



# ***Exploding The Phone***

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Bibliographic Cover Sheet

**Title**                   **FBI File 92-HQ-4957 Serial #10: Myron Julian Deckelbaum, aka, AR**

**Date**                    1961-11-30

**Abstract**             Excerpt from 92-HQ-4957 serial #10. Last pages: Count 1 of the indictment charges that from about November 1, 1952 and continuously until about July 31, 1959, Deckelbaum and the other defendants together with Albert E. Bagneris, Vincent J. Caminita, Simon Klayman, Frank Marino, and certain telephone company longlines repairmen conspired to defraud the United States of gambling excise taxes and the 10 per cent excise tax on long distance telephone service. As part of the conspiracy the defendants endeavored to conceal from IRS the existence and scope of their widespread horse race betting and other gambling activities by securing free unauthorized long distance telephone service, through the servidces of telephone company longlines repairmen, as a consequence of which no records would be made concerning the phone calls made by defendants..."

**Keywords**            92-HQ-4957; Albert E. Bagneris; Vincent J. Caminita; Simon Klayman; Frank Marino; Myron Julian Deckelbaum; gambling

**Notes**                 We have the entire voluminous file

**Source**                FBI via FOIA

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>CINCINNATI</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>CINCINNATI</b>	DATE <b>11/30/61</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>9/15/61 - 11/9/61</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>MYRON JULIAN DECKELBAUM, Aka., Myron William Deckelbaum</b>		REPORT MADE BY SA <span style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 100px; height: 15px;"></span>	TYPED BY <b>RFH</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AR</b></p>	

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REFERENCE:

Report of SA  Cincinnati,  
dated 9/29/61.  
Report of SA  Cincinnati,  
dated 11/21/61, entitled "BENJAMIN LASSOFF, Aka.,  
ANTI-RACKETEERING".

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LEADS:

LOUISVILLE DIVISION

AT NEWPORT, KENTUCKY

1. Will maintain contact with informants and sources  
in the Newport, Kentucky area to determine subject's activities.

<p>APPROVED <i>CDM</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE</p> <p>COPIES MADE:</p> <p>3 - Bureau (92-4957) 2 - Louisville (92-268) 2 - Cincinnati (92-324)</p> <p><i>cc Dept 12/18/61</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">92-4957-10</div>																				
<p>DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">AGENCY.....</td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>REQUEST REC. <i>103</i></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>DATE FWD.....</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>HOW FWD.....</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>BY.....</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	AGENCY.....				REQUEST REC. <i>103</i>				DATE FWD.....				HOW FWD.....				BY.....				<p>NOTATIONS</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>W</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>NOV 21 1961</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>STATISTICS</b></p>
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2. Will, through informants or sources, attempt to determine the name of the business or type of business subject is negotiating for in Cleveland, Ohio.

CINCINNATI DIVISION

AT CINCINNATI, OHIO

1. Will contact logical sources of information concerning subject's activities.

2. Will contact the [redacted]

[redacted] made from subject's residence for September, October, and November, 1961, in an effort to determine subject's activities and the type and name of business he is negotiating for in Cleveland, Ohio.

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ADMINISTRATIVE DATA:

Referenced report of SA [redacted] dated 11/21/61, entitled "BENJAMIN LASSOFF, Aka.; ANTI-RACKETEERING", Cincinnati File 92-103, Bufile 92-3051, contains detailed account of subject DECKELBAUM's activities as well as the activities of BENJAMIN and ROBERT LASSOFF. It should be noted that subject and his brothers-in-law, BENJAMIN and ROBERT LASSOFF, are closely related in their relationship as well as in their activities and interests. Inasmuch as these activities have previously been reported, it is not believed it is necessary to include these activities in this report.

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No lead is being set out for New Orleans to follow and report prosecutive action of subject in connection with his violation of Sections 371 and 1343, U. S. Code, Title 18, inasmuch as that lead has been set out in referenced report, and a copy of this information will be set out in subject's file upon receipt at Cincinnati.

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Information obtained from Internal Revenue Service Form 11-C for MYRON DECKELBAUM and [redacted] contained in this report was furnished by WILLIAM W. HUMMEL, Chief, Intelligence

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Division, IRS, Louisville, Kentucky, given to SA   
 on 11/9/61.

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INFORMANTS:

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

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Report of:  
Date:

SA [REDACTED]  
11/30/61

Office: CINCINNATI

Field Office File No.: CI 92-324

Bureau File No.: 92-4957

Title: MYRON JULIAN DECKELBAUM

Character: ANTI-RACKETEERING

Synopsis:

Gambling operations at Stables Cafe, Newport, Kentucky, operated by subject, closed down. Subject is reported negotiating for legitimate business in Cleveland, Ohio. Subject purchased gambling stamp for 7/1/61 through 6/30/62. Details of subject's indictment at New Orleans, La., set out.

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DETAILS:

On October 11, 1961, [ ] advised SA [ ] that absolutely no lay-off or betting operations are presently being conducted within the confines of the Stables Cafe or on the second floor thereof.

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On October 12, 1961, [ ] advised SA [ ] that ROBERT LASSOFF, 7147 East Lawn, Cincinnati, Ohio, and his brother-in-law, MYRON DECKELBAUM, 1868 Larchwood Place, Cincinnati, Ohio, and RICHARD LACHEY, Newport, Kentucky, the [ ] of BENJAMIN LASSOFF, are "sneaking" bets, at least by pay telephone, in the Stables Cafe and its vicinity. [ ] was unable to furnish specific information concerning any lay-off activity of the subject or his associates.

On October 18, 1961, [ ] advised SA [ ] the second floor of the Stables Cafe is now completely closed. [ ] related that BENJAMIN LASSOFF intends to leave the area once he can get his federal tax liens on the Stables Cafe building removed so he can sell it. According to [ ] ROBERT LASSOFF, the brother of BENJAMIN LASSOFF, is presently negotiating for a business in Canada and MYRON DECKELBAUM is presently negotiating for a business in Cleveland, Ohio. He stated all these business ventures are supposedly legitimate.

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On October 30, 1961, [ ] advised SA [ ] that he had learned on October 28, 1961, [ ] who allegedly is booking sporting events out of the Flamingo Club, 633 York Street, Newport, Kentucky, had stated that subject and his brothers-in-law, BENJAMIN and ROBERT LASSOFF, and [ ] a Cincinnati gambler, are supposed to move their office from the Stables Cafe, Newport, Kentucky, to Cincinnati, Ohio. He stated that this group is presently searching for a new location, but has not located a suitable place at this time.

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On October 16, 1961, [ ] advised SA [ ] that [ ] has been employed as a [ ] for MYRON DECKELBAUM and ROBERT LASSOFF above the Stables Cafe, Newport, Kentucky.

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BENJAMIN LASSOFF advised SA [redacted] on October 17, 1961, that he has not operated any lay-off handbook business since 1951, and his only interest in the Stables Cafe, Newport, Kentucky, is the fact that he owns the building housing the same. LASSOFF stated he understands his brother-in-law, MYRON DECKELBAUM, and his brother, ROBERT LASSOFF, formerly operated a handbook on the second floor of the Stables Cafe, but that he had nothing to do with this operation. He stated he has not bankrolled either ROBERT LASSOFF or MYRON DECKELBAUM although some years ago he did give ROBERT LASSOFF \$40,000 to get him started in business.

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On October 9, 1961, [redacted] advised SA [redacted] that MYRON DECKELBAUM was definitely not operating at [redacted] Newport, Kentucky, and if he was operating at all, he was merely making, rather than taking, bets.

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On September 15 and September 28, 1961, SA [redacted] reviewed Criminal File #28247 in the office of the U. S. District Court Clerk, New Orleans. This file pertains to the criminal action of U. S. vs BENJAMIN LASSOFF et al. The file contained a minute entry dated August 30, 1961, which pertained to all of the defendants in this action. This minute entry reflected that on that date DECKELBAUM and other defendants waived reading of the indictment and entered not guilty pleas. The court gave each defendant 30 days to file pleadings. The United States was given 30 days to answer. The court assigned December 14, 1961, at 10:00 AM as the day set for argument on motions.

A review of the indictment dated June 27, 1961, reflects that DECKELBAUM and 12 other defendants were indicted for violating Section 371 and 1343 for conspiracy to defraud the United States and Fraud by Wire.

Count 1 of the indictment charges that from about November 1, 1952, and continuously until about July 31, 1959, DECKELBAUM and the other defendants, together with ALBERT E. BAGNERIS, VINCENT J. CAMINITA, SIMON KLAYMAN, FRANK MARINO, and

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certain telephone company longlines repairmen conspired to defraud the United States of gambling excise taxes and the 10 per cent excise tax on long distance telephone service. As part of the conspiracy, the defendants endeavored to conceal from IRS the existence and scope of their widespread horse race betting and other gambling activities, by concealing their long distance telephone activity, by securing free unauthorized long distance telephone service, through the services of telephone company longlines repairmen, as a consequence of which no records would be made concerning the calls made by the defendants. As a further part of the conspiracy, the defendants secured free, unauthorized long distance telephone service, thereby preventing the telephone company from billing them for this service, including the 10 per cent excise tax imposed on long distance telephone calls, with the result that the United States was defrauded of this revenue.

Counts 2 and 3 alleged overt acts committed by defendant BENJAMIN LASSOFF. Counts 4 and 5 alleged overt acts committed by defendant ROBERT LASSOFF.

Counts 6 and 7 alleged the following overt acts by DECKELBAUM: That from about November 1, 1952, to about July 31, 1959, he devised a scheme to defraud AT & T, its subsidiaries and affiliates of costs of long distance telephone calls by securing the services of certain phone company longlines repairmen to place long distance calls for him without authorization or payment. For the purpose of executing this scheme, DECKELBAUM completed long distance calls from Newport, Kentucky, to New Orleans, Louisiana, on or about July 25, 1957, and on or about June 11, 1957.

Counts 8 through 20 alleged acts against the remaining defendants.