

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

November 8, 1935.

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: Interlocking of the Dillinger and Barker - Karpis Gangs.

The files in the Barker - Karpis and Dillinger cases disclose the following interesting information with regard to the close contact between members of the Dillinger gang and members of the Barker - Karpis gang:

Alvin Karpis consorted with Dolores Delaney, while Tommy O'Carroll, of the Dillinger gang, consorted with the sister of Dolores Delaney, namely, Jean Delaney. As a matter of interest to you, it is also noted that the third Delaney sister is the wife of Albert "Pat" Reilly who was also a Dillinger gangster.

The files disclose that both gangs had mutual contacts with Harry Sawyer in St. Paul, Minnesota, it being remembered that Harry Sawyer took the place of Dapper Dan Logan, who was murdered in gangland fashion. The Barkers had their contacts with Harry Sawyer for a considerable period prior to the advent of John Dillinger. The manner in which Dillinger made his contact with Harry Sawyer is not known, but it will be remembered that very definite information has been obtained that Homer Van Meter, Tommy Carroll, "Pat" Reilly and other members of the Dillinger gang were very friendly with Harry Sawyer.

Both gangs had mutual contacts with Louie Ceronaky, of Fox River Grove, Illinois. Ceronaky is perhaps the most notorious harbinger of dangerous criminals who has ever come to the attention of the Bureau. Caroline Corder, a former employee of Louie Ceronaky, has given the Bureau splendid information with regard to members of these two gangs being harbored by Louie Ceronaky. Similar information has been obtained from various members of the Barker - Karpis gang and also from Mrs. Frances Wash.

The two gangs also had mutual contacts with Joey and Bobby O'Brien, who are alleged to be the operators of the Hi Ho Club in Chicago, Illinois. It has been intimated from time to time that the O'Briens furnished members of the Barker - Karpis and also members of the Dillinger gangs with arms and ammunition. The Bureau has been unable to develop any specific information along this line.

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The two gangs also had mutual contacts with Tom ~~Brown~~, former Chief of Police at St. Paul, Minnesota. You will recall that ~~Baby Face Nelson~~ advised representatives of this Bureau that members of the Dillinger gang contributed substantial financial assistance to Tom Brown when he recently ran for election as sheriff of Ramsey County, of which St. Paul, Minnesota, is the county seat. Very positive information has also been obtained to the effect that Tom Brown on several occasions warned members of the Barker - Karpis gang to evacuate their apartments in anticipation of police raids. Brown also acted as an informer for members of the Barker - Karpis gang during the Bremer kidnaping period and was to receive a substantial portion of the ransom in payment for his services.

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The ~~Seafood Inn~~, near Elmhurst, Illinois, also appears to have been a place of mutual contacts for the two gangs. It will be remembered that after the shooting of John Hamilton in the vicinity of South St. Paul, Minnesota, on April 23, 1934, members of the Barker - Karpis gang and also members of the Dillinger gang met at the Seafood Inn where John Hamilton in a badly wounded condition was transferred from the automobile driven by Homer Van Meter to the automobile of Volney Davis and was then transported to the home of Volney Davis, 415 Post Street, Aurora, Illinois. Davis cared for Hamilton as best he could until Hamilton died on the night of April 26, 1934. Dillinger and Van Meter remained at the home of Davis during this period and did not leave his home until the night of April 29, 1934, after Davis had obtained an automobile through Elmer Farmer so that Dillinger and Van Meter could make a safe getaway. The persons burying Hamilton the night of April 26, 1935, were "Doc" Barker, Harry Campbell, John Dillinger, Homer Van Meter, William Weaver and Volney Davis.

Your attention is now directed to the close contact which Baby Face Nelson maintained with Frank G. Cochran, operator of the Air Service Garage, 241 South Virginia Street, Reno, Nevada. The presence of Baby Face Nelson in Reno, Nevada, to our knowledge, antedated that of members of the Barker - Karpis gang. Cochran was convicted and sentenced to a year and one day and to pay a \$2,000 fine on the charge of having harbored Lester Gillis. Investigation of the Bremer case in Reno, Nevada, disclosed that in November and December of 1933 members of the Barker - Karpis gang had their automobiles repaired at the Air Service Garage in Reno, Nevada. At the time this investigation was conducted, Frank Cochran identified the photographs of several members of the Barker - Karpis gang.

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You will also recall that Thomas Williams, alias Tobe Williams, of Vallejo, California, was convicted on the charge of having harbored Baby Face Nelson. In this connection your attention is directed to the fact that investigation in the Bremer case has disclosed that Alvin Karpis during February of 1933 had his tonsils removed at the hospital operated by Tobe Williams at Vallejo, California. This information was furnished by Williams voluntarily to an Agent of this Bureau. Williams has also advised that he became acquainted with Mrs. Kate Barker during the Spring of 1933 and that he visited with her at Lake Tahoe, Nevada. He also recalled having seen her on the street ~~and being introduced to her by~~ ^{in San Francisco,} ~~him~~, when she advised him that she was in California having her eyes treated. He disclaimed any knowledge of the Barker brothers and denied knowing that ~~Mr. Barker~~ was in any way related to the Barker boys.

It is interesting to note, however, that during the last days of September 1934, Baby Face Nelson, his wife and Fats ~~Negro~~ visited Tobe Williams at Vallejo, California, at which time Nelson asked Williams where he, Nelson, could get in touch with Freddie and Ray, undoubtedly referring to Fred Barker and Alvin Karpis. Tobe Williams told Nelson at that time if he, Nelson, would return in the Spring of 1935, he, Williams, would be able to arrange a contact between Nelson and Freddie and Ray. At this time Tobe Williams introduced Nelson to a stranger. Nelson later advised Fats Negro that this stranger was a good contact to get in touch with Freddie and Ray.

S - You will now recall that a .45 caliber Army automatic revolver which was found in the possession of William Weaver on September 1, 1935, at the time of his apprehension at Allendale, Florida, was obtained by Weaver, according to his own admission, from Tommy Carroll, deceased Dillinger gangster. Weaver alleged that he obtained this gun from Carroll more than a year ago.

Harry ~~Hull~~, presently confined in the Texas State Penitentiary and a former member of the Barker - Karpis gang when they were conducting depredations in St. Paul, Minnesota, has advised Agents of this Bureau that members of the Barker - Karpis gang were very friendly with the Graham - McKay outfit in Reno, Nevada. Investigation has also disclosed that members of the Barker - Karpis gang at several times after the Bremer kidnaping visited Reno, Nevada, with efforts being made to immediately dispose of some of the ransom money so that the gang would have some ready

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cash and discussing arrangements whereby "Doc" Barker and Fred Getz would fly to Reno in order to dispose of a certain quantity of the money. Getz declined to fly to Reno for this purpose since he was not known to the proper persons at that place. Getz failing to make the trip, "Doc" Barker flew to Reno and returned with approximately ten one thousand dollar bills. One of these one thousand dollar bills was found on Fred Getz on March 20, 1934, at the time of his violent death on the streets of Cicero, Illinois. This bill, according to Ed Murray was a mate to another one thousand dollar bill which Volney Davis had in his possession at the time of the death of Getz. Baby Face Nelson acted as chauffeur for William J. Graham, of Reno, Nevada. He frequently brought cars of Graham's to the Air Service Garage where they were repaired by mechanics hired by Frank B. Cochran. It has been intimated and is strongly believed by Agents who have conducted pertinent investigation that Roy John Frisch was done away by Baby Face Nelson and John Paul Chase due to the solicitation of William J. Graham in order to prevent Frisch from testifying against Graham in a mail fraud case which was to be heard in New York City.

When Eyrone Dolton was taken to the County Jail at Chicago, Illinois, in August of 1935, he advised that Karpis had a contact on the West Coast known as "Soap" and that he had often heard members of the Barker - Karpis gang speak of this person, "Soap". "Soap" is identical with Anthony "Soap" Moreno, who is considered to be a dangerous criminal on the West Coast and who was a harbinger of Baby Face Nelson. Moreno was sentenced to serve six months in the county jail on the charge of conspiracy to harbor Lester Joseph Gillis.

Respectfully,

H. E. McIntire.