

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
AND  
PRIVACY ACTS**

**SUBJECT: DISAPPEARANCE OF**

**JIMMY HOFFA**

**PAGES 2684 THRU 2806**



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

**FEDERAL BUREAU  
OF  
INVESTIGATION  
HEADQUARTERS**



SERIALS 2931-2958

9-HQ-60052

SECTION 70

FBIHQ INVESTIGATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE FILES

PICKETT STREET

**Transfer - Call 3421  
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3 Pages were not considered for release as they are duplicative of 183A-DE-1155 serial 815  
(pages 818-820)

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- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

9-HQ-60052 serial 2931

(Pages 2685 - 2687)

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(page 789)

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9-HQ-60052 serial 2932

(Page 2688)

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RED SEAL  
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HOFFA, Page 2689

9-10051-2932

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3 Pages were not considered for release as they are duplicative of 183A-DE-1155 serial 800  
(pages 77-779)

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9-HQ-60052-2932 (pages 3-5) (pages 2690-2692)

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4 Pages were not considered for release as they are duplicative of 183A-DE-1155 serial 824  
(pages 868-871)

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9-HQ-60052 serial 2933 (pages 2693 - 2696)

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2 Pages were not considered for release as they are duplicative of 183A-DE-1155 serial 825  
(pages 872-873)

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9-HQ-60052 serial 2934 (pages 2697-2698)

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(page 781)

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9-HQ-60052 serial 2936

(Page 2699)

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FEDERAL BUREAU  
OF INVESTIGATION

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Director's Office	

*[Signature]*

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DE FBITP #0001 0301637

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FM FBI TAMPA (79-434)

TO DIRECTOR FBI (9-60052)/PRIORITY/

BT

UNCLAS

CITE: //3980//

PASS: ATTENTION SSA [REDACTED] VCMOS, ROOM 5030.

SUBJECT: <sup>(1)</sup>HOFFEX; OO:DE; KILLING OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY;  
INFORMATION CONCERNING.

AFTER REPEATED UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS TO REACH FRANK  
RAGANO AT TAMPA TELEPHONE NUMBER (813) 229-1191, MR. RAGANO  
WAS TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED ON JANUARY 27, 1992. HE WAS  
ADVISED THAT THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (FBI) DESIRES  
TO INTERVIEW HIM REGARDING ASSERTIONS HE MADE IN THE MEDIA  
THAT HE POSSESSED INFORMATION REGARDING LA COSA NOSTRA FIGURES  
CARLOS MARCELLO, SANTO TRAFFICANTE AND FORMER TEAMSTERS UNION

9-60052-2936X

(1)

1-5042

[REDACTED]

b7C

[REDACTED]

b7C

CALLER  
M/S  
BY  
JAN 30 1992

PAGE TWO DE FBITP 0001 UNCLAS

PRESIDENT JIMMY HOFFA THAT MAY HAVE A BEARING UPON THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY IN NOVEMBER 1963.

HE ADVISED HE DESIRED TO COOPERATE WITH THE FBI, BUT BEFORE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS, HE REFERRED THE FBI TO HIS ATTORNEY, [REDACTED] AT TAMPA TELEPHONE NUMBER [REDACTED]

ON JANUARY 28, 1992, [REDACTED] ATTORNEY, [REDACTED] TAMPA, FLORIDA, TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED THAT HE REPRESENTS FRANK RAGANO. [REDACTED] ADVISED MR. RAGANO IS PREPARED TO BE INTERVIEWED BY THE FBI WITH REGARD TO INFORMATION HE POSSESSES THAT MAY HAVE A BEARING UPON THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, BUT, "SINCE THERE IS NO STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS ON MURDER," MR. RAGANO WILL ONLY SUBMIT TO AN INTERVIEW IF HE FIRST RECEIVES IMMUNITY.

[REDACTED] WAS ADVISED THAT THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WOULD BE APPRISED OF MR. RAGANO'S POSITION.

[REDACTED] CONTINUED THAT MR. RAGANO HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS WHO HAVE ADVISED HIM THAT THE COMMITTEE IS CONSIDERING RE-CONVENING TO TAKE MR. RAGANO'S TESTIMONY. ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] AN

PAGE THREE DE FBITP 0001 UNCLAS

UNDERSTANDING HAS BEEN REACHED THAT SUCH TESTIMONY WILL ONLY  
BE PROVIDED UNDER A GRANT OF IMMUNITY, "JUST LIKE OLLIE  
NORTH."

FD-302 PREPARED RE ABOVE INFORMATION.

ON JANUARY 29, 1992, CHIEF ASSISTANT GREGORY KEHOE,  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA,  
WAS APPRISED OF [REDACTED] REQUEST. AUSA KEHOE ADVISED HE WOULD *b7C*  
CONTACT THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR FURTHER  
GUIDANCE.

BT.

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(pages 1665-1666)

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9-HQ-60052 serial 2937

(pages 2703-2704)

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OF INVESTIGATION

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Director's Office	

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FM FBI NEW YORK (183A-DE-1155) (P) (ASAC)

TO DIRECTOR FBI (183-6421)/ROUTINE/

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

CITE: //3540:3613//

SUBJECT: HOFFEX; OO:DE.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF DETROIT AND FBIHQ, ON JULY 24, 1992, THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN DETROIT TELETYPE TO FBIHQ DATED JULY 24, 1992, WAS PROVIDED TO NEW YORK ASSISTANT SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE (ASAC) DON NORTH BY ASAC RIGGIO, DETROIT DIVISION. THE NEW YORK PRESS OFFICE SPECIAL AGENT (SA) [REDACTED] ADVISED ASAC NORTH THAT THE "CURRENT AFFAIR" STAFF, AND PARTICULARLY [REDACTED] HAVE BEEN ANTAGONISTIC TO THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (FBI) IN THE PAST. SA [REDACTED] ADVISED THAT FOX NETWORK NEWS ANCHOR [REDACTED]

9-60052-2938

PAGE TWO DE FBINY 0008 UNCLAS E F T O

[REDACTED] IS A FRIEND OF THE FBI AND HAS ADJOINING OFFICE SPACE TO THE "CURRENT AFFAIR" PRODUCTIONS. ASAC NORTH AUTHORIZED CONTACT WITH [REDACTED] IN AN ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY THE SECRET INFORMANT UTILIZED BY "CURRENT AFFAIR" IN THEIR PROGRAM DETAILING THE MURDER OF HOFFA. NEW YORK BELIEVES THAT "CURRENT AFFAIR" STAFF WOULD NOT IDENTIFY THIS WITNESS TO THE FBI AND COULD USE THE FBI CONTACT ON A FUTURE SHOW TO SOMEHOW LEND CREDIBILITY TO THEIR SOURCE.

ON JULY 25, 1992, [REDACTED] INFORMED SA [REDACTED] THAT THE "CURRENT AFFAIR" STAFF REFUSED TO IDENTIFY THIS SOURCE, HOWEVER, HE DID LEARN THE MAN RESIDES IN NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA AND IS DYING OF CANCER. HE ALSO DETERMINED THAT THE STAFF QUESTIONED THE CREDIBILITY OF THE SOURCE EVEN THOUGH THE SOURCE ALLEGEDLY PASSED A POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION. [REDACTED] FELT THAT DUE TO THE SKEPTICISM OF THE "CURRENT AFFAIR" STAFF, THERE WILL BE NO FOLLOW UP TO THIS STORY.

NEW YORK WILL NOT CONTACT "CURRENT AFFAIR" UNLESS SO DIRECTED BY DETROIT AND FBIHQ.

BT

#0008

NNNN



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATION MESSAGE FORM

TRANSMIT VIA:  
☒ Teletype

DATE: 8/24/92

^PAGE 1 OF 3

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☒ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET  
☐ SECRET  
☐ CONFIDENTIAL  
☒ UNCLAS E F T O  
☐ UNCLAS

FM DIRECTOR FBI

TO FBI DETROIT (183A-1155)/ROUTINE/

FBI NEW YORK/ROUTINE/

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

CITE: //0661//

PASS: DETROIT FOR SSA [REDACTED] C-8; NEW YORK FOR ASAC  
DONALD V NORTH, BROOKLYN-QUEENS RESIDENT AGENCY.

SUBJECT: HOFFEX; 00: DETROIT.

REFBIHQTELAL TO DETROIT ON AUGUST 21, 1992.

REFERENCED TELCAL DISCUSSED 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

9-60052-2939

\*\*\*\*\* FOR COMM CENTER USE ONLY \*\*\*\*\*

NOTE: Copy Designations Are On The Last Page Of This Teletype!!!

Approved By

MRI/JUL

Transmitted

*Lapure*  
9460/238  
2222 AUG 26 1992

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HOFFA, Page 2707

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.

ON AUGUST 21, 1992, THE POLYGRAPH UNIT, FBIHQ, PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION REGARDING LAURENDI: [REDACTED]

b7c

REFERENCED TELCAL DISCUSSED THE ADVISABILITY OF [REDACTED]

b7c

[REDACTED] TO IDENTIFY "JOHN DOE." THE DETROIT DIVISION CONCURRED THAT [REDACTED]

NEW YORK ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN THE AFOREMENTIONED DOCUMENTS [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] TO ASSIST IN THE INVESTIGATION OF CAPTIONED MATTER.

THE NEW YORK DIVISION WILL [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE TRUE IDENTITY OF "JOHN DOE" AND [REDACTED]

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATION MESSAGE FORM

^PAGE 3 UNCLAS E F T O

[REDACTED]

7  
b7c  
7

ADMINISTRATIVE

THE NEW YORK DIVISION SHOULD CONSIDER SENDING A POLYGRAPH  
EXAMINER TO ACCOMPANY THE INTERVIEWING AGENT TO PROVIDE POLYGRAPH  
EXPERTISE.

BT

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**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATION MESSAGE FORM**

PAGE 4

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE/TICKLER COUNT:

ON 8/21/92, SSAS [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] POLYGRAPH UNIT, FBIHQ, EXTENSION [REDACTED], WERE CONTACTED AND IDENTIFIED [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] CONDUCTED A POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION OF "JOHN DOE," AN ALLEGED MAFIA HITMAN, WHO APPEARED ON THE TELEVISION SHOW "A CURRENT AFFAIR" AND ADMITTED PARTICIPATING IN THE MURDER OF JIMMY HOFFA. LAURENDI APPEARED ON THE SAME SHOW AND REPORTED THAT "JOHN DOE" SHOWED NO DECEPTION DURING HIS EXAMINATION. ATTEMPTS TO IDENTIFY "JOHN DOE" HAVE BEEN NEGATIVE. THE NEW YORK DIVISION HAS RECOMMENDED AGAINST CONTACT WITH THE SHOWS PRODUCER, [REDACTED], AND THE ON-SCENE REPORTER, [REDACTED]. ON 8/21/92, THIS MATTER WAS DISCUSSED WITH ASSISTANT SECTION CHIEF [REDACTED], ORGANIZED CRIME/DRUG OPERATIONS SECTION #2, AND DETROIT DIVISION ORGANIZED CRIME SSA [REDACTED] WHO BOTH AGREED THAT [REDACTED] THIS TELETYPE ADVISES THE NEW YORK DIVISION TO [REDACTED] IDENTIFY "JOHN DOE." THE NEW YORK DIVISION IS ALSO REQUESTED TO [REDACTED] WHICH WILL BE REVIEWED BY THE POLYGRAPH UNIT IF OBTAINED.

Drafted By: *WVJ* wvj/sew (b) Room/TL #: 3076 Phone No: 3349

## COPY DESIGNATIONS:

- 1 - [REDACTED]
- 1 - [REDACTED]
- 1 - [REDACTED] (GALLERY ROW, SUITE 2)
- 1 - [REDACTED]
- 1 - [REDACTED]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

DATE: 10/11/91

Re: **HOFFEX**  
**OO: DETROIT**

TO:

**U.S. Postal Inspector**  
**1001 California Avenue**  
**Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**  
**15290-9000**

b7C

Invoice of Contents

Description of Contents:

**K1**

FBI File# **9-60052**

Case# **00928046 S QY**

Shipping#

**SHIPPING METHODS**

Air Freight and Express Services

- ☐ Overnight
- ☒ 2-Day Standard Service
- ☐ Saturday Delivery
- ☐ Economy (2-3 Days Service)
- ☐ Deferred (4-5 Days Service)

217083517

10-11-91

Your#

☒ Return to

Room

Ext.

☐ Mail Room: 1B327, TL 152

(registered mail)

☒ FMSS - Supply Room, 1B353

(not registered)

Hazardous Materials Only

Weight of Hazardous Materials:

Packaged By

Signature

Date

All items listed above are contained in this package.

A detailed description items will be found in Bureau communication dated

(SHIPPING HOURS - 9:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.)

HOFFA, Page 2711

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Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☐ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☐ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☐ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

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2 Pages were not considered for release as they are duplicative of 281A-DE-67821 serial 839  
(pages 1662-1663)

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s): \_\_\_\_\_

- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

9-HQ-60052 serial 2940

(pages 2712-2713)

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RECORDED  
10/1/90  
mam

9/11/90  
WILKES

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

To: SAC, Detroit (183A-1155) (C-8)

9-60052 2941

FBI FILE NO. 183-

LAB NO. 00911023 S QY

Re: HOFFEX

YOUR NO.

OO: Detroit

Examination by:

Examination requested by:

Addressee

Reference:

Communication dated September 5, 1990

Examination requested:

[REDACTED] b7A

Specimens received:

September 11, 1990

Specimen:

Q1

[REDACTED] b7A

⑤ W.M.F.O

HOFFA, Page 2714

FBI/DOJ

7-1b  
11/14/91

[REDACTED] b7C

Violation(s): RICO  
Violation date:  
Violation location:  
Victim:

Lab No: 911023 S - *QY*  
City: DETROIT, MI DE  
Form: AT 09-05-90  
Bufile No: 183-  
Contributors No: 183-1155 - A

Subject:  
HOFFEX,

Remarks:

Status 1 Status 2 Status 3 Category: 1  
Trial Importance Doc\Sp Complex Volume Await Evid Buded: 10-02-90  
Ack Type: 7- Principal Unit: [REDACTED] b7A SFO UC 1

Examiner(s)	Symbols	Evid./Exams	Date Delv	Date Ret	Dict Date	Partial/Final Date(s)
<u>[REDACTED]</u>	<u>b7C QY</u>	<u>[REDACTED]</u>	<u>10/1/90</u>	<u>b7A</u>		

Q 1 K 1 Items 1 Evidence ret: 1  
Resub? NO Request? NO Return No: 1  
Call when ready? NO EXT NO Print 2 Assignment Card(s)  
Latent? YES NO Q tabs? YES NO

NO PREVIOUS SUBMISSIONS FOUND

*Handwritten notes:*  
Held for  
PATTI  
[Signature]

*Handwritten notes:*  
Q1 [REDACTED] b7A  
Work sheet  
& cards p/s.  
[Signature]  
b7C [REDACTED] RM 3787

Parcel Method and No: RM-R691753001\HW-  
Received In ECC: 09-11-90  
01-Envelopes

b7C 3  
SFO, RM 3266  
ECC, RM 3233  
[REDACTED], RM 3187  
WPC, RM 3431



00911023-S-Q4  
9-60052-211

Q1

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b7A

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA  
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(pages 1696-1697)

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- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

9-HQ-60052 serial 2942 (Pages 2717-2718)

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**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535**

January 14, 1991

To: SAC, Detroit (183A-1155) (C-8)

FBI FILE NO. 9-60052

LAB NO. 00911023 S QY  
00928046 S QY

Re: **HOFFEX**

OO: Detroit

Examination requested by: Detroit and Washington Metropolitan Field Office  
Reference: Detroit communication dated September 5, 1990 and  
Washington Metropolitan Field Office communication  
Examination requested: dated September 28, 1990  
Specimens received: [REDACTED] b7A

Specimen received September 11, 1990, from SAC, Detroit, under cover  
of communication dated September 28, 1990 (00911023 S QY):

Q1 [REDACTED] b7A

Specimen personally delivered by Special Agent [REDACTED] on b7C  
September 28, 1990 (00928046 S QY): b7C / b7D

K1 [REDACTED]

Result of examination: [REDACTED] b7A

Specimen K1 is being retained in the Laboratory until  
called for by a representative of the Washington Metropolitan  
Field Office. Specimen Q1 is being returned to the Detroit  
Division under separate cover by registered mail.

2 - SAC, Washington Metropolitan Field Office (183A-1155)

*man*  
mam (6)  
MAIL ROOM ☒

HOFFA, Page 2719

FBI/DOJ

RECORDED  
11/16/90  
nrl

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

11/1/90  
WILKES

Laboratory Work Sheet

*SAC*  
To: Washington Metropolitan Field Office

Date:

FBI File No.

*9-60052-11*

Lab No.

00928046 S QY

Reference: Communication dated September 28, 1990

Your No.

*A*  
183-1155

Re: ~~HOFFEX - SUBJECT;~~  
~~UNNAMED VICTIM;~~  
~~RECO~~

Specimens received: November 1, 1990

Specimen:

*personally delivered to Special Agent*  
*b7C* *on Sept 28, 1990*

K1

[REDACTED]

*b7A*  
*b7C/b7D*

*M-16*  
*1/14/91*  
*GFW:man*

HOFFA, Page 2720

FBI/DOJ

Violation(s): RICO  
Violation date:  
Violation location:  
Victim:

Lab No: 928046 S - *QY*  
City: WASHINGTON FIELD, DC WF  
Form: LF 09-28-90  
Bufile No: 183-  
Contributors No: 183-1155 - A

Subject:  
HOFFEX,

Remarks:

Status 1 Status 2 Status 3 Category: 1  
Trial Importance Doc\Sp Complex Volume Await Evid Buded: 10-22-90  
Ack Type: 7- Principal Unit: *b7A*SFO UC

Examiner(s)	7 Symbols	Evid./Exams	Date Delv	7	Date Ret	Dict Date	Partial/Final Date(s)
<i>b7C</i>	<i>QY</i>	<i>b7A</i>					

Q K 1 Items Evidence ret:  
Resub? *NO* Request? NO  
Call when ready? *b7A* EXT  
Q tabs? YES *NO* Print 2 Assignment Card(s)

Previous Submission(s):  
00928034 S ~~ITEMS~~ ~~UNAVAILABLE - SEE PRIOR PE~~ ~~QS~~ ~~KS~~ *cancelled*  
DETROIT MI DE TT 09-17-90  
00911023 S ~~UNAVAILABLE - SEE PRIOR PE~~  
DETROIT MI DE AT 09-05-90

*KI* *b7A* *b7C* *b7D*  
*Work sheet & cards pls. thank* *b7C*  
Parcel Method and No: EW-FTU\PD  
Received In ECC: 09-28-90 *b7C*  
SFO, RM 3266  
ECC, RM 3233  
M 3787  
WPC, RM 3431

FBI LABORATORY  
Washington, D. C.



Date 9/23/90  
Time 11 AM

EVIDENCE ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Received from [REDACTED] b7C of the  
(Name and Title)

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
(Department or Agency)

1100 Hall Street S.W. WDC 20535  
(Address)

[REDACTED] b7C  
(Phone Number)

1 box(es), ✓ bag(s),    envelope(s),    vial(s),    object(s)  
of sealed evidence for examination in connection with case number 100-155  
entitled HOFFA

Evidence Should Be  
☐ Mailed Back  
☒ Picked Up By Contributor

This evidence will remain in the custody of the FBI Laboratory while the examinations are being conducted. Following completion of the examinations, a report containing the results of the examinations and the disposition of the evidence will be forwarded to your department. If evidence is picked up personally, your representative should identify it with the Laboratory case number(s) assigned in the FBI Laboratory report.

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

FBI/DO

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA  
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Page 2723

Evidence

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA  
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5 Pages were not considered for release as they are duplicative of 281A-DE-67821 serial 858  
(Pages 1703-1707)

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

9-HQ-00052 serial 2943

(Pages 2724-2728)

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X for this page X  
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XXXXXX



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 : DIRECTOR, FBI **b7c**  
 (Attn: SSA [REDACTED] O.C./Drug  
 Operational Section II,  
 LCN/IOC/Labor Unit)  
 FROM : SAC **HWH** DETROIT (281A-DE-67821) (P) (C-8)  
 SUBJECT : **H**HOFFEX  
 OC/DI - LCN - DETROIT FAMILY  
 (OO: DETROIT)

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  
 JMF:brs  
 (4)

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

ENCLOSURE

1/28/93  
 1/28/93  
 1/28/93

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_ (Number) (Time) Per \_\_\_\_\_

HOFFA, Page 2729

ENCLOSURE

HOFFA, Page 2730

(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:

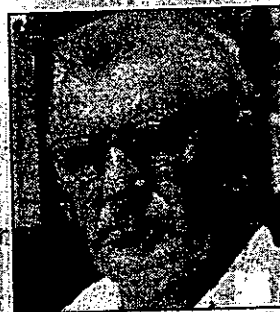
(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

**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) Lintean**

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. Lintean discovered Hoffa's abandoned car.

**HOFFA, Page 2731**

12

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."



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.

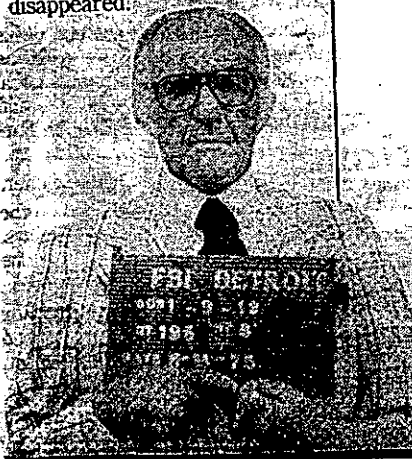


**Charles (Chuckie) O'Brien**  
Teamsters organizer in Detroit and longtime aide to Hoffa, whom he sometimes called Dad. Had a falling out with Hoffa and was preparing to take a union post in Florida when Hoffa disappeared.



**Anthony (Tony Jack) Giacalone**

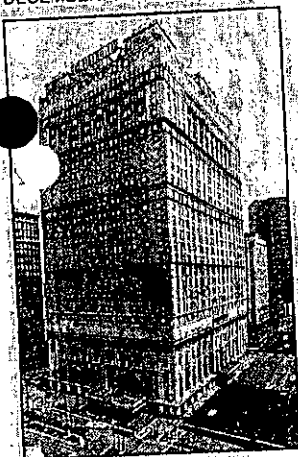
On the day he vanished, Hoffa told several people he was going to meet this reputed Detroit mob boss. Giacalone was a visible presence most of the afternoon in Southfield.



In 1971, Teamsters President Frank Fitzsimmons, left, tried to get the imprisoned Jimmy Hoffa a presidential pardon.

DECEMBER 19, 1992 •

## 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



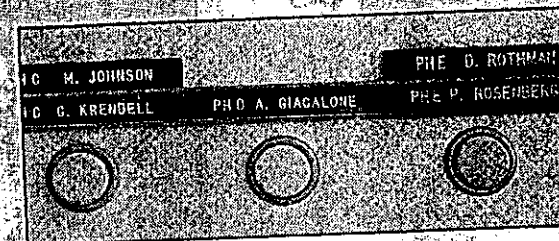
3

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.

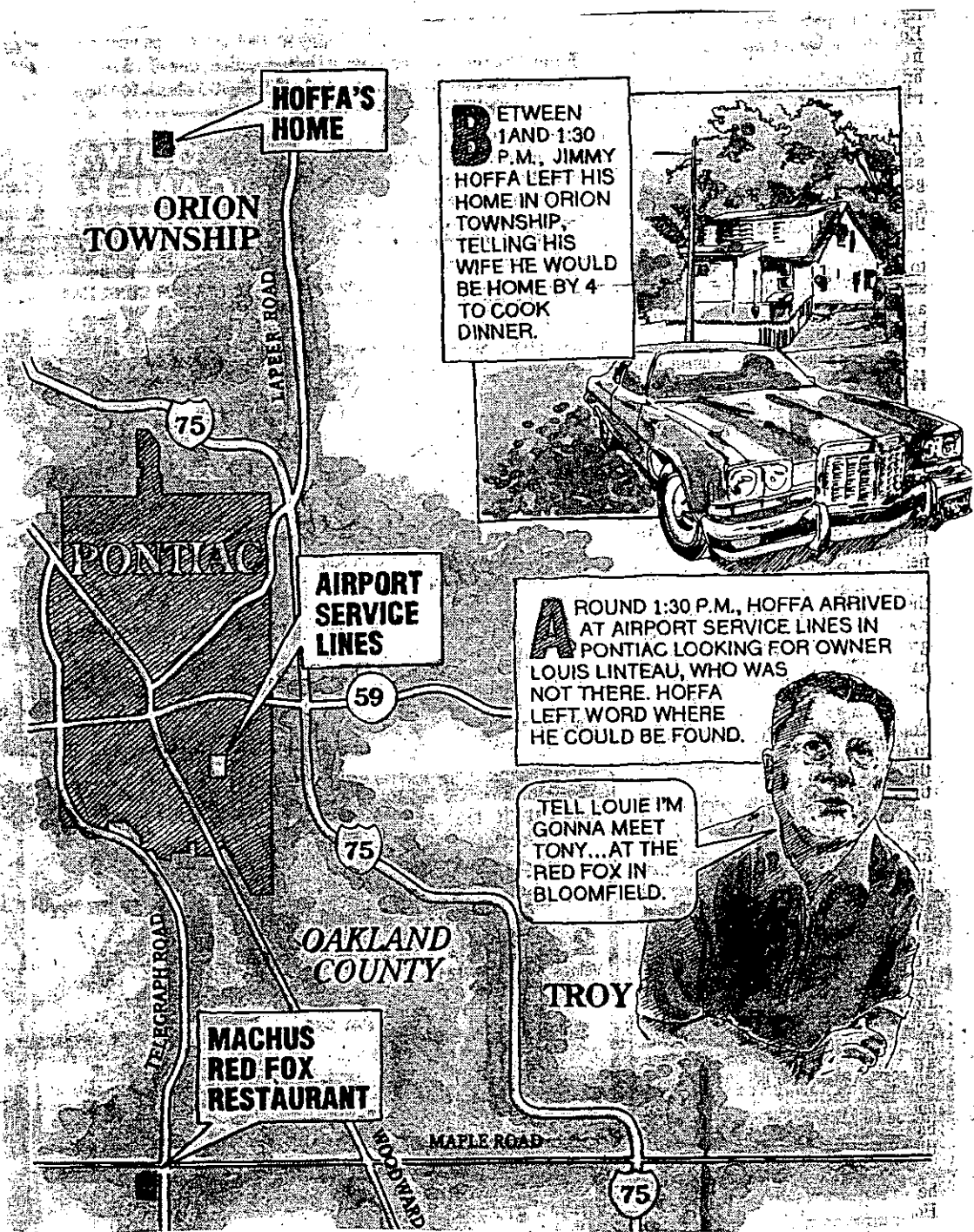


6

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.











Free Press file photos  
Teamsters President Jimmy Hoffa, left center, is greeted by Anthony Provenzano, right center, and other Teamsters in Newark, N.J., in 1959.

# HOFFA

## THE SECRET FILES

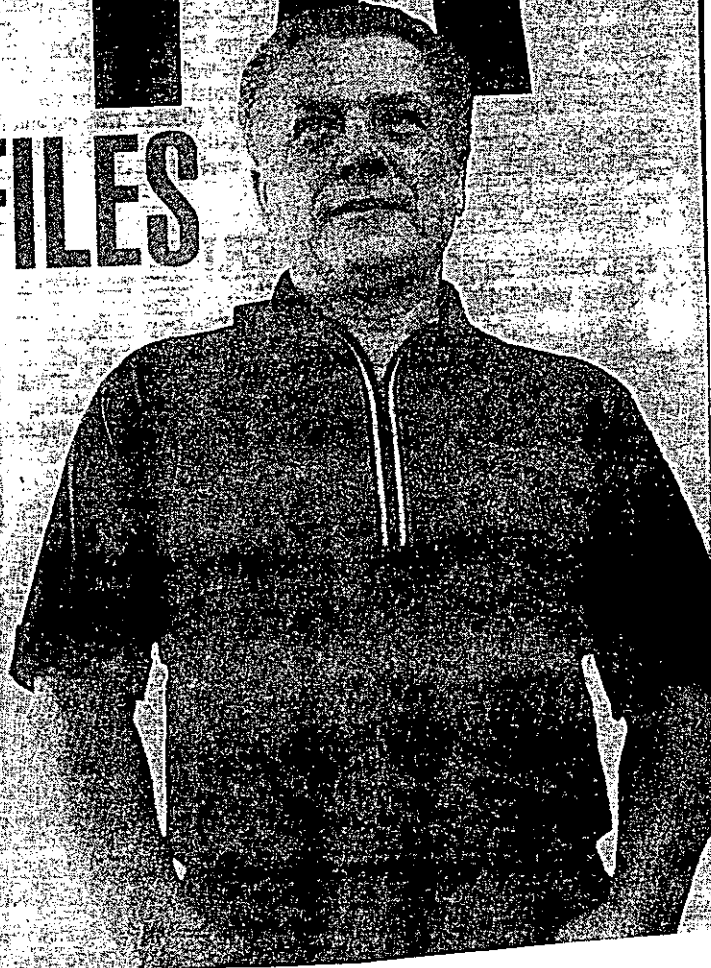
The  
mystery  
changed  
lives,  
families  
and the  
American  
labor  
movement  
forever.

**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

**O**ver 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.

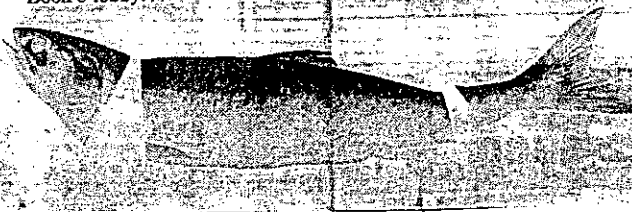
"The mayor always enjoyed people with a wide life experience," said Malcolm Dade, then a mayoral aide, who joined Young and Hoffa for the meeting on July 29, 1975. "He wouldn't have much to say to the queen of England, but Jimmy Hoffa certainly had experience."

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.



**Michigan Department of State Police**  
**ORIGINAL COMPLAINT REPORT**

County: **Oakland**  
Township: **Bloomfield**  
City or Village: **Bloomfield**

File No.: **7-1441-75**  
Date: **7-30-75**  
Time: **10:00 A.M.**

Investigation by: **Det. Joseph Koenig**

Approved by: **D/Lt. Delbert Cody**

☒ UNFOUNDED ☐ CLOSED BY ARREST ☐ SERVICE APPROVED ☐ OTHER

**OCU - INTELLIGENCE - DETROIT**

Complainant: **Captain James Keller, Bloomfield Twp. Police Dept.**

Subject: **Captain James Riddle Hoffa, missing**

**MISSING**

**JAMES RIDDLE HOFFA**, address 1614 Ray Court, Lake Orion, Michigan. He is 5'5", 180 lbs. Mr. HOFFA was born in Brazil, Indiana on 2-14-13. He has black hair, blue-gray eyes.

**TIME & DATE LAST SEEN:**

The victim was last heard from at approximately 3:30 P.M. on 7-10-75. He was last seen at an unconfirmed time of 2:40 P.M. in front of the **NACHUS RED FOX RESTAURANT**, address 6876 Telegraph Road, Bloomfield Township, Michigan. The below named witnesses advised they talked to Mr. HOFFA and that they recognized him from prior contacts. Mr. HOFFA appeared to the witnesses as though he were waiting for someone to pick him up.

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.

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 Giacalone 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 hand-picked successor as union president, and now his rival for power. Fitzsimmons had helped O'Brien get the Flori-

See HOFFA, Page 13A

"I'll cut."



"You wrap."

# 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, working-man'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 weeks 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 Giacalone 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.

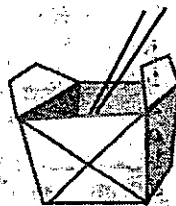
"That dirty son of a bitch Tony Jocks set this meeting up, and he's an hour and a half late," Hoffa said.

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.

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.



**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.**

"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.



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# HOFFA

## THE SECRET FILES



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.

**P**aroled 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.

**SECOND  
OF THREE  
PARTS**

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

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# 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.

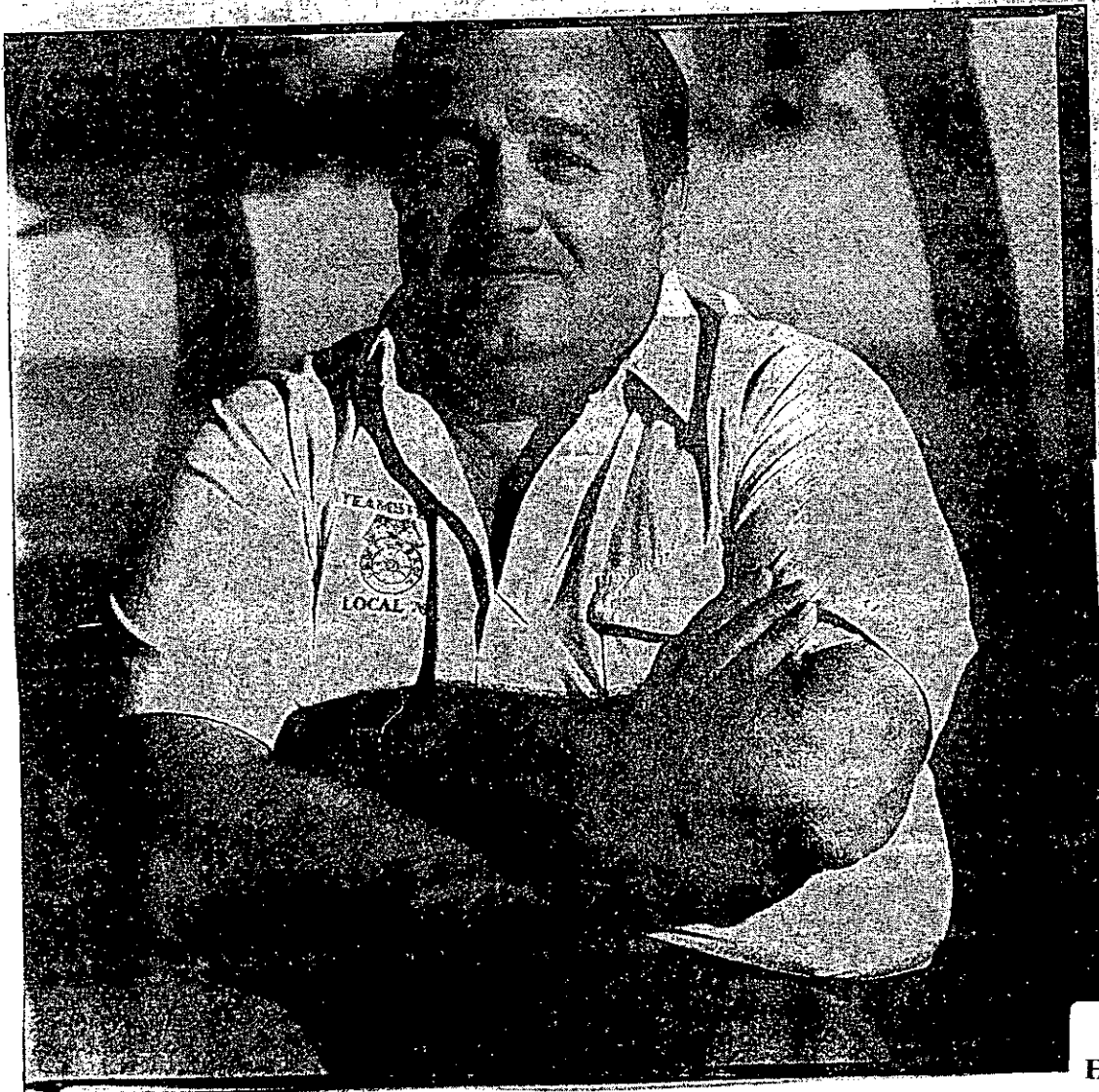


### Frank Fitzsimmons

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.

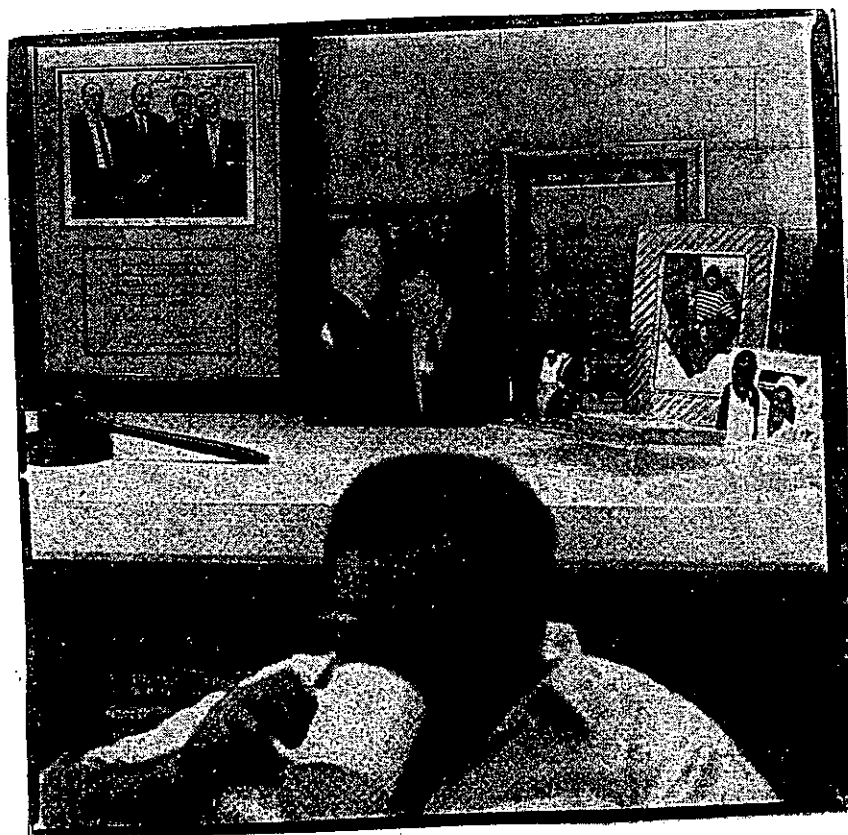


**Jimmy Hoffa**  
confers with  
**Frank Fitzsimmons**  
during a  
Teamsters  
convention  
in Miami  
Beach in  
1966.

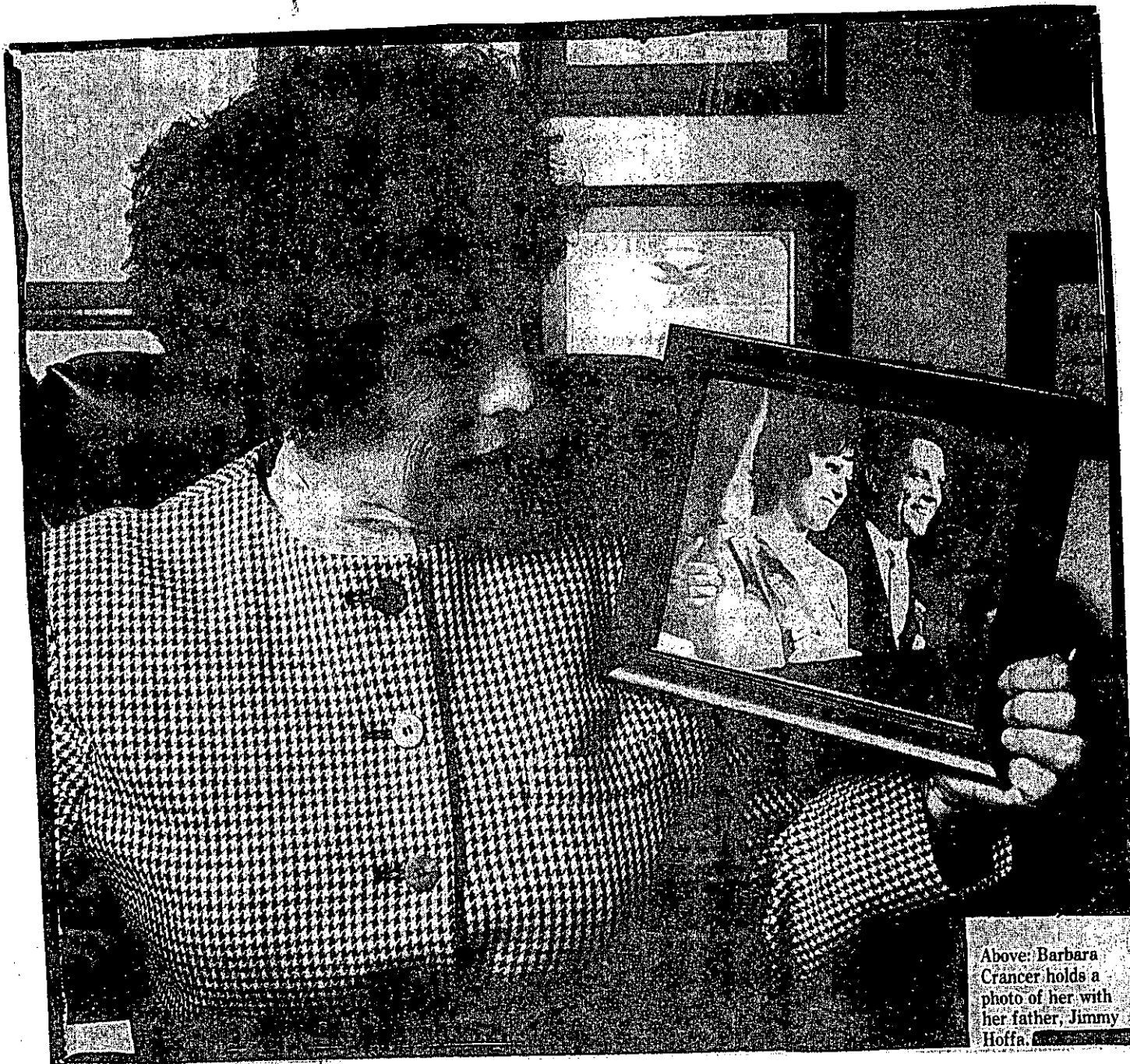




James Hoffa  
grilled O'Brien  
about his  
whereabouts  
the day that  
Jimmy Hoffa  
disappeared



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.



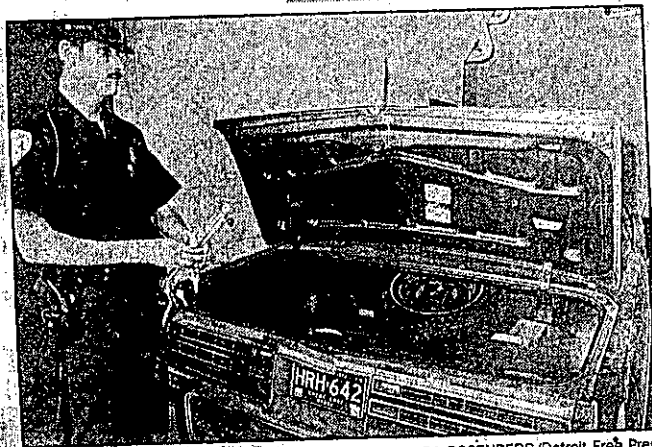
Above: Barbara Crancer holds a photo of her with her father, Jimmy Hoffa.



## 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

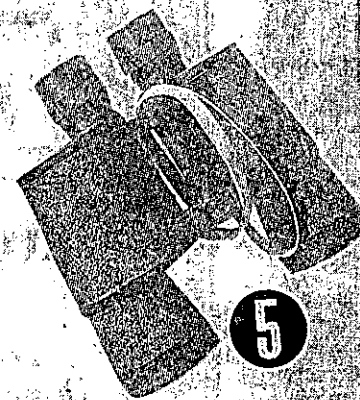
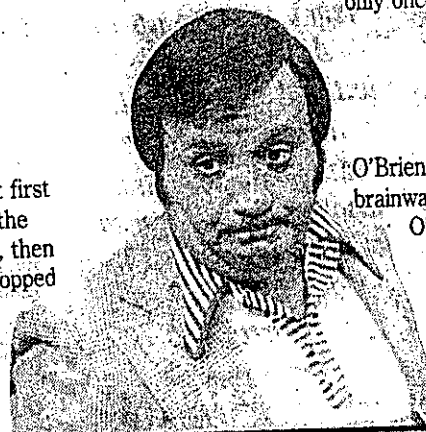
A horde of reporters descend on the Hoffa property on Square Lake. The first word from police is "no reason to suspect foul play," but speculation is rampant that Hoffa was kidnapped and killed.

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.

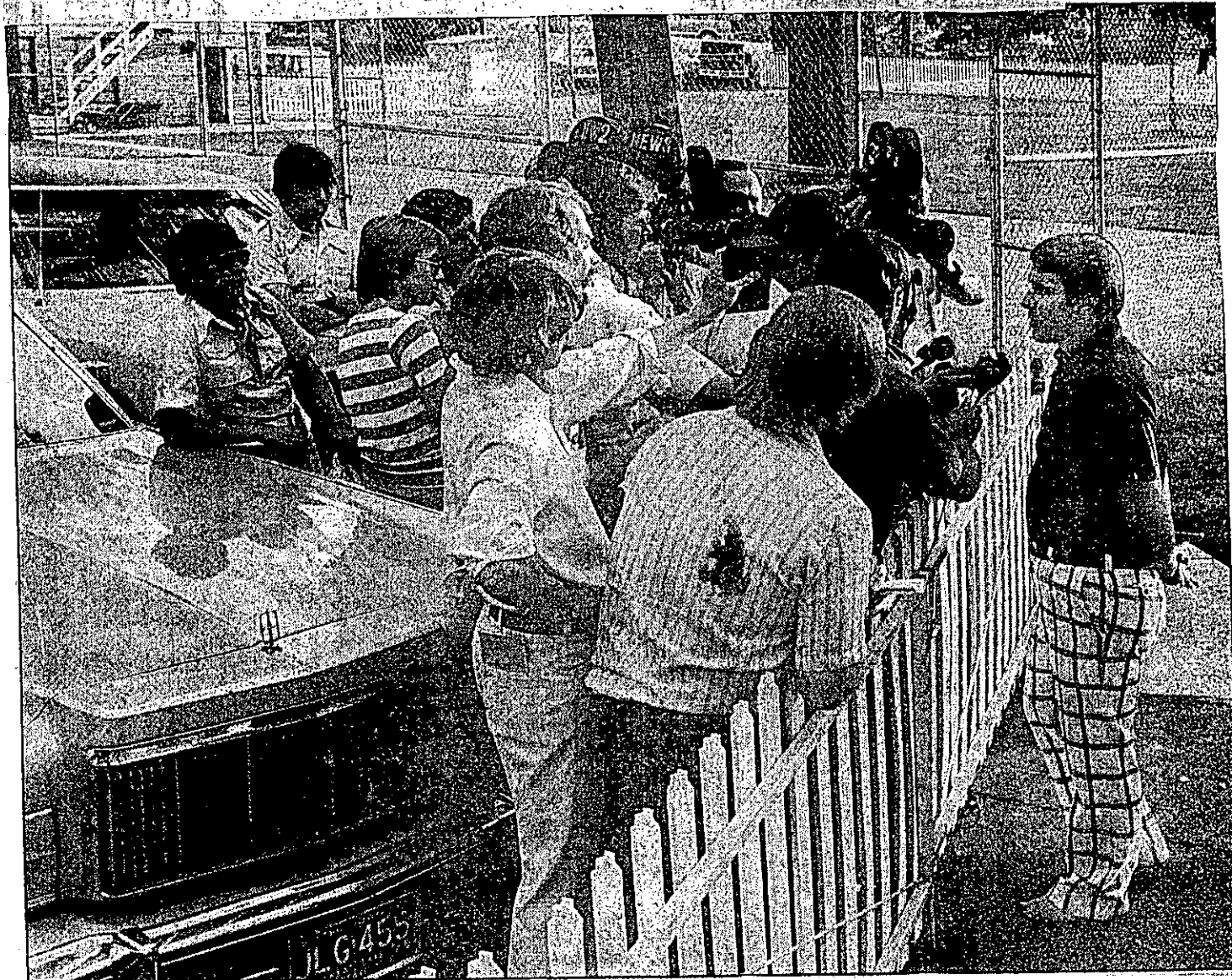
6

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, Page 2750

# HOFFA

## THE SECRET FILES



BY JACK KRESNAK AND JOE SWICKARD  
Free Press Staff Writers  
© 1992, Detroit Free Press

**“W**hat 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 Giacalone. 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 Lintean at his Pontiac office.

Lintean's secretary had to bring in extra chairs to accommodate all the cops who filled Lintean'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 Lintean.

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.

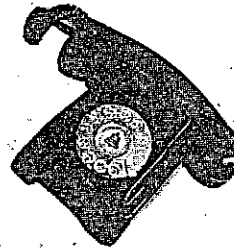
"How did he get to rub elbows with Hoffa and the rest of these guys?" Quarles asked himself. "We're talking about mob connections and a lot of big names and Louis Lintean. Who the hell is Louis Lintean?"

"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, Lintean also let drop the name of Charles O'Brien. He told the police that everyone knew O'Brien as Chuckie.

Lintean had left a message for



**On Aug. 3,  
young Hoffa's  
private, unlisted  
telephone rang.  
"You're next,"  
someone said,  
and hung up.**

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 Giacalone 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 Giacalone two weeks ago.

He said the Giacalone 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.

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.

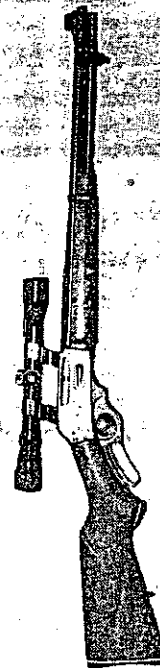
O'Brien got to the cottage about 4 a.m.

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 had all the lights on and a .30-.30 rifle slung across his lap. Nobody was going to pull anything with him around.

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 Giacalone 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 Giacalone, 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 Giacalone 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 protegee 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.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Hoffa's children want FBI to open up

BY JOE SWICKARD  
Free Press Staff Writer

**T**he 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."**

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

Date: 12/20/92

Edition: The Detroit Free Press  
5G

Title: HOFFEX

Character: 281A-DE-67821  
or

Classification:  
Submitting Office: Detroit Division

Indexing:

HOFFA, Page 2755

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 notwithstanding, 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?"

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

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

The Detroit Free Press  
1ADate: 12/21/92  
Edition:

Title: HOFFEX

Character: 281A-DE-67821  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: Detroit

Indexing:

**HOFFA**  
**THE SECRET FILES**

**J**immy 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.**

# 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 natural causes in 1978 at age 64 in 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 Local 560, whose body never was found.

**Vito (Billy Jack) Giacalone**

He served time in prison for 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.

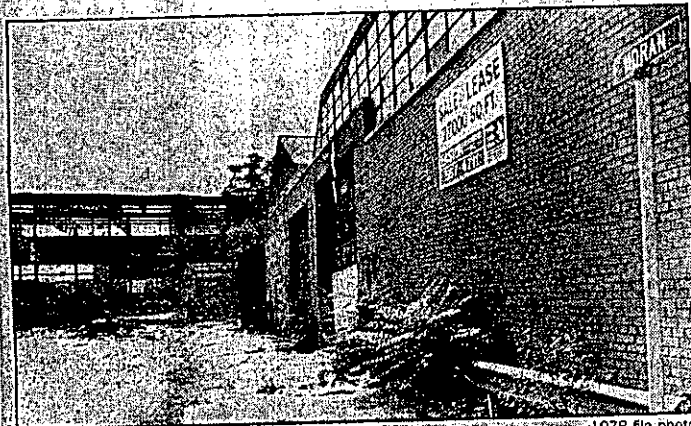
**Bob Neumann**

He is an FBI agent in West Palm Beach, Fla.

**Bob Garrity**

He is an FBI agent in Pittsburgh, Fla.

## CHAIN OF EVENTS



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."



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 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.

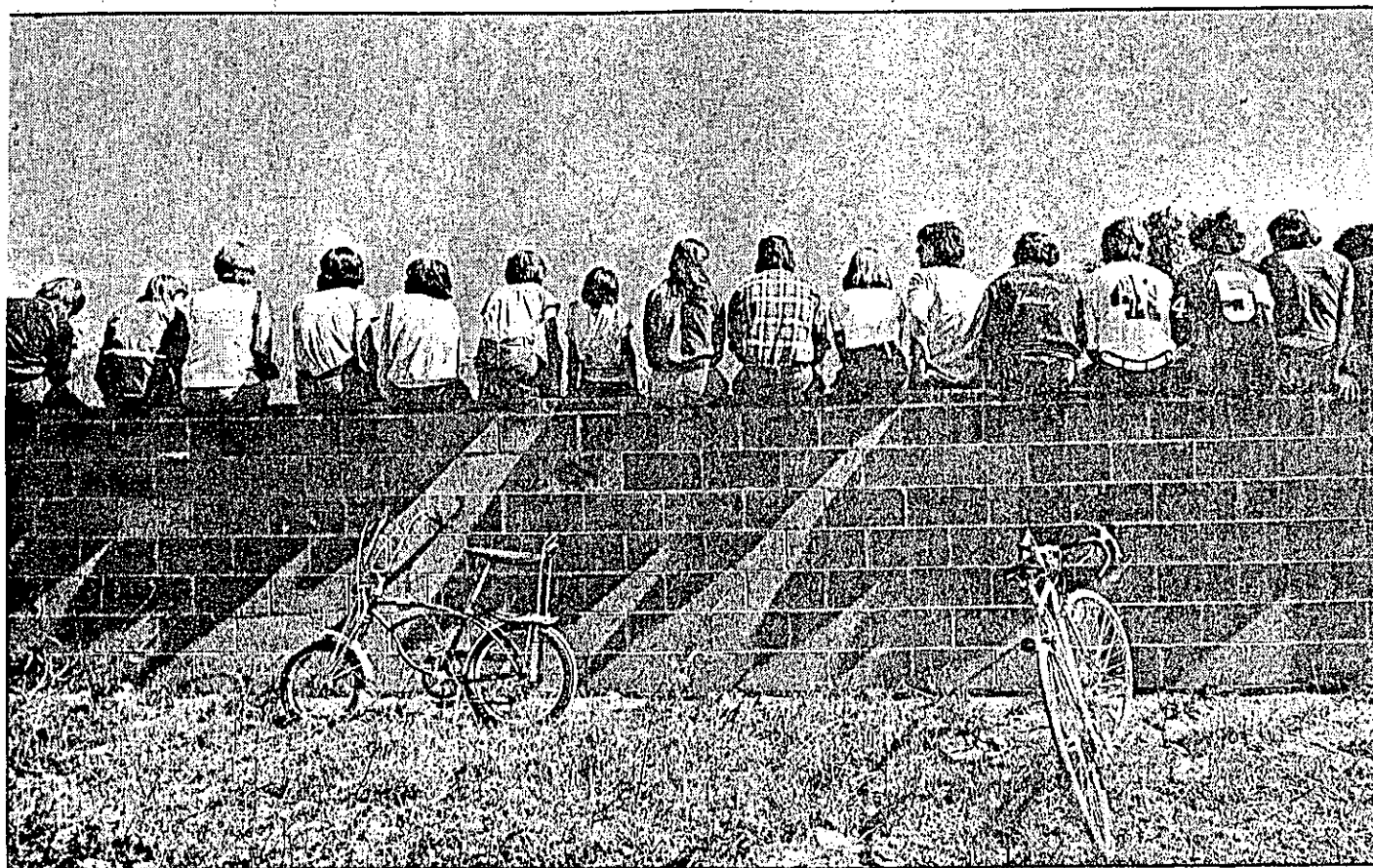




1975 file photo

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.



A \$200,000 reward prompted residents to search, too. These women found water, but no body.

## THE BODY IT PROBABLY NEVER LEFT

**T**he 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.

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 half-way 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 Giacalone's 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 post-script.

"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 Hasbuck 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.



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 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.

# ANOTHER LEAD TO NOWHERE

BY JACK KRESNAK AND JOE SWICKARD  
Free Press Staff Writers  
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**W**ally 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 ground work 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."

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9-HQ-60052 Serial 2945

(Pages 2768-2770)

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(pages 1677-1682)

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9-HQ-6002 serial 2946 (pages 2771-2776)

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TO DIRECTOR FBI/DOJ/DETROIT

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CITE: 7/322077

PASS: SSA [REDACTED] ORGANIZED CRIME/DRUG OPERATIONAL

SECTION II, LOU/DOJ/LABOR UNIT/FAIR; SSA [REDACTED]

DIVISION.

SUBJECT: CANTAX; DOJ DETROIT (251A-05-58545); REFEX; DOJ

DETROIT (251A-05-67024).

RE NUMEROUS TELEPHONE CALLS RE: DETROIT SSA [REDACTED]

AND SSA [REDACTED] OF THE LOU/DOJ/LABOR UNIT ON

FEBRUARY 23 - 24, 1993. TELEPHONE CALLS FROM DETROIT SAC

WELTERHOFF TO [REDACTED] FEBRUARY 23 - 24, 1993.

b7c [REDACTED]

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[Handwritten signatures and initials]

PAGE TWO DE FBI OF 0008 UNCLAS E F T

TELEPHONE CALLS FROM DETROIT A SAC STAFFED IN TL [REDACTED]

ON FEBRUARY 23 - 24, 1993.

AS THE BUREAU [REDACTED] AGE A AGE, AT APPROXIMATELY 10:00  
A.M., ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1993, DETROIT LEARNED THAT

PREPARE [REDACTED]

BETWEEN [REDACTED]

DUE TO [REDACTED]

AS REQUESTED TO FURNISH

ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1993, DE RIT ELECTRONICALLY  
TRANSMITTED THE [REDACTED] TO FBIHQ AND TO DOJ. THIS

IN THE [REDACTED]

b7A  
b7C



PAGE THREE OF FBIDE 0008 UNCLAS E F T

EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN AT APPROXIMATELY 6:20 P.M., ON

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

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b7C

DETROIT IS

AUTHORIZED TO CONTINUE THIS

OR [REDACTED] FBIHQ WILL BE

KEPT ADVISED OF ALL NEW DEVELOPMENTS.

DETROIT SAC WOULD LIKE TO THANK [REDACTED]

AND FBIHQ FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING EFFORTS IN MAKING THIS

[REDACTED] POSSIBLE IN LESS THAN 24 HOURS AFTER

DETROIT RECEIVED INFORMATION CONCERNING [REDACTED]

PAGE FOUR DE FBIDE 0009 INCREASE F T J  
TRANSMITTED AND WAS PROCEEDING THROUGH CHANNELS. [REDACTED]

TOGETHER A SURVEILLANCE TEAM, TO INCLUDE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] DURING THIS SAME TIME FRAME, A DETROIT  
SURVEILLANCE TEAM, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] IT IS EFFORTS LIKE THIS  
THAT MAKES THE FBI THE PREEMINENT LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY IN  
THE WORLD.

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9-40-60052 Serial 2948

(Pages 2781-2782)

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2 Pages were not considered for release as they are duplicative of 281A-DE-67821 serial 900  
(Pages 2068-2069)

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9-HQ-60052 serial 295 (Pages 2781-2789)

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Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☐ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☐ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☐ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

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2 Pages were not considered for release as they are duplicative of 281A-DE-67821 serial 934  
(pages 2117-2118)

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9-HQ-60052 serial 2952 (Pages 2790-2791)

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FM FBI KNOXVILLE (281A-DE-67821) (RUC)

TO DIRECTOR FBI/PRIORITY/

FBI DETROIT/PRIORITY/

FBI NEW ORLEANS/PRIORITY/

BT

UNCLAS

CITE: //3370//

SUBJECT: HOFFEX; OO:DE.

RE DETROIT TELETYPE, 5/25/93, TO DIRECTOR, AFO,  
REQUESTING AFO TO PERFORM LOGICAL LOCAL CHECKS IN AN EFFORT TO  
DETERMINE CURRENT LOCATION OF JOSEPH KENNETH FRANCE, WHO  
ADMITTED ON NATIONAL TELEVISION PROGRAM "CURRENT AFFAIR" TO  
BEING INVOLVED IN THE DISAPPEARANCE AND MURDER OF JIMMY HOFFA.

KNOXVILLE HAS DETERMINED THAT JOSEPH KENNETH FRANCE  
CHANGED HIS NAME IN AUGUST 1962 TO JOSEPH FRANCE KENNEY.

9-60052-297 *[Handwritten signature]*

PAGE TWO DE FBIKX 0009 UNCLAS

PRESENTLY JOSEPH KENNETH FRANCE, 1230 ST. ANDREW STREET,  
APARTMENT B, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, IS DRAWING SOCIAL  
SECURITY BENEFITS. THE SSAN BENEFITS ARE IN THE NAME JOSEPH  
FRANCES, SSAN NUMBER 215-12-9052, AND BEING DIRECT DEPOSITED  
INTO SAVINGS ACCOUNT NUMBER 601519256, FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF  
COMMERCE, P. O. BOX 61033, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA.

LEAD. NEW ORLEANS DIVISION. AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA.

DISCRETELY DETERMINE IF JOSEPH KENNETH FRANCE, ALSO KNOWN  
AS JOSEPH FRANCE KENNEY IS RESIDING AT 1230 ST. ANDREW STREET,  
APARTMENT B, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, AND UTILIZING SAVINGS  
ACCOUNT NUMBER 601519256 FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE, NEW  
ORLEANS, LOUISIANA. UPON VERIFYING ABOVE INFORMATION, ADVISE  
DETROIT DIVISION.

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Section 552

Section 552a

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2 Pages were not considered for release as they are duplicative of 281A-DE-67821 serial 944  
(pages 2130-2131)

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9-HQ-60052 serial 2954 (Pages 2794-2795)

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1 Pages were not considered for release as they are duplicative of 281A-DE-67821 serial 928  
(page 2110)

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9-HQ-60052 serial 2955 (Page 2796)

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Section 552

Section 552a

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(pages 2103-2104)

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9-HQ-60052 Serial 2956 (Pages 2797-2798)

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(page 2105)

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9-HQ-60052 Serial 2957 (Page 2799)

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Section 552

Section 552a

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(page 2127)

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9-HQ-60052 serial 2958

(Page 2800)

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