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TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (29-31889)

FROM : SAC, CHICAGO (29-1999) (P)

SUBJECT: JAMES RIDDLE ^HHOFFA;
DOMINICK EDWARD BARTONE, aka.;
ET AL
FRA; Etc.
OO: DETROIT

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10-18-94 BY SP8 MAC/KSC
(JFIC)

Enclosed for the Bureau, Detroit and Memphis are 4, 2 and 2 copies respectively of a LHM containing a transcript of a tape made by an Edwards pocket recorder worn by ROBERT C. MEISSNER during his meeting with JOSEPH VERHELLE in Detroit on 1/10/64. The recorder apparently did not operate properly as it varied in speed and also much of the conversation was inaudible.

Detroit and Memphis should disseminate a copy of the enclosed LHM to WILLIAM FRENCH and WALTER J. SHERIDAN respectively.

For the information of Detroit and Memphis, Chicago has obtained another Edwards pocket recorder from the Cleveland Office which will be used in the event of future meetings between MEISSNER and VERHELLE.

The original and 2 dub tapes are being forwarded by separate cover to the Bureau with the request that the Bureau attempt to bring out the inaudible portions of the tape on Bureau equipment.

- 3 - Bureau (Encls. 4)
- 2 - Detroit (29-1432) (Encls. 2)
- 2 - Memphis (72-43) (Encls. 2)
- 1 - Chicago ^{cc to} Criminal Division

REC 7 29-31889-916
29

JAN 22 1964

GTJ:MAQ
(8) Attention: Mr. Walter J. Sheridan

Room 2509

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____

CC: Wick Special Agent in Charge

1 - returned Spec. Del. Home - retained cc destroyed
3-2-65 EFK/Ker

ENCLOSURE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Chicago, Illinois
January 17, 1964

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

JAMES RIDDLE HOFFA;
DOMINICK EDWARD BARTONE;
ET AL.

The following is the transcription of a tape made by an Edwards binaural pocket tape recorder worn by Robert C. Meissner during his meeting with Joseph Verhelle in Detroit, Michigan, on January 10, 1964:

"This is Special Agent William F. Hood, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Chicago, Illinois. I have just installed a tape recording device on the person of Mr. Robert C. Meissner at his residence in Hinsdale, Illinois, and this date January 10, 1964, at approximately 6:30 A.M.

Long inaudible conversation

. . . . that \$200,000 a year is a hell of a lot of money to pay out for

(V) I have an attorney who is probably the best attorney in town.

(V) I sent him a letter

Inaudible conversation

(M) That's a wonderful bank

Did they do a favor for somebody or something

Long inaudible conversation

(V) It can only happen in Detroit

More inaudible conversation

I don't have that kind of money

More inaudible conversation

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10-18-96 BY SP8 MAC/KSR

(JFK)

JAMES RIDDLE HOFFA;
DOMINICK EDWARD BARTONE;
ET AL

(M) . . . Do they have that kind of money . . .

(V) . . . They don't have that kind of money . . .

Inaudible

(M) As a director you're liable . . .

Inaudible

(M) In other words by giving them this letter

(M) You're putting them on notice . . .

(V) We're putting them on notice . . .

Inaudible

(M) I just wondered . . . you know if

(V) . . . Sully Sherone our attorney,
he told me that he had seen Jimmy of course they were
on this negotiation and he is the one who told me
about . . . that they're moving down to Chattanooga and . . .
from the work we've done in that state, knowing that state
. . . I don't see how he's gonna get a fix in there. I
just don't know. This is the toughest one he's ever had.

Inaudible

(V) . . . Jimmy's head attorney

(V) . . . That's the fellow from town here.

(M) Oh, he's from Detroit . . .

Inaudible

(V) . . . and he had just come back . . . this was before they got
the move . . . they're all scared to death

Inaudible

JAMES RIDDLE HOFFA;
DOMINICK EDWARD BARTONE;
ET AL

(M) Well, I'm not sure that that isn't actually gonna be the route cause . . . working as we did . . . that's a practical state . . . and on the other hand I've never seen, you know you talk about clannishness up in New Hampshire or the clannishness out on say North Shore in Chicago. Those people are all related to each other and unless you're in, you're out. Now that would be true. . they wouldn't like Jimmy but they're not gonna like Bobby either.

(M) One thing that concerns me though is when we talked in Washington and talked about the possibility of Chicago and so on . . .

(M) I can't see how it's gonna do one darn bit of good to have the fix in Chicago. If he gets convicted in Tennessee, because from Tennessee it comes to Chicago and with a recent felon, he's had it. No matter how much your Judge might help . . . because under those circumstances . . . it's just too soon. .

Inaudible

(M) . . . At least we can keep track of it in Chicago because we'll be in a position to help . . . apparently they're just not sure that the one down South is right on the line . . .

Inaudible

(V) I don't think it's helped him a lot to get it moved.

(M) Well, I think as a matter of fact it's probably hurt because . . . little town . . .

(M) Sort of a home town thing where everybody knows everybody and there is certainly no industry there compared to Nashville . . . law of averages get friendlier . . .

Inaudible

(M) . . . and anybody that's on the bench down there is gonna listen . . . which is from that point of view a practical thing but it bothers me cause he's gotta come out of Tennessee without a conviction otherwise when he comes to Chicago . . .

JAMES RIDDLE HOFFA;
DOMINICK EDWARD BARTONE;
ET AL

Inaudible.

(M) I think that it could be done, I really do . . . ah . . . and it can be done fast but . . . ah . . . if they're gonna move, they gotta move and move fast.

. . . true . . .

(V) It can't be done by Jimmy, it's got to be done by somebody
(M) else that's in an entirely different industry, you as a banker or somebody like myself as an engineer

(M) I agree absolutely . . . it better be somebody . . . that can . . . other reason to be talking to these people . . . have nothing to do with the situation down in Chattanooga at all but . . . ah . . . I think it can be done but it costs money.

(V) Like, any idea?

(M) Well, I would just guess, I would think that . . . ah . . . to delude the top guy would cost a quarter of a million bucks. Maybe even half a million. Campaign contributions I don't think they're interested in. I think they'd be interested in real money. Maybe . . . on a COD basis, that way you know somebody doesn't get paid before they get . . . ah . . . cause they work on the honor system down there anyway, they always have . . . but that the only way . . . the reason I know is that even though we have this bankruptcy in . . . all kinds of interstate highway stuff and you have to be qualified . . . qualified . . . so . . . and they just sit down and say well okay . . . they're looking for cash . . . you're in the country or out of it, they don't care but that's it. No hitches, no problems.

Inaudible

(M) You think you can get them to come up with that money

(M) Did you ever talk to Jimmy about this

JAMES RIDDLE HOFFA;
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ET AL

Inaudible

(M) You didn't tell him ah who . . .

(V) I didn't tell anything . . .

(M) As to who I am . . .

Inaudible . . .

. . . that makes sense . . .

Inaudible . . .

Is that right . . .

Well, I suppose so . . .

Long inaudible conversation

The tape recorder was concealed on Meissner's person by Special Agent William F. Hood prior to Meissner flying to Detroit and was removed immediately upon his return to O'Hare International Airport where he was met by Special Agents William F. Hood and Gale T. Johnson at approximately 2:40 P.M., CST, January 10, 1964. Upon removal of the recorder, it was noted that the supply reel of the recorder had been completely emptied.

The prefix (M), for Meissner, and (V), for Verhelle, were used to identify the person speaking wherever identification was possible.

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