

- 1 - Mr. Parsons
- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. CA Evans
- 1 - Name Check Section
- 1 - Mr. Menzel

January 30, 1961

EX-114  
 REC-77 161-277-3

JAN 31 3 37 PM '61  
 RECEIVED

Mr. P. Kenneth O'Donnell  
 Special Assistant to the President  
 The White House  
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. O'Donnell:

Reference is made to your request to Mr. C. A. Evans of this Bureau on January 24, 1961, for a name check concerning Thomas D'Alesandro.

Mr. D'Alesandro has not been investigated by the FBI. However, the files of this Bureau reveal the following information concerning Mr. D'Alesandro which has been furnished voluntarily to the FBI. It is not possible to comment concerning the accuracy or reliability of this type information.

A letterhead of the "National 'Americans All' Week," October 21 through October 28, 1941, under the auspices of the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born listed Congressman Thomas D'Alesandro, Maryland, as one of the sponsors of this observance. It was reported that this observance was held in honor of the contributions made by foreign born to the building of America and their important role in national defense. The American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450. (100-7046-120X) ✓

An undated mimeographed press release of the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born, 79 Fifth Avenue, New York City, announced the Sixth National Conference of that

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Parsons \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Malone \_\_\_\_\_
- McGuire \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- ROSEN \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Ingram \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_
- EVANS \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** See memorandum Scatterday to Belmont captioned "Thomas D'Alesandro; Information Concerning," dated 1-27-61, GHM:afb.

DELIVERED BY C.A. EVANS  
 DATE 2-1-61

GHM:jsb  
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Handwritten initials and signatures, including "GHM" and "jsb".

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organization to be held in Cleveland, Ohio, from May 9 to May 10, 1942. This release listed Congressman Thomas D'Alesandro as one of a large group of sponsors of this National Conference. (100-7046-144)

A confidential source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that the climax of the American-Soviet Friendship Week was a rally held at the Lyric Theater in Baltimore, Maryland, on November 18, 1943, under the auspices of the Baltimore Chapter of the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, Incorporated. The source advised that present on the stage on the occasion of this rally were Baltimore Mayor Theodore R. McKeldin, United States Senator George L. Radcliffe and Congressmen Daniel Ellison and Thomas D'Alesandro. The National Council of American-Soviet Friendship has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450. (100-146964-148 pp 28,29)

It was reported that on August 27, 1944, Italian Lodges 2517 and 2502 of the International Workers Order held a picnic at the Finnish Hall, 703 South Ponca Street, Baltimore, Maryland, at which the main speaker was Congressman D'Alesandro. The International Workers Order has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450. (100-3-8-191X pg. 10)

In 1944 an official of the Better Business Bureau, Baltimore, Maryland, advised that William Curran, reputed Democratic boss in that city, and Thomas D'Alesandro, the United States Congressman from Maryland's Third Congressional District, had used their influence with the Baltimore Police Department and local magistrates to hinder investigation and prosecution of crimes. This individual alleged that in one case, William J. Orsotti, a promoter of fraudulent schemes throughout the United States, had initiated activities in Baltimore, Maryland. It was alleged that investigation of Orsotti by the local police department was obstructed by Mr. D'Alesandro. It was also alleged that numerous weight shortages in Baltimore coal deliveries in violation of the Coal Ordinance were not prosecuted because of the influence of various coal dealers in East Baltimore who were said to be heavy contributors to Mr. D'Alesandro's political fund.

(62-75147-3 serial 3,  
Enc. pg. 15)

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In 1945 it was alleged that one Charles F. Cammarata had been able to get away with all sorts of criminal activities in Baltimore, Maryland, and had operated almost unmolested due to his friendship with and the protection of Congressman Thomas D'Alesandro. At that time, Cammarata was reported to be engaged in gambling activities in various dice and card games in Baltimore. (62-75147-3-8, Enc. pg. 10, 22)

In 1946 it was alleged that one "Bunny" Lignor had operated a gambling establishment at 29th Street and Greenmount Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland, which was then utilized as the United Cabmen's Social Club, Incorporated. In 1946 it was reported that this building was being used by Lignor as Bunny's Liquor Store and that the building itself was owned by Abe Berman, an insurance man closely connected with the insurance firm of McCullough and D'Alesandro. It was further alleged that Berman had been able to furnish protection to Lignor's activities through his contact with Thomas D'Alesandro, who was a partner in the above insurance firm. (62-75147-3-serial 13, Enc. pg. 26)

In 1947 a well-known civic leader in Baltimore Maryland advised that Thomas D'Alesandro was [redacted]

[redacted]  
Baltimore. (62-75147-3-26 Enc pg. 19)

In January, 1947, it was reported that Thomas D'Alesandro was a constant companion of John Cataneo; Benjamin Magliano, also known as Benny Trotta; and [redacted]. Magliano had been described as a Baltimore prize fight manager and gambler also engaged in the policy racket and bookmaking activities who had been questioned by the Baltimore Police on numerous occasions relative to various holdups, murders and other crimes. [redacted] was also described as a local gambler. It was reported that these individuals had worked hard for Thomas D'Alesandro's re-election to Congress and on his campaign at that time to become Mayor of Baltimore. It was stated that John Cataneo and Magliano during the time of this campaign were under Federal indictments for violation of the Selective Service Act and for fraud against the Government and were subsequently

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convicted in Federal court. Cataneo allegedly admitted giving large sums of money toward the Democratic campaign and stated that he would receive the sanitation contracts for Baltimore if Mr. D'Alesandro was elected mayor.

At that time it was also reported that applicants for positions in the Baltimore, Maryland, Police Department received preference for such positions after paying off Thomas D'Alesandro, who was said to be influential in the police department through William Curran. (62-75147-3-19 Enc. pg 21)

In 1947 it was reported that Mrs. William H. Baurenschmidt in a radio talk on the night before the primary election in Baltimore, Maryland, during that year had pointed out that she was opposed to Thomas D'Alesandro, candidate for mayor, because of his close association to James E. Pollack. She stated that Pollack had a criminal record consisting of fifty-four appearances in court and eighteen convictions. She reportedly recalled an untried murder case against Pollack which had been postponed from time to time and was finally nol-prossed by the State's Attorney. Mrs. Baurenschmidt also pointed out that Pollack had been denied a license to operate a liquor distillery by the Federal Government because of his criminal record. (62-75147-3-26 Enc pg. 20)

A former member of the Baltimore, Maryland, City Council, who was well acquainted with Thomas D'Alesandro, in 1947 advised that Mayor D'Alesandro was then in complete control of the Democratic Party organization of that city and had given a large part of the Mayor's patronage to James E. Pollack for his support in the mayoralty campaign. It was also reported that Pollack had become more powerful politically than William Curran, who for some years was considered the political boss of Baltimore. This individual further advised that the newspapers in Baltimore which supported D'Alesandro had quieted down in their objection to Pollack as a political leader because of Pollack's criminal record, in view of his connection with Thomas D'Alesandro. (62-75147-3-34 Enc pg 16)

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On his May 31, 1953, radio broadcast, Drew Pearson discussed how Mayor D'Alesandro [redacted]

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[redacted]

On September 8, 1953, an individual who was closely acquainted with Mayor Thomas D'Alesandro and his family, furnished the following information to this Bureau. He advised that [redacted]

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[redacted]

[redacted] near the home of Mayor D'Alesandro.

The above individual also advised that [redacted]

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[redacted]

[redacted] While he had no positive information to substantiate this allegation, he also believed [redacted]

During the Summer of 1953, Mayor D'Alesandro's son, Franklin Roosevelt D'Alesandro, aged twenty, was one of fourteen youths charged with having committed rape or perverted practices

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on two girls, aged eleven and thirteen, during July of that year. It was reported that Franklin Roosevelt D'Alesandro was the only one of twelve of those tried at that time who was successful in obtaining an acquittal. Following this acquittal, a Baltimore, Maryland, Grand Jury indicted Franklin Roosevelt D'Alesandro on charges of having committed perjury in that he had lied during the afore-mentioned trial on charges of rape. In addition, James H. Pollack, Baltimore City political boss, was reportedly also indicted on the charge of obstruction of justice in that he had attempted to influence testimony of several of the youthful defendants who had been tried with Franklin Roosevelt D'Alesandro. (62-75147-3-90 Enc. pg. 75, 76; Serial 92, Enc. pg. 77)

It was reported that Franklin Roosevelt D'Alesandro was tried on the above charge of perjury at Salisbury, Maryland, during 1954, following a change of venue, and was found not guilty.

In August, 1954, it was reported that Mayor Thomas D'Alesandro, because of adverse conditions arising out of his political and family life, had been hospitalized [redacted] on March 10, 1954. [redacted]

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Dominic Piracci was a contractor in Baltimore City [redacted] His company reportedly had been awarded approximately \$4,000,000 in construction contracts sponsored by the City Off-Street Parking Commission and Courthouse project. Piracci in April, 1954, was found guilty of conspiracy to defraud the city of \$42,996 in connection with the construction of an off-street parking garage in Baltimore. Piracci was also charged (and reportedly found guilty in April, 1954) with obstruction of

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justice in that he submitted to a Baltimore City Grand Jury a "completely phony" ledger to conceal \$33,000 in weekly payments to the Peoples Holding Corporation. Reportedly, officers of this corporation were also charged with conspiracy to defraud Baltimore City in an off-street parking garage contract and Piracci allegedly produced the authentic ledger of the above payments following the issuance of a second subpoena. (62-75147-3-92 Enc. pp. 31-33)

Sincerely yours,