

⑤ Kassab et al

The following report is a condensed summary of the Kassab investigation as outlined in the chart accompanying this report.

During the early months of 1962, Los Angeles Police Officers M.A. McGowan, D. G. Rickards and three other officers entered into a sham real estate purchasing venture with Officer Latham whereby they received from \$75.00 to \$250.00 for each transaction that they entered into with him. Latham was the go-between the officers and David Kassab, a non-licensed real estate salesman. Kassab applied for purchase of approximately 100 homes in the San Fernando Valley for a sum of \$18,200.00 each. Individual escrows were immediately opened on each house. The officers acting as "dummy" buyers applied for new loans based on an inflated price. In some cases, second trust deeds were sold to unsuspecting buyers before title was cleared through escrow. When the "non-sufficient funds" checks, submitted by the officers earlier as down payment on the property bounced, Kassab would buy back the second trust deed at a 50 per cent discount on the pretext that a foreclosure was imminent.

David Kassab was born in Bagdad, Iraq. He is the third of seven children who was forced, with his parents, to flee their homeland because of anti-Jewish feelings in that country. He and his family lived in Bagdad from 1940 to 1948. During the years of 1948 and 1949 his family lived in Urban Teheran, Iran. He came to the United States in 1949 and has been living in Los Angeles ever since. He has been in the real estate business since 1955.

Kassab's arrest record dates back to August 28, 1959 when he was arrested for grand theft. This case involved a

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a travel agency sham with a co-defendant, George Dimitrovich. Both were doing business under the name of Europa Travel. They advertised air transportation at greatly reduced rates. The prospectus was that a plane would be leased from a Mexican Airline and flights would operate to Europe from Mexico. The round trip flight was advertised at \$545.00. Both David Kassab and Dimitrovich collected over \$30,000.00 from 80 UCLA students. They pocketed the money and did not fulfill their contract. Intelligence reports indicated that both David Kassab and Dimitrovich were probably in partnership with Joe Sica, in this travel agency. Although there were strong indications of the Sica connection, positive proof could not be established.

Working with David Kassab, while involved in the home buying sham, was Dr. Stanley Dubrin. Dubrin listed himself as the Vice-president of the American Nile Corporation, a real estate office. David Kassab listed himself as a co-owner of that Corporation. Other Kassab family members affiliated themselves with that organization as did several relatives of the Kassab Clan.

Dr. Stanley Dubrin's arrest record dates back to February 28, 1963 when he was charged with grand theft. In this case, a first trust deed was inadvertently reconveyed to him. Although he had knowledge of this error, he sold the property as "free and clear," then dissipated the funds. On October 14, 1966, Dubrin was arrested for the crime of abortion but was released due to insufficient evidence. On June 14, 1963, the Los

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Angeles Police Department was advised that Dr. Dubrin had propositioned an ex-convict to murder his ex-wife, Kathy Dubrin, aka, Ink. Dubrin was not brought to trial or arrested for this solicitation of murder due to the informants lack of cooperation with the investigators. Without that persons testimony, a case could not be established.

In 1966, Dubrin rented office space from Joe M. Arnoff the owner of the "Big A" stores at 8341 Conoga Blvd., Conoga Park, in connection with his medical practice. Dubrin and Arnoff have been close friends since 1962. He was also the Arnoff family physician.

Arnoff eventually went bankrupt at the "Big A" stores and severed his business relationship with Dr. Dubrin. Both, however, remained on friendly terms and still meet socially on occasion.

Arnoff was introduced to David Kassab by Dr. Dubrin but did not become acquainted any further.

Arnoff was involved in the bribery case concerning Councilman Tom Shepard to the extent that he, Arnoff, was one of the owners of a seven acre parcel of land in Conoga Park which was rezoned in 1964 for the purpose of constructing multiple dwelling units. Councilman Shepard was later indicted on bribery charges in connection with this rezoning. Arnoff owned 45 per cent of the building corporation stock.

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Another figure in the Shepard case was Wallace White who received 45 per cent of the corporation's stock for putting up the initial cash investment. Arthur Toll, the attorney for this corporation, received five per cent of the stock as his fee for legal services rendered. Gerald Chase, a C.P.A., received the remaining five per cent for handling the tax account of the same corporation.

Gerald Chase is a business partner in the accounting firm of Chase, Bierman and Dunn at 280 S. Beverly Drive, Suite 402, Beverly Hills, California. Chase was also the accountant for Arnoff while the latter was doing business at the "Big A" stores. Both parties terminated their business association during March 1965. Their relationship at that time was strictly business. They never became close friends. At present, Chase is suing Arnoff for back pay owed to him during the time he was handling the "Big A" account.

Among the numerous tax accounts that Gerald Chase handles is a person named Jim Braden. He has handled Braden's Empire Oil Corporation account since 1963 or 1964.

Note: See the detailed report of Braden's entire investigation at the end of this report.

Braden has been associated with Victor Pereira for numerous years. Both were sent to federal prison for grand theft. In this case, both had conspired to bilk Pereira's former wife out of a large sum of money. Both Pereira and Braden are acquainted with the Smaldone Brothers who belong to the "Mafia."

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Another mutual acquaintance of Braden and Pereira was a person named Arthur Clark Sr., who is now deceased. Clark was a former member of the Old Detroit Purple Gang. Pereira, when released from prison, was given employment by Earl Scheib of the car painting fame. Intelligence reports indicate that Pereira was also associated with Paul Billings who was closely associated with Mafia members such as the Battaglia Brothers. In 1962, Pereira had an active financial interest in a New York business firm named Growth Industries. He handled new stock issues for Accurate Electronics. He sold Fred and Alfred Sica \$4500.00 worth of this stock and retained the shares in his name. Investigation indicated that this was a hoodlum operated company headed by the Colletti Brothers.

The background investigation of Officers Latham and Rickards indicated that they were active members of the John Birch Society in 1963. The John Birch Chapter in the North Hollywood area, was closely associated with the Minutemen Society of which Edgar Eugene Bradley, Carole Aydelotte, Arthur Aydelotte, Keith Gilbert, Dennis Mower, Phillip Scheib and other right wing extremists were members.

In checking the background of these Minutemen members, Officer C.E. White's names was mentioned as a friend of Keith Duane Gilbert. On February 25, 1965, 1400 pounds of stolen dynamite was located in Gilbert's garage apartment at 419 Western, Glendale, California. The owner of the residence who lived in the front house was Bernice Iverson, the sister of Officer White. During an interview with White, by the investigating officers in the dynamite burglary

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case, he admitted his acquaintance with Gilbert. He also admitted attending a Minutemen rally several months prior where Troy Houghton, the West Coast Director of the Minutemen, spoke. He also admitted knowing Dennis Mower, a militant Minuteman.

An investigation into Gilbert's background indicated that a business card with the inscription "Michael Wayne, Promoter" was found in Gilbert's residence when the dynamite was located.

This Michael Wayne, it was speculated by this investigator, was the same young male Caucasian who was at the Ambassador Hotel June 5, 1968 when Senator Kennedy was shot. Shortly after the shooting, Michael Wayne was seen running from the kitchen area and subsequently stopped and later questioned by Los Angeles Police Detectives. During that interrogation, it was noted that he was in possession of a card bearing the name of Keith Gilbert. Due to the fact that Gilbert was an extremist in the right wing organization and Michael Wayne was seen running from the scene of the shooting, an intensive investigation was conducted to determine their association.

On April 1, 1968, Gilbert was interviewed in San Quentin prison with reference to Wayne's business card and his connection with ultra-extremist groups. Gilbert admitted his own membership in the Minutemen Society, but could not recall the persons who gave him the business card with Wayne's name. Gilbert indicated that he had acquired numerous business cards while in the firearms business in which he and another Minuteman, Robert R. Romero were partners.

