Jule WJA #6

MEMO

TO: R. P. Donovan File

DATE: March 5, 1979

FROM: R. M. Wheeler

CC: Al Bush
Everett Parker
Pam Wheeler
Mrs. R. M. Wheeler
R. M. Wheeler, Jr.

SUBJECT: TELEPHONE CALL FROM RUSS SCHRECK, APPLICANT FOR POSITION AS NEW FRONTON DEVELOPMENT WORLD JAI-ALAI, HOME PHONE 415 + 941-8549

On Saturday, March 3, 1979, Mr. Schreck spoke to me over the phone regarding his visit on Thursday night and Friday to Miami Jai-Alai where he met Donovan, Rico, Rob Weinroth, and Marty ?. Donovan told Schreck that it would be a minimum of five years before we could get another fronton going. It takes two to three years just to get State approval and another two to three years to build. I question why we were paying Mr. Allen in Washington, D.C. for $3,000 a month for six months to see if he could get an OK in Washington if it was going to be five years before we could get a new fronton constructed.

Donovan pointed out that in 1972 gambling was approved in Connecticut and it was not until 1976 that the jai-alai fronton opened in Hartford which was the first one.

Donovan told Schreck that the white population is moving north of Miami and that Dania is increasing its attendance of white population and its handle at a more rapid rate than Miami. This does not seem to be true according to various statistics that I have read on the growth of Dania vs. Miami. Roger, Jr. had some of these in the plane when returning from Miami last week and they seemed to indicate that Miami was doing better than Dania but I would like to verify this.

Schreck said that Donovan told him that "he questioned whether this was the opportunity for you." Donovan said that his name would be in the paper and he would be accused as a cheat or crook. Donovan said that if he doesn't drink and go to gin mills with the politicans he probably can't talk them into doing things for Jai-Alai. Rob Weinroth was also very negative.

Donovan said that the job would be on development only and that he personally was supervising all of the managers of the frontons, the accounting, advertising, personnel and every other function and would not turn this over to anyone else. It would appear that Donovan feels threatened by anyone that would come in as No. 2 man although he agreed that Rico couldn't handle the financial end of things and couldn't be No. 1 in any event.

Schreck observed that we have a one man show and the one man wants to keep it that way.

R. M. Wheeler

RMW:wb

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