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June 17, 1992

MBC  
RECEIVED  
JUN 22 1992  
FEDERAL DEFENDERSMs. Susan J. McCurdy  
Executive Secretary  
Pardons Board  
5500 Snyder Ave.  
Carson City, Nevada

Re: Gerald Denono, NV#12483

Dear Ms. McCurdy:

I was an FBI agent for 30 years. 24 of those years were spent working exclusively on organized crime matters, 22 in Chicago. After a canvass conducted by a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter, Denny Walsh of the Sacramento Bee, I was identified as the most decorated FBI agent "in the history of that organization." Former governor Richard B. Ogilvie, a former federal prosecutor and sheriff of Cook County, Ill. described me in 1988 as the "most knowledgeable expert on organized crime in the country." One leader of organized crime in Chicago described me in a motion in court as "the nemesis" of the Chicago mob and the FBI bugged another saying I was "accurate, a very capable man, he don't lie" after reading one of my books. After I retired from the FBI I worked for eight years as an attorney defending news organizations from libel suits including the Paul Laxalt suit against the Sacramento Bee which would have been tried in Reno had it not been settled. I am a consultant to the Crime Commissions of Chicago and of New Orleans. I have testified before the U.S. Senate on organized crime. I have written two books which became best sellers. I am currently the creative consultant to HBO on a movie they are developing. My next book will be published in October and is situated in Lake Tahoe.

In 1977 or 1978 when I was the senior agent on the organized crime squad in Chicago the famous "Denono Diary" was given to me for analysis. It was my conclusion that it was authentic and that it was a real tool for law enforcement generally and for us in the FBI in particular in our investigation of organized crime's infiltration of the Nevada gaming industry. It was a working account of how the mob penetrated casinos in Nevada and how they skimmed the casinos which were "mobbed up." It was almost too good to be true but it was my conclusion that it was.

Later, after I retired from the FBI I was made aware that Denono had been of considerable assistance to my colleagues in the FBI not only in regard to the "Denono Diary" but in other matters involving the Nevada gaming industry, bank robberies and other crimes within our jurisdiction. At the time he was identified to me as one who could make a considerable contribution to the public exposure of organized crime by appearing on a television series being produced by Thames TV in London entitled "Crime, Inc." I approached Denono, then in the MCC in Chicago, and he agreed to do his best to share his experiences on the series to educate the public as to the menace of organized crime. He did and the show has been repeated on several occasions all over the world.

Based on Mr. Denono's extensive cooperation with the FBI and as set out above, I strongly recommend that every consideration be given him in regard to his parole. In my opinion he is precisely the kind of person who should get every favorable consideration. I feel that it is high time that the criminal justice system recognizes his solid contribution to law enforcement.

Sincerely,

Wm J. Palmer