sentenced to a long prison term.

b6

There was no mention of the FBI made. [redacted]

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

4-750 (Rev. 4-17-85)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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FBI/DOJ

[redacted]

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Mohr
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Trotter
Mr. W.C.Sullivan
Tele. Room
Mr. Ingram
Miss Gandy

[redacted]

Jan.21, 1960.

J. Edgar Hoover
FBI
Washington, D.C

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I write to ask you about the "integrity" of the TV show, "The Untouchables". Agent Ness was real..and the comments of your self-appointed champion, Winchell, lends further authenticity to the show.

I lived through the era of gangdom and some of the action pictured is new to me. I strongly suspect liberal editing and I am not talking about authentic props but rather the addition of spectacular action such as shooting a man off a flagpole and collapsing a slag pit by gunshot.

I have held your organization up to my children. There is not a hell of a lot left in Washington to be held up to kids. Now, when they say, "Did that really happen", I am at a loss to answer.

This is my first "crank" letter to anyone and I am sure that even a perfunctory check with District Attorney Henry Wade of this city or your local representatives will establish my citizenship.

I feel that there is no need to further glamorize the episodes of your history. The more this is done, even within the general framework of the facts, the more the Department's honor is exposed.

Please reassure me or confirm the above points.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

EX-100
REC-65 94-32549-51
16 FEB 2 1960

XR PROC
JAN 26 1960

1/28/60

8 3

EX-100

REC-65

94-2549-51

January 28, 1960

[redacted]

Desilu Productions

Dear [redacted]

The interest and concern which prompted your letter of January 21, 1960, are readily understandable and are shared by me.

The television program entitled "The Untouchables" has received no cooperation from the FBI. On the contrary, I have vigorously voiced my objections to those responsible because the programs have erroneously given the public the impression that the actors are portraying the past activities of this Bureau.

I have followed this matter very closely and can definitely state that the writers for these programs have made very little effort to adhere to facts in connection with those cases which were actually handled by the FBI.

MAILED 10
JAN 28 1960
COMM-FBI

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

1 - Dallas
1 - Los Angeles
1 - Mr. DeLoach

NOTE: Bufiles reflect no information identifiable with [redacted]

GEM:paw
(7)

Tolson
Mohr
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W.C. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

52 FEB 5 1960

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RECEIVED DIRECTOR

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FBI
JAN 28 10 24 AM '60

RECEIVED DIRECTOR
FEB 1 8 1960
FBI

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson
Mohr
Parsons
Belmont
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DeLoach
Mohr
McGuire
Rosen
Tamm
Trotter
W.C. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: January 29, 1960

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: "THE UNTOUCHABLES"
© DESILU PRODUCTIONS
JANUARY 28, 1960

Captioned program was presented locally over Channel 7 at 9:30 p.m. last night and was entitled "The St. Louis Story." The program was again narrated by Walter Winchell.

The background of this story concerns the St. Louis, Missouri, area during the early 1930's when several different hoodlum gangs were fighting among themselves. Under the direction of Dink Conway, who operates a local restaurant, the leaders of the various "gangs" meet to organize and unite under a respectable front. One of the gang leaders by the name of Jim Harrington refuses to organize and when he leaves the meeting is taken for a typical gang-land ride.

Thereafter, it is noted, gang-land peace exists for a short time until another of the gang leaders, Joe Courtney, agrees on his own, with a small time hoodlum, to assist in the post office truck robbery of approximately $150,000 in cash and $1,000,000 in negotiable securities. One of the post office employees supplies the inside information for a large amount of payment; however, he is killed by the gang during the robbery.

Eliot Ness, working with a new man, conducts crime scene search and begins the tedious job of checking all the small time brokerage firms. Conway's mob, by beating up one of the participants of the robbery, finds that the principal in the mail truck robbery is Joe Courtney. After beating up Courtney, Conway's men throw Courtney in the river.

Courtney has previously made arrangements with Mr. Newhouser, who was in the stock brokerage business, to dispose of the negotiable securities on a gradual basis. Conway then meets with Newhouser. An agreement is made whereby Newhouser gets 10 per cent of the sale price obtained from the securities.

EX 105 REC-41 94-52549-5

One of the outlets that Newhouser had contacted, recalls the securities as being the subject of a circular prepared with the postal authorities. He calls Ness and his group of "The Untouchables" who arrest Newhouser when he comes to the post office to pick up a check for the sale of part of the securities. Conway, at this point, realizes that he is very close to the principals involved and that he will have to

1 - Mr. DeLoach
JMR:paw
(4)

FEB 8 1960

FEB 2 1960

CRIME REC.

get rid of them. He arranges for the release of Newhouser, who mysteriously disappears. Courtney's girl friend is machine gunned to death in an alley. Conway has the remaining securities picked up and buried.

In checking on the activities of Courtney's girl, Rita Roco, Ness determines that she was last seen with a police lieutenant and was supposedly going to the police station. In checking the police docket, Ness finds no record of Roco ever being booked. The inquiry at the police station, however, alarms the police officer who runs to Conway. Through the use of a wiretap on Conway's phone, Ness overhears Conway making a call to Miami to arrange for the disposition of the remaining securities. Conway's club is staked out and when the pick up is made, there is the usual shooting episode where Conway and all of his gang are killed.

There was no mention of the FBI made during the program.

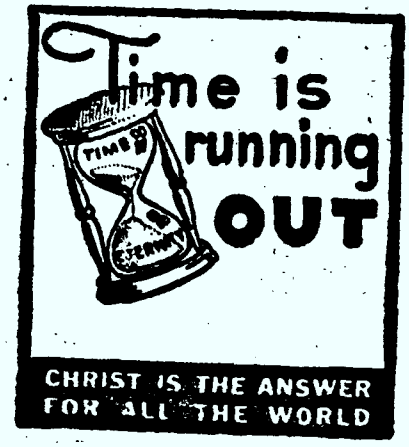
B6

[redacted]

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

1/30



JAN .20 1960

O Desi Lu Production

DEAR SIR .

I HAVE BEEN WATCHING (THE UNTOUCHABLES) A DESI LU. TV. PROGRAM ON THE F.B.I. FIGHT AGAINEST CRIME IN AMERICA. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU MR. HOOVER AND ELLIOT NESS AND THE REST OF YOUR STAFF FOR THE HARD AND WONDERFULL WORK THAT YOU (THE F.B.I.) ARE DOING FOR US THE PLAIN CITZEN .

NOT MANY OF US WOULD LIKE TO FACE A MACHINE GUN OR OTHER METHODS CUT THROUT AND HOODLUMS USE TO DEFEAT THE LAW .

PLEASE CONTINUE THE BATTLE AND PLEASE KEEP THE AMERICAN PEOPLE INFORMED ON THE WAYS THESE LAWLESS RATS WORK.

ANYWAY THANKS FOR THE JOB YOU HAVE DONE AND ARE DOING.

YOURS [redacted]

B6

REC-65 94-52549-3

EX 109 23 FEB 5 1960

mml ack 1-28-60
S&W: mkd

(8) CRIME REC

REC-65 94-52549-53

EX-109

January 29, 1960

[redacted]

Dear [redacted]

Your letter dated January 20, 1960, has been received, and I appreciate your interest in writing.

While this Bureau has no connections whatsoever with the television program, "The Untouchables," I am grateful for your kind comments about the FBI. Enclosed is a booklet which explains in some detail some of our activities.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.

Enclosure

SAW:mhd/hmm
(3)

Tolson
Mohr
Parsons
Belmont
Callahan
DeLoach
Malone
McGuire
Rosen
Tamm
Trotter
W.C. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

FEB 17 1960

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

JAN 29 1960
COMM-FBI

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

B6

[redacted]

January 29, 1960

The Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Desilu Productions

Gentlemen:

You have probably had this question asked so many times but I must ask it. My son and four of his boy friends, who are 15, were watching "The Untouchables" last night. Again the subject came up that Eliot Ness was not an F.B.I. man. My son and his boy friends had been to Washington over the Christmas holidays with a group from school. Naturally, they toured the F.B.I. building, which we also did last year, when our family went there.

Being curious, they asked their guide if Ness was an F.B.I. man and he said he was not. I don't mind being wrong, but I was sure when he came to Cleveland, he had been an F.B.I. man and our Cleveland paper mentioned it not too long ago on the television page that he was.

So, please -- whether I am wrong or right -- just settle it and give us the truth -- was Ness an F.B.I. man.

And, while I am writing you, is it possible for my son to have one of the targets which one of your men has shot at. Both times he was in Washington, he was unable to get it and he is at the age where he just has to have it hung in his room. I am sure one of your men would not mind a little practice and could send one to him. I would appreciate it very much.

I enjoyed the tour through the F.B.I. when I was there and highly recommend it to anyone who is going to Washington. The men are very courteous and make it very interesting.

So thank you very much for taking the time to answer a letter, which might not seem important to you, but I would like to have it settled, because each time the program comes on, it comes up. Thank you.

7

62-52549-5

REC-15

Very truly yours,

7 FEB 8 1960

EX-131

[redacted]

B6

mm
ack 2-5-60
CWK/jmb

CRIME REC.

REC-11 94-52549-54

February 5, 1960

EX-131

[redacted] b6

[redacted] DC1

Dear [redacted]

Your letter of January 29, 1960, has been received, and I was very pleased to learn that your family and you enjoyed your tour of our facilities.

For your information, I would like to point out that Mr. Eliot Ness was employed as a Prohibition Agent in the Internal Revenue Service and later was transferred to the Bureau of Prohibition in the Department of Justice. He was never a Special Agent of the FBI.

In response to your request, I am enclosing a target for your son as well as other material concerning this Bureau which I hope he will find of interest.

Sincerely yours,

MAILED 2
FEB 5 1960
COMM-FBI

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosures (4)
FBI Story, Fingerprint Identification
FBI Laboratory, Target

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles. Information concerning Ness located in Bufile 94-52549-X3. The program, "The Untouchables," deals with work of the Prohibition Agents in tracking down notorious gangsters of this era, (67-32640) early 1930's.

RWK:jab
(3)

Tolson
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Belmont
Callahan
DeLoach
Malone
McGuire
Rosen
Tamm
Trotter
W.C. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

64 FEB 11 1960

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 2-5-60

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: "THE UNTOUCHABLES"
DESILU PRODUCTIONS
FEBRUARY 4, 1960

Tolson
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Malone
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Rosen
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Trotter
W. C. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

This program entitled "One Armed Bandit," narrated by Walter Winchell, was monitored by SA [redacted] of the Crime Research Section on the evening of February 4, 1960.

B6

This story, depicting the Chicago, Illinois, area during the early 1930s, concerned the rise of a small-time hoodlum, Augie Viale, to a position of importance in the criminal world. Viale's main products is the distribution of slot machines. He attempts to enlist the aid of a recently released convict, Frank O'Dean, who was originally incarcerated through the efforts of Eliot Ness. Ness tells his associates how on a raid, O'Dean could have shot him but did not. Ness meets O'Dean and tells him not to become associated with Viale, as he is "out to get him (Viale)." Viale's hoods attempt to pursuade O'Dean to join with Viale, but he forcibly declines.

O'Dean meets a disbarred attorney, a friend of his, Julian Glass, who is the only one who knows of O'Dean's daughter, presently living a respectable life under the assumption that her real father died as a hero in World War I. O'Dean attempts to remain legitimate; however Viale, by beating up Glass, finds out where O'Dean's daughter lives and uses this knowledge to force O'Dean to join with him.

During this time Ness and "The Untouchables" are obtaining background information on the entire setup, as the distribution of slot machines is not a Federal violation. In talking to a small store owner who has been forced to place a slot machine in his place of business, Ness learns that in addition to slot machines, Viale is distributing bootleg whisky.

REC-86 94-52549-55

Based on this information, Ness obtains a search warrant and breaks into the warehouse where the slots and whisky are stored. A small gun fight ensues with one gangster being killed. As the criminals are lined up against the wall, Ness tries to obtain a statement form one of them. This individual spits in Ness's face and Ness is shown striking him several times.

1 - Mr. DeLoach

JMR:id
(4)

REC-23 FEB 10 1960

CRIME REC.

50 FEB 18 1960

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach:

Viale decides that he has to get rid of Ness in order to remain in power. He delegates this job to O'Dean under the threat to inform his daughter who her father is. O'Dean goes to Ness's office that night; however, Ness talks him out of killing him by discussing family matters and high ideals. As O'Dean leaves, he is followed by Ness and one of his associates. O'Dean decides to leave Chicago after he sees his daughter once more when she is married on the following day; however, Viale, who has learned that O'Dean did not kill Ness, sends a hired killer to eliminate O'Dean. As O'Dean leaves his apartment he is wounded by the killer; however Ness shoots the driver of the killer's car, causing it to crash. As O'Dean is being assisted by Ness and his associate, another of the killers almost shoots Ness; however O'Dean once more saves Ness's life by shooting the intended killer. O'Dean is taken to a hospital.

Thereafter the story is wrapped up by showing O'Dean leaving the hospital although critically wounded, going to Viale's apartment where he kills him and ends up at Ness's home. Ness tells him that he will cooperate in helping him get to his daughter's wedding if he will inform on the Viale organization. The story ends with O'Dean watching his daughter leave the church where she has been married and informing Ness that this girl was his daughter. O'Dean then collapses and dies from his previous wounds.

There is no mention made of the FBI in the story. The show would naturally arouse sympathy for O'Dean and by it understanding for some of his nefarious acts.

b6 [redacted]

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For Information.

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 2-12-60

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: "THE UNTOUCHABLES"
DESILU PRODUCTIONS
FEBRUARY 11, 1960

Tolson
Mohr
Parsons
Belmont
Callahan
DeLoach
Malone
McGuire
Rosen
Tamm
Trotter
W.C. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

B6

On the evening of February 11, 1960, SA [redacted] Crime Research Section, monitored this week's program of "The Untouchables" which was entitled "Little Egypt."

This story, located in the small southern Illinois town of Marine, shows the power which a prohibition gangster had over the political forces during the early 1930s. The main character, Major Charlie Byron, who was an ex-Army officer, is shown as he has his hired gangsters eliminate by outright murder a reformed mayor and sheriff. Byron instructs his hoodlums he will pay them $1,000 per bullet that is found in "the mayor's thick skull." A bloody bit of action takes place when the murderer of the sheriff, after shooting him, empties an entire machine gun drum into the sheriff's body.

The Governor of Illinois calls in Eliot Ness to help clean up Marine; however, Ness informs the Governor that he and his men are tied up on a big case in Chicago. He does agree to send one man down to Marine to infiltrate the organization operated by Major Byron. This man, Cam Allison, is the son of a former judge of St. Louis, Missouri, who was killed by the prohibition gangsters.

Allison obtains a job in the coal fields of Marine, and by starting a fight with members of the local sheriff's office, gains Major Byron's confidence. He gradually works his way into a position of trust and releases the information obtained from his observations to Ness in Chicago by use of carrier pigeons. He comes under suspicion by only one member of the gang by the name of Ed Carlton.

Carlton arranges to have one of his trusted girl friends, Hazel Stanley, to go out with Allison to try to find out whether or not he might be an under cover agen Allison convinces Hazel that he is not connected with the law; however, the insinuation is given that she falls in love with him. During these scenes, she is shown partially disrobed and the insinuation is given that sexual relations occur. Hazel informs Ed Carlton that the only thing she finds suspicious was a receipt in Allison's wallet for some pigeon feed. This causes Ed to become more suspicious and he searches Allison's apartment and finds the pigeons on the roof.

94-5-5542-56

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Mohr

REC- 27

FEB 23 1960

JMR:cbc (5) 7159

51 FEB 26 1960

CRIME REC.

When this information was repeated to Major Byron, he still does not believe that Allison is a "stoolie" but agrees to give him a test by having Hazel feed him false information to see what he will do with it. The information concerns an assassination attempt on the new sheriff. When Allison hears this information he breaks away from Hazel to get the message to Ness and "The Untouchables" in Chicago. Hazel is shown regretting her part in this conspiracy and attempts to warn the sheriff of his and Allison's danger. The sheriff informs Ness who immediately leaves Chicago with his crew for Marine while the sheriff attempts to go to the aid of Allison. The sheriff is killed by the Major's men while he is en route to his office. Hazel is caught by Carlton informing the sheriff's office and she too is killed.

As Allison releases a carrier pigeon from his apartment it is shot by some of the Major's men who are hidden nearby. Allison is then confronted by the Major who whips him with a riding crop which he always carries. As the Major and his men try to take Allison from his apartment in the early morning, Ness and "The Untouchables" arrive "in the nick of time." A major gun battle ensues with gangsters being slaughtered on a wholesale scale. A macabre bit of irony occurs when Ness runs out of ammunition and then runs over to pick up a machine gun dropped by one of the gangsters, and uses this gun to shoot at the car being driven by Major Byron as he attempts to escape. The car catches on fire and Byron is killed as he attempts to shoot it out with Ness.

The show makes no mention of the FBI and "The Untouchables" are depicted as breaking up an illegal whiskey-type operation.

b6

[redacted]

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: February 19, 1960

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: "THE UNTOUCHABLES"
DESILU PRODUCTIONS
FEBRUARY 18, 1960

Tolson
Mohr
Parsons
Belmont
Callahan
DeLoach
Malone
McGuire
Rosen
Tamm
Trotter
W.C. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

This week's program of "The Untouchables" which was entitled "The Big Squeeze" was monitored on the evening of February 18, by SA [redacted] Crime Research Section.

B6

The program began showing Eliot Ness talking to the Chicago United States Attorney, Beecher Asbury. Asbury wants Ness and "The Untouchables" to do an investigation on Ace Banner who is a well-known bank robber. The date of this interviev is March, 1934, just prior to the passing of the Federal law which made bank robberies a Federal offense. Asbury informs Ness that he realizes that even if he made a case on Banner, he could not have him prosecuted but feels that he, Asbury, would be in a better position to convince a Senate Committee that they need a Federal law regarding bank robberies if they could prove a case against Banner.

The story then shows how Banner with the aid of some of his trusted cohorts robs a Chicago bank of $250,000. Banner was able to do this by contacting one of the officers of the bank, a Mr. Hadens, whom Banner knows is embezzling the bank's funds. If Hadens will supply the necessary background information about the bank employees and have $250,000 in the vaults when Banner instructs him to, Banner will "allow" Hadens to report a loss of $450,000 which will cover Hadens' embezzlement. The robbery takes place and all runs smoothly with the exception one of the robbers becomes excited and calls another by his name, Mattie.

Ness then commences an active investigation on Banner by interviewing all the bank employees. He identifies Mattie who is arrested in New Orleans. During the investigation he closely questions Hadens about the possibility of an inside job and wants an audit of his bank books. Hadens becomes excited and is killed by one of Banner's associates, Jamie the Knife. By insinuation Jamie also informs Banner that he has killed the robber who called another bank robber by name during the commission of the crime.

EX-131 REC-8 94-57542-57

Ness and USA Asbury are then shown before a Senate Committee in Washington, D. C., at which time they tell the Committee how they have sufficient evidence to make a case on Banner and his associates; however, are powerless due to lack of jurisdiction.

JMR:ijj (4) 50 FEB 29 1960

(Continued next page)

6 FEB 24 1960

CRIME REC.

The narrator, Walter Winchell, then states how as a result of the numerous bank robberies which had recently occurred, the Federal Bank Robbery Act was passed on May 18, 1934, which made it a Federal crime to rob banks. Thereafter, by superimposed shots and narration by Winchell, it is shown how the Federal agents cracked down on bank robbers through arrests.

Banner is shown meeting Jamie, the Knife, and the new law is discussed. Banner instructs Jamie that he must refrain from any bank robberies until he, Banner, gives him the word. Jamie is "banker" for Banner who informs Jamie that he is going to lead a life of leisure for awhile. Banner, using the alias James Spencer, is shown living the life of luxury in Florida where he meets a girl, Chicki Purcell. He becomes infatuated with her and eventually marries her.

In the meantime, Ness and "The Untouchables" have both Banner and Jamie under surveillance. Finally, due to the high living expense of Banner, he instructs Jamie to send him more money. When Jamie goes to "the bank" he is picked up by Ness, and the remainder of the bank loot from the Chicago robbery is recovered. Ness informs Banner of the arrest of Jamie and the recovery of the money and tells him that he will "have to go to work again."

The surveillance of Banner is lost; however, through contact with Chicki who has since moved to Chicago, Ness learns that Banner is now in the Beacon Hill, Pennsylvania, area. This town is near Petroleum City, Pennsylvania, which has large banks which would be suitable for Banner's operation. A stake-out on 3 banks is maintained by Ness and "The Untouchables" for 3 weeks. On the fourth week, Ness, in reviewing a financial statement of cash on hand, notices that one of the banks has an unusual amount of money at that time. A call is made to the bank; however, the phone is not answered as the bank robbery is in progress. Ness and "The Untouchables" immediately surround the bank and go in with a minimum of shooting. Banner is arrested inside the bank. Winchell comments that on July 14, 1936, he was sentenced to imprisonment and is still serving his 99-year sentence.

No mention of the FBI by name is made. It is obvious to those viewing the film that Ness, by investigating bank robberies after the passage of the Bank Robbery Statute, is depicting an investigation by the FBI.

[redacted]

RECOMMENDATION: For information.