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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

OCT 17 1959

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. McGuire	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

URGENT 10-17-59 12-18PM DS

TO DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM SAC LOS ANGELES 2P

QUOTE UNTOUCHABLES, UNQUOTE, DESILU TELEVISION SERIES, RESEARCH /CRIME RECORDS/. REMYTEL TODAY. REVIEW OF QUOTE MA BARKER UNQUOTE SCRIPT REFLECTS NESS TALKING WITH NEIGHBOR OF BARKERS PRIOR TO RAID. NEIGHBOR PROTESTS, SAYING WRONG IDENTITY AND POINTS OUT MRS. CLARK PAREN NAME ASSUMED BY BARKERS AT THAT TIME UNPAREN WENT TO CHURCH WITH HER ON SUNDAYS. NESS THEN SAYS, QUOTE YOU KNOW WHO CALLS HER THE MOST DANGEROUS WOMAN ALIVE IN THE USA TODAY QUESTION MARK. J. EDGAR HOOVER END QUOTE. ELSEWHERE IN SCRIPT, NESS IS DEPICTED CHECKING TEN DOLLAR BILL SPENT BY GIRLFRIEND OF DOC BARKER AGAINST LIST OF SERIAL NUMBERS OF RANSOM MONEY. IN LARGE TYPE LIST IS HEADED QUOTE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION END QUOTE. ANOTHER SCENE SHOWS NESS DICTATING INTO DICTAPHONE THUS QUOTE MEMO TO ALL U. S. POSTMASTERS, ALL CHICAGO POSTAL SUB-STATIONS... PERSONNEL AT GENERAL DELIVERY WINDOWS ARE REQUESTED TO OBSERVE CLOSELY FOR A MAN CALLING FOR SMALL PACKAGE WITHIN NEXT WEEK OR SO...ANSWERING TO PHOTO AND DESCRIPTION OF ARTHUR QUOTE DOC ENDQUOTE BARKER, FBI FUGITIVE FLY-SHEET K-SEVEN SEVEN SIX FIVE ON DISPLAY AT YOUR STATION... UNQUOTE. LATER SCENE HAS CAMERA PANNING

END PAGE ONE

MR. DELOACH

REC-96
EX 104

15 NOV 4 1959

62 NOV 10 1959

143

94-52549-19

CRIM

PAGE TWO

ACROSS FOUR QUOTE FBI WANTED HANDBILLS UNQUOTE IN POST OFFICE,
ONE FOR EACH BARKER. DURING RAID, NESS ATTEMPTS TO TALK BARKERS INTO
SURRENDERING. BARKER BOYS ASK IF THE GOVERNMENT WOULD PROMISE NOT
TO USE THE NEW LINDBERGH LAW IF THEY GIVE UP. NESS SAYS, QUOTE LOOK,
YOU CAN-T BARGAIN WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. UNQUOTE. IF THE WORDS
QUOTE THE FBI UNQUOTE ARE DELETED FROM ORIGINAL NARRATION IN VIEW OF
THE REFERENCES TO THE DIRECTOR, FBI, AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, IT IS
BELIEVED THAT MAJORITY OF VIEWING AUDIENCE WILL ASSUME NESS AND HIS
AGENTS TO BE FBI AGENTS. BASED SOLELY ON READING OF SCRIPT, THERE
DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE ANYTHING THEREIN WHICH WOULD DEPICT THE FEDERAL
AGENTS IN AN UNFAVORABLE LIGHT.

END ACK PLS

4-23 PM OK FBI WA JG

TU DISC

M

001 13 4 23 PM '23

RECEIVED 11/11/23

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson

DATE: November 3, 1959

FROM : C. D. DeLoach

SUBJECT: "THE UNTOUCHABLES"

Tolson _____
 Belmont _____
 DeLoach _____
 McGuire _____
 Mohr _____
 Parsons _____
 Rosen _____
 Tamm _____
 Trotter _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Holloman _____
 Gandy _____

I talked with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I mentioned to [REDACTED] who is known to both the Director and you [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], that the October 28, 1959, issue of "TV Guide" had advertised "The Untouchables" and specifically listed the phraseology, "Beginning the true story of FBI man Elliot Ness' savage war on the notorious mobsters Al Capone left behind!" I told [REDACTED] that Elliot Ness had never been an FBI Agent and that we frankly wanted nothing to do with the series. He was given a complete rundown regarding our recent discussions with Desi Arnaz and was told that Desilu Productions had agreed to completely change their scheduled series inasmuch as the series took considerable liberty with former FBI cases.

[REDACTED] immediately got the point. He stated he would see to it that future publicity concerning "The Untouchables" no longer mention the FBI in any way whatsoever. He stated he appreciated our calling this matter to his attention.

94-52549-
 NOT RECORDED
 126 NOV 6 1959

ACTION:

For information. We will follow this matter to make certain [REDACTED] complies with our wishes. It should be noted [REDACTED] may once again carry the specific phraseology as mentioned above [REDACTED] assured me, however, he would do everything possible to prevent [REDACTED] from carrying this phraseology

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Jones

CDD:geg

592 NOV 13 1959

~~NOV 6 1959~~

~~CRIME REC.~~

ORIGINAL FILED IN 94-52549-17

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. DeLoach *DeLoach*

DATE: November 6, 1959

FROM : M. A. Jones *M. A. Jones*

SUBJECT: *plu* "THE UNTOUCHABLES" TELEVISION PROGRAM
PRODUCED BY DESILU PRODUCTIONS
NOVEMBER 5, 1959

Tolson	_____
Belmont	_____
DeLoach	_____
McGuire	_____
Mohr	_____
Parsons	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Trotter	_____
W.C. Sullivan	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

DESILU PRODUCTIONS

Captioned program last night over channel 7, WMAL-TV, featured a fictionalized account of the murder of a Chicago newspaperman by the name of Jack Lingle by mobsters. *DeLoach*

There was no mention of the FBI. Elliott Ness and his men were described as dedicated men known as "The Untouchables," and it was rather clear that they were associated with the Federal Prohibition Bureau.

The program was narrated at the outset by Walter Winchell. It was rather melodramatic and depicted numerous killings.

The Crime Research Section will continue to monitor this series to fully protect the FBI's interest.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

1 - Mr. Tolson

1 - Mr. DeLoach

gem
GEM:111
(6)

REC-105

94-52549-20

NOV 9 1959

FBI NOV 9 1959

REC'D DE LOACH

60 NOV 13 1959

CRIM

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: November 13, 1959

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: "THE UNTOUCHABLES"
TELEVISION PROGRAM
PRODUCED BY DESILU PRODUCTIONS
11-12-59 PRODUCTION

Tolson	_____
Belmont	_____
DeLoach	_____
McGuire	_____
Mohr	_____
Parsons	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Trotter	_____
W.C. Sullivan	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

Last night, captioned program over WMAL-TV featured a story concerning a comedian controlled by a mobster in Chicago's speakeasy days.

A complete review of this hour long program failed to reflect any reference to the FBI. The advertising of this program no longer contains any references to the FBI. It will be recalled that this was originally the case, but after FBI objections were made known, the references to this Bureau were discontinued upon specific instructions of Desi Arnaz.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

1 - Mr. Tolson

1 - Mr. DeLoach

GEM:ijj
(5)

REC-15 94-52549-21

12 NOV 18 1959

58 NOV 20 1959

F162



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1340 West Sixth Street
Los Angeles 17, California

November 12, 1959

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Belmont	✓
Mr. DeLoach	✓
Mr. McGuire	✓
Mr. Mohr	✓
Mr. Parsons	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tamm	✓
Mr. Trotter	✓
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Mr. Holloman	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Desilu Productions

Reference is made to your letter in which you specifically brought to my attention the situation which developed regarding "The Untouchables". You also suggested that I let you hear from me concerning the course of action we are following in extending our minute-to-minute knowledge of what is going on in the industry which might in any way affect us.

I fully realize the seriousness of the problem which confronts us in connection with the desires of the many producers of movie and television series to inject FBI roles into their stories, particularly since the release of "The FBI Story". I also fully realize the responsibilities which go along with this problem.

I want you to know that close liaison relationships have been maintained with the major motion picture and television production companies for a number of years.



Motion picture trade publications and movie gossip columns are daily reviewed to insure a knowledge of any production activity of interest to the Bureau.

Handwritten signature/initials

94-52549
NOT RECORDED
NOV 24 1959
NOV 23 1959

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 94-52549-100

62 NOV 25 1959 143

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover

which is being undertaken.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I might point out too that I have instructed those Agents working on this responsibility to create more extensive contacts, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Also, I have instructed that contacts be made with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] in order that this office may have knowledge of any television program featuring an FBI role. I have impressed upon these Agents the responsibility which must be handled completely and continuously just as you have emphatically brought same to my attention, and I feel confident that the desired results will be obtained on a continuing basis.

Please rest assured that I will continue my personal efforts along these same lines. This matter was discussed in detail with [REDACTED] during the recent inspection.

Respectfully submitted,

This is very important & urgent.
W. W. Burke
W. W. BURKE
Special Agent in Charge

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. DeLoach *WJH*

DATE: November 21, 1959

FROM : M. A. *Mohr*

SUBJECT: "LEPKE"
DESILU PLAYHOUSE
TELEVISION SHOW
NOVEMBER 20, 1959

- Tolson
- Belmont
- DeLoach
- McGuire
- Mohr
- Parsons
- Rosen
- Tamm
- Trotter
- W.C. Sullivan
- Tele. Room
- Gandy

The production of "Lepke" on captioned program on station WTOP-TV (CBS) last night followed the script previously submitted for our review by Desi Arnaz by letter of October 3, 1959. Our review of the script was set out in the memorandum to you dated October 7, 1959. As you will recall, the script depicted the brutality of Lepke, his contempt for human life, and the desertion of him by his criminal associates reflected the moral tone that crime does not pay. As previously set out, the Director was mentioned on 14 of the script's 87 pages with each reference favorable and respectful.

In the story, the Director was shown as being agreeable to having Walter Winchell act as go-between in the surrender of Lepke, with the firm stipulant that "no strings are attached" and with no promises that Lepke will receive a light Federal sentence or that he will be kept from being turned over to authorities of the State of New York. These points on the part of the Director were accurately presented in the show. The show had no words by the Director and the Director was indicated as being present in the car at the time Winchell turned Lepke over to him. One of the closing lines by Winchell in the show was to the effect that the cold feeling existing in the car containing the Director, Lepke and Winchell proved that no bargain had been made by the Federal government with Lepke.

On the occasion in October when Desi Arnaz submitted the script for our review, the Director wrote to Desi Arnaz on October 7, 1959, thanking him for his thoughtfulness and commenting that the script was interesting and forceful and would probably receive an excellent reception. Accordingly, it is not suggested that any additional letter be sent to Desi Arnaz at this time.

RECOMMENDATION: *5 11 11*
None. For information.

63 DEC 2 1959

94-52549-22

REC-101

12 NOV 27 1959

CRIME WAC.

WJH:jac (4)

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 11-20-59

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: VINCENT "MAD DOG" COLL
~~THE UNTOUCHABLES~~ Calif
DESILU PRODUCTION
CHANNEL 7, WMAL
NOVEMBER 19, 1959

- Tolson ✓
- Belmont
- DeLoach
- McGuire
- Mohr
- Parsons ✓
- Rosen
- Tamm
- Trotter
- W.C. Sullivan
- Tele. Room
- Holloman
- Gandy

c-3-1

Desilu Productions

Last night "The Untouchables" portrayed the criminal activities of Vincent "Mad Dog" Coll, a New York hoodlum who had a psychopathic hatred towards New York beer baron "Dutch" Schultz. The program depicted means by which Coll, a demented thug with uncontrollable homicidal tendencies, attempted to cause Schultz financial ruin.

In trying to hurt Schultz, Coll kidnaps and murders one "Lefty" Gallagher, a Schultz bodyguard, for whom he attempted to extort \$100,000 ransom from Schultz. There is no indication whatsoever of interstate transportation of the kidnap victim. In fact it appears that the body was found in New York City, the same place where the kidnaping occurs. "The Untouchables" headed by Elliot Ness entered the action following the kidnaping, commenting to local police that they can go into this now because of the kidnaping. While at no time is any mention made that "The Untouchables" are connected with the FBI, the suggestion is conveyed that jurisdiction in kidnap matters falls within the authority of "The Untouchables."

Walter Winchell once again figured prominently as a narrator of this program.

OBSERVATION:

While no mention was made that "The Untouchables" are members of the FBI, there is a tendency to usurp FBI jurisdiction for the purposes of portraying achievements of other law enforcement agencies. A continuation of this trend will be watched carefully as future programs of this series are monitored by the Crime Research Section.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

MCT 94-52549-23
REC-23

NOV 27 1959

JRH:dmr

(4) 62 DEC 3 1959

11/20

JRP

CRIME RESEARCH SECTION

B6

B6

[Redacted]

Nov. 12, 1959

John Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover,

We are watching a show on T.V. named "The Untouchables". At the beginning of each program it shows a book of the same name. It has on the front of the book the name Elliot Ness. I think that besides being the writer he was in the F.B.I. My father thinks he is just the author. I would like it very much if you could tell us which one is right. Thank you very much.

REC-8 94-52549-24

yours truly,

[Redacted]

B6

24 NOV 25 1959

EX 104

[Redacted]

CRIME REC

recd 20
ack 11-24-59
a.w.k./jpb
True copy
11-19-59
jpb

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

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XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

_____ Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- Deleted under exemption(s) _____ with no segregable material available for release to you.
- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

_____ Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

 1 Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):
 Duplicate of 94-52549-24

For your information: _____

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
 94-52549-24

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

November 23, 1959

EX 104
REC-8 94-52549-24
[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

Your letter of November 12, 1959, has been received, and I appreciate the interest which prompted your inquiry.

In connection with your request, I would like to point out that Mr. Ness was employed as a Prohibition Agent in the Internal Revenue Service and later was transferred to the Bureau of Prohibition in the Department of Justice. He was never a Special Agent of the FBI.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI
NOV 23 11 30 AM '59

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles. Information concerning Ness located in Bufile 94-52549-X3. The program, "The Untouchables," deals with work of the Prohibition Agents in tracking down notorious gangsters of this era, (67-32640) early 1930's.

RWK: gct
(3) gct

- _____ Tolson
- _____ Belmont
- _____ DeLoach
- _____ McGuire
- _____ Mohr
- _____ Parsons
- _____ Rosen
- _____ Tamm
- _____ Trotter
- _____ W.C. Sullivan
- _____ Tele. Room
- _____ Gandy

6 DEC 7 1959

MAILED 27
NOV 23 1959
COMM-FBI

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

Handwritten signatures and initials:
mass
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

RA TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: November 27, 1959

FROM : M. A. Jones

Desilu Productions

SUBJECT: ~~THE UNTOUCHABLES~~
WMAL - TV
9:30 P. M.
11-26-59

Television Program

Tolson	_____
Belmont	_____
DeLoach	_____
McGuire	_____
Mohr	_____
Parsons	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Trotter	_____
W.C. Sullivan	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Gandy	_____

Curran
26

Captioned program over the American Broadcasting Company Television Network was monitored last night by Special Agent [redacted]. The program concerned the abduction of a key witness in a Federal trial involving a mobster involved in illicit liquor traffic. Elliot Ness and his group of "untouchables" were responsible for locating the key witness. There was no mention made of the FBI. The average member of the public, however, could have easily given the impression that Ness and his men were FBI Agents inasmuch as they were identified as "Federal" men and were not linked with any other particular Federal agency.

Elliot Ness was depicted as using strong arm tactics in obtaining information from hoodlums; as harassing a hardened criminal aboard a train, taking his property and having the hoodlum turned over to local police on a trumped up charge. This program, narrated by Walter Winchell, certainly was not a credit to any Federal agency on the stand point of civil rights.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - T. V. File

GEM:bla
(4) *slr*

EX 100
REC-31

94-52549-25

23 DEC 8 1959

CRIME RECD

107
62 DEC 11 1959

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. DeLoach *DL*

DATE: December 4, 1959

FROM : M. A. Jones *M.A.J.*

3-

SUBJECT: THE UNTOUCHABLES
DESILU PRODUCTIONS
AMERICAN BROADCASTING COMPANY
9:30 P.M., DECEMBER 3, 1959

Tolson	_____
Belmont	_____
DeLoach	_____
McGuire	_____
Mohr	_____
Parsons	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Trotter	_____
W.C. Sullivan	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

Captioned program was monitored last night by Special Agent [redacted]. It concerned an extortion case involving "The Artichoke King." The program included a number of gang-style murders and other killings and portrayed "Federal" men headed by Elliot Ness called "The Untouchables." No mention was made of the FBI, although the public could have easily obtained the impression that "The Untouchables" were in fact FBI men since this antiracketeering - extortion-type investigation would come within our jurisdiction.

The program was again narrated by Walter Winchell. It was announced that the program next week will concern the "Tri-state Gang." This program will be monitored.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information. *✓*

1 - Mr. DeLoach

GEM:paw
(4)

EX-135

REC-96 94-52549-26

25 DEC 8 1959

57 DEC 14 1959 *[initials]*

FILED
PER FILES

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: December 8, 1959

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: THE UNTOUCHABLES
DESILU PRODUCTION

TV SERIES

Carroll

- Tolson _____
- Belmont _____
- DeLoach _____
- Mohr _____
- Parsons _____
- Rosen _____
- Tamm _____
- Trotter _____
- W.C. Sullivan _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holloman _____
- Gandy _____

The December 5-11, 1959, issue of "TV Guide" contains an article entitled "The Surprised Mr. Stack" and does not show a credit line for the author of the article. This publication is published by Triangle Publications, in which Walter H. Annenberg is President.

Calif Japan Baffles 1919

The article reflects an interview with Robert Stack who stars in "The Untouchables" wherein Stack says the TV series was originally slated to be a motion picture but was later converted to a weekly TV series. The article refers to some of the early background and activities of Stack. Stack expresses the belief that the audience loves Elliot Ness (the part he plays) because he is a Government agent making \$50 a week and turning down \$5,000 to "lay off the mob."

Stack
Ness goes on to state: "I underestimated the appeal of the period, too. Ness is a hero with freedom. It's all in the past, like a Western, so anything goes. It's not like this sophisticated day and age when you get arrested for jaywalking if you cross the street. A friend of mine is an FBI agent and he's no more like Ness than I am. They've got so many rules and regulations in his outfit it's all he can do to blow his nose."

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

1 - Mr. DeLoach

Enclosure

GEM:paw
(3)

ENCLOSURE

53 DEC 16 1959

REC-23

94-525419

23 DEC 11 1959

CRIME REC.

7

THE SURPRISED-MR. STACK



He finds himself
starring in a TV series
that was supposed
to be a movie

When Robert Stack was first shown the script for *The Untouchables*, he solemnly shook his curly head and pointed the tips of his well-bred thumbs toward the floor. It was his professional opinion that the story of Eliot Ness, United States Treasury *continued on page 10*

Robert Stack as incorruptible crime fighter Eliot Ness, and Suzanne Storrs.

TV GUIDE
December 5, 1959

94-52549-27
ENCLOSURE

Robert Stack/continued

agent, was lacking in something.

"From an actor's point of view," says Stack, a 40-year-old California socialite, whose approach to his career has always been marked by a certain detachment, "it had no dynamics. Don't ask me what that is, but I can assure you it's a quality that's mighty important to the leading man, two critics and three other actors."

For this reason Stack was cool about playing the Ness role when it was first offered him by Quinn Martin, executive producer of the Desilu package, and Phil Karlson, its director and a long-time friend of Stack's. Aside from the fact that Martin and Karlson thought enough of him to drop by his house and make the pitch, Stack says two things made him change his mind and agree to clean up Chicago—on film, at least.

"For one thing," he recalls, "Martin and Karlson were painfully honest. They told me I was third choice for the part. They had Van Heflin lined up, but he conked out to do a picture. Then they tried to get Van Johnson. I'm not being sarcastic about this. I admired the outfit's honesty. I thought if they could level with me, the least I could do was to listen."

At that time Stack was not interested in doing a television series. Neither were Martin, Karlson and Desilu. That, says Stack, was the clincher. Staunchly conservative as a prominent member of Hollywood's old guard, he was still thinking of the dynamics of the box office and the marquee. He agreed to do *The Untouchables* as a bloody and beery movie.

"I am just as bewildered as you are," he says today, as the star of ABC's weekly hour-long excursion into the skulduggery of the Capone era. "This whole thing came up in such a hurry. Originally it was to be a

feature picture. We shot it in four weeks last season as a feature. It was for European release. It was filmed in wide screen.

"Its American release was going to be on television, but nobody thought anything about that. That was just part of the financing. It was to be cut into two one-hour film shows on *Desilu Playhouse*. Desilu got \$125,000 for each show. That made \$250,000. But the picture cost \$500,000. The other \$250,000, plus maybe a million or two profit, was to be made up from theater showings. It went on *Desilu Playhouse* in April, and I put it out of my head.

"Then in July I was leaving for Japan. Desilu called me. The darnedest thing had happened. The sponsor had an option on the time slot if Desilu would make *The Untouchables* into a weekly series. It was up to me. I had 12 hours to make up my mind. Desilu was willing if I was, and the whole thing came up just like that."

Before leaving for Japan, where he had contracted to star in an independent picture (Andrew Stone's *The Last Voyage*), Stack called Desilu back and consented, but not without misgivings. "*The Untouchables*," a Chicago newspaper's nickname for a seven-man squad (reduced to four in the series) of incorruptible Treasury agents, was based on the life of the late Eliot Ness, the leader. As a picture, Stack was pleased with this rehash of the 1930's, but as a TV series it struck him as a little dated.

Then, too, there were other problems. For one thing Fuselli (played by Keenan Wynn), one of Ness's agents, was killed in the picture. For authenticity, he would have to be revived as a regular in the series, always an awkward moment for all concerned.

That sticky situation had been avoided, however, by having the series begin where the picture had ended—after Fuselli's death.

And a fact overlooked last June—a television audience apparently as thirsty for the nostalgia of the early 1930's as for the nostalgia of the Old West—has taken care of Stack's worries about "dynamics."

Hollywood gossip writers have described the off-screen Stack as "good-natured," "stubborn," "determined." He developed the last two qualities in self-defense. He is a home-town boy, whose career began tamely in 1939. In "First Love," his first role, he gave Deanna Durbin her first screen kiss. Universal was charmed but not overly impressed, and assigned its wavy-haired 20-year-old a number of "tennis-racket" roles, in which Bob recalls that he mainly bounded on screen to ask, "Where's everyone? Is tea ready?"

Stack is the first to confess the parts fit. He is the son of the late J. Langford Stack, a wealthy Los Angeles advertising executive, and a fifth-generation member of one of California's first families. His great-grandfather opened Los Angeles' first theater; he is a nephew of baritone Richard Bonelli. (Stack, incidentally, is married to the former Rosemarie Bowe, an actress. They're the parents of a daughter born Jan. 20, 1957, and a son born May 22, 1958.) At the time he kissed Deanna Durbin, Stack, an ex-University of Southern California student, had a three-goal rating at polo.

Five years in the Navy interrupted all that, and Stack returned to Hollywood with a more determined approach. "To impress this town," he observes, "you have to skate upside down on one finger, playing 'God Bless

America' on the harmonica and balancing Jayne Mansfield on one foot." Stack figures that he performed comparable feats with postwar roles like the psychotic playboy in "Written on the Wind." He admits now that he erred in sizing up Eliot Ness as lacking the vividness of such roles.

"The script wasn't lacking anything," he concluded. "I was leaving something out. I was forgetting the audience. They love this guy, and no wonder. Here's a Government agent making \$50 a week and turning down \$5000 a week to lay off the mob. I underestimated the appeal of the period, too. Ness is a hero with freedom. It's all in the past, like a Western, so anything goes. It's not like this sophisticated day and age when you get arrested for jaywalking if you cross the street. A friend of mine is an FBI agent and he's no more like Ness than I am. They've got so many rules and regulations in his outfit it's all he can do to blow his nose."

Except for *Playhouse 90*, a *Producers' Showcase* and a couple of half-hour filmed dramas, Stack had done very little TV. "I wasn't snobbish toward it," he says. "I just preferred doing pictures. It's less back-breaking work." Since *The Untouchables*, however, Stack has formed Langford Productions, Inc., with his agent and a businessman friend as partners. The company owns a share of *The Untouchables* and plans to develop other properties as future TV series.

"I'm reading stories," says Stack, "but so far nothing as good as the Ness book has turned up."

High filtration & refreshing taste in one cigarette: **Alpine**

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4-22-65
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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: December 11, 1959

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: "THE UNTOUCHABLES"
DESILU PRODUCTIONS
9:30 P. M., 12/10/59

- Tolson _____
- Belmont _____
- DeLoach _____
- McGuire _____
- Mohr _____
- Parsons _____
- Rosen _____
- Tamm _____
- Trotter _____
- W.C. Sullivan _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holloman _____
- Gandy _____

Captioned program was broadcast locally at 9:30 p. m. over Channel 7. This misleading program, again narrated by Walter Winchell involved "The Tri-State Gang." This gang involved a group of hijackers who were stealing from trucks which crossed the state lines. Eliot Ness and his men were described as "Federal police." This case in actuality was handled by the FBI, and the program as portrayed left the inference that Ness and his men were associated with this Bureau, although the FBI was not mentioned at any time during the program.

The program opened with the hijacking of a truck at Oakhurst, Virginia, which was carrying a \$20,000 shipment of tobacco. The driver was chained to a tree and after a hood was placed over his head, he was shot. Ness and his men were called into the case and set up headquarters in a Richmond, Virginia, hotel. A round-the-clock surveillance of a junk yard in Richmond culminated in an attempt to make arrests of the members of the gang. Very ineptly Ness and his men were spotted by members of the gang as they enter the junk yard. There was an exchange of gun fire. One of "The Untouchables" was killed and one of the gang members was killed. The slain gang member had been friendly with a French girl who became aware of the identity of the gang members. A member of the gang was dispatched to kill her. She was shot but is not killed. Upon learning of her hospitalization, the gang again attempted to kill her at the hospital. Ness saw the hoodlum on a fire escape attempting to enter the hospital.

The French girl furnished the names and residences of the gang members to Ness. Raids are made but three members of the gang elude capture. The gangster who attempted to kill the French girl is slain by the gang for his failure to do so.

In the scene showing the three gangsters at their hideout, one gang member observes that the "Feds" were after them. The gang leader, portrayed by William Bendix, states "Feds-they're nothing but a bunch of flatfoots just like any other cops."

In order to obtain funds to make a successful flight from authorities, the remaining gangsters kidnaped a local bookie and demanded \$60,000 ransom. The wife of the bookie manages to raise \$28,000 and promises to furnish the remaining amount the next day. The gang kills the bookie that night and abandoned the body in the woods.

1 - Mr. DeLoach

MEM:paw (4)

58 DEC 21 1959

REC-57 94-52549-29

CRIMINAL

Jones to DeLoach memorandum
RE: "THE UNTOUCHABLES"

Less than an hour later the body was discovered.

Ness is then shown entering the home of the bookie where he flashes credentials and is identified by the brother of the bookie's wife as "Federal police." Ness encourages the wife of the bookie to go through with her plans to pay off the remaining ransom. The payoff is made at the zoo where Ness and his men are stationed. One gang member is killed and the leader is trapped in a bear enclosure. The third member is located and the resulting convictions and sentences are announced by the narrator.

This program again served to mislead the public regarding jurisdiction of legitimate Federal agencies. The tactics of "The Untouchables" were crude and not at all in keeping with the facts of the actual investigation of "The Tri-State Gang."

It was announced that next week's program will involve Dutch Schultz.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

✓ P

December 15, 1959

Desilu Productions, Inc.
780 North Gower Street
Hollywood 38, California

B6
Desilu Productions

Dear [redacted]

The unjustified and snide remarks attributed to Mr. Robert Stack in the December 5-11, 1959, issue of "TV Guide" have caused me great concern since they reflect unfavorably on an organization to which I have devoted my life. I just wanted to drop you this note enclosing a copy of my letter to Mr. Stack as I feel sure you would want to see it.

With warmest regards,

Sincerely,

Clyde

Clyde Tolson
Associate Director

Enclosure

- 1 - Los Angeles
- 1 - Mr. Tolson
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach *et*

MAILED 27
DEC 15 1959
COMM-FBI

REC-73

EX-117 94-52579-38

DEC 16 1959

- Tolson _____
- Belmont _____
- DeLoach _____
- McGuire _____
- Mohr _____
- Parsons _____
- Rosen _____
- Tamm _____
- Trotter _____
- W.C. Sullivan _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Gandy _____

58 DEC 22 1959

FBI
RECEIVED-DIRECTOR

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: December 14, 1959

FROM : M. Jones

SUBJECT: [REDACTED] **B6**
"THE UNTOUCHABLES"
DESILU PRODUCTIONS
HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA

- Tolson
- Belmont
- DeLoach
- McGuire
- Mohr
- Parsons
- Rosen
- Tamm
- Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Holloman
- Gandy

A3

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The December 5-11 issue of "TV Guide" contained remarks attributed to Robert Stack which stated: "I underestimated the appeal of the period, too. Ness is a hero with freedom. It's all in the past, like a Western, so anything goes. It's not like this sophisticated day and age when you get arrested for jaywalking if you cross the street. A friend of mine is an FBI agent and he's no more like Ness than I am. They've got so many rules and regulations in his outfit it's **94** he can do to blow his nose."

44-52549-31

1 - Mr. Tolson

1 - Mr. DeLoach

Enclosure

GEM:pag (5)

12-15-59

REC-77

DEC 16 1959

CRIME REC

Open

Jones to DeLoach memorandum

RE: [REDACTED]

"THE UNTOUCHABLES"

BC

By letter dated December 11, 1959, to Mr. Desi Arnaz, President of Desilu Productions, Inc., the Director expressed his concern over the comments attributed to Stack.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the attached letter over Mr. Tolson's signature be sent to Mr. Stack advising him of Mr. Tolson's surprise and shock upon reading the comments attributed to Stack in the December 5-11 issue of "TV Guide."

✓
J
SH

December 15, 1959

REC-7194-52549-31

Mr. Desi Arnaz
President
Desilu Productions, Inc.
780 North Gower Street
Hollywood 38, California

Dear Desi:

After reading with great surprise Mr. Robert Stack's comments in the December 5-11, 1959, issue of "TV Guide," I wrote him a letter expressing my feelings regarding his snide remarks which reflect unfavorably on the FBI. I am enclosing a copy of my letter to him, and I am sure you will agree that my position is not only sound but justified.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,

Clyde

Clyde Tolson
Associate Director

MAILED 27
DEC 15 1959
COMM-FBI

Enclosure

- 1 - Los Angeles
- 1 - Mr. Tolson
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach

- Tolson _____
- Belmont _____
- DeLoach _____
- McGuire _____
- Mohr _____
- Parsons _____
- Rosen _____
- Tamm _____
- Trotter _____
- W.C. Sullivan _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Gandy _____

GEM:1jj
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62 DEC 23 1959

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DEC 22 5 10 PM '59
FBI
DIRECTOR

REC'D UNIT 6:00 PM

14 DEC 16 1959

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. DeLoach *[Handwritten initials]*

DATE: December 18, 1959

FROM : M. A. Jones *[Handwritten signature]*

SUBJECT: "THE DUTCH SCHULTZ STORY"
① THE UNTOUCHABLES
DESILU PRODUCTIONS
DECEMBER 17, 1959

- Tolson _____
- Belmont _____
- DeLoach _____
- McGuire _____
- Mohr _____
- Parsons _____
- Rosen _____
- Tamm _____
- Trotter _____
- W.C. Sullivan _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holloman _____
- Gandy _____

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten initials]

Captioned program broadcast last night concerned the racket activities of Arthur Flegenheimer, alias Dutch Schultz. This hoodlum is depicted as attempting to control the New York underworld and in attempting to do so seeks an alliance with Lucky Luciano. Eliot Ness and his group of "The Untouchables" were identified as Federal Agents. No mention was made of the FBI, although anyone familiar with FBI jurisdiction would be aware that "The Untouchables were engaged in matters within the jurisdiction of the FBI.

Ness is able to get a man inside Schultz's organization. The inside man is able to determine the location of the books of the organization. A raid is made of the books. Ness is offered a large bribe by Schultz, but turns it down.

Dutch Schultz is brought to trial for income tax evasion. The Government agreed to a change in venue and the trial was held in a town outside of New York City. Schultz goes free after managing to influence the jury by framing the niece of the forer of the jury. The niece is also on the jury. Upon going free, Dutch Schultz is confronted by Eliot Ness who informs him that if Luciano doesn't get him, Ness, will.

Upon his return to New York City, Dutch Schultz is faced with such pressure from police and Luciano that he is forced to move to New Jersey where he sets up his office. Knowing that he cannot defeat Luciano, he decides to join him. A meeting is arranged between Luciano and Schultz and their respective bodyguards. It is specified that no one is to carry any weapons. During the ensuing meeting an argument develops and Schultz instructs his bodyguard to shoot Luciano with the machine gun which had been concealed in the piano. The bodyguard takes out the machine gun but instead of shooting Luciano, shoots Schultz. Luciano had previously made a payoff arrangement with Schultz's bodyguard. After the payoff, Luciano leaves but his bodyguard remains. The machine gun is laid on the table and Schultz's bodyguard goes over to him. Luciano's bodyguard then picks up the machine gun and kills Schultz's man. At this point, Eliot Ness arrives on the scene and kills Luciano's bodyguard. This is very blood thirsty sequence of events.

Ness rushes Schultz to the hospital but Schultz never is able to furnish a statement as to the identity of his killer. After showing the death of Schultz at 8:35 p. m. it is explained the number 835 is played heavily in the rackets the next day he was a

1959 DEC 20 1959

RECOMMENDATION: None. For information.

GEM:paw (4)
1 - Mr. DeLoach

EX-133 REC-50 94-52549-32

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

03722

December 11, 1959

Mr. Desi Arnaz
President
Desilu Productions, Inc.
780 North Gower Street
Hollywood 38, California

*Desilu Productions, Inc.
780 North Gower St.
Hollywood 38, California*

Dear Desi:

I wanted to call to your attention the snide, unjustified comments made by Robert Stack, who currently plays the role of Elid Ness in "The Untouchables." Mr. Stack was quoted in the December 5, 1959, issue of "TV Guide" as stating: "I underestimated the appeal of the period, too. Ness is a hero with freedom. It's all in the past, like a Western, so anything goes. It's not like this sophisticated day and age when you get arrested for jaywalking if you cross the street. A friend of mine is an FBI agent and he's no more like Ness than I am. They've got so many rules and regulations in his outfit it's all he can do to blow his nose."

It would appear to me, and I am certain that many of my law enforcement associates throughout the country join me, that Mr. Stack, who reportedly personifies a law enforcement officer on television, might give consideration to upholding this profession rather than being satirical in his outside remarks. While I am unaware of Mr. Stack's actual experience in law enforcement, it is rather doubtful that his brief acting career in "The Untouchables" establishes him as an authority to speak regarding FBI activities or those of any law enforcement organization.

While I realize you are not accountable for Mr. Stack's uncalled-for actions or remarks, I am certain that you, [redacted] and your staff would prefer that the general public believe that Desilu Productions stands for the highest quality in performance. Such remarks as attributed

cc - Los Angeles - sent 12/15/59
1 - Mr. Jones

CDD/emb

NOTE: See page 2

DEC 11 5 07 PM '59

FBI REC'D DE TOUCH

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR

REC-34

DEC 23 1959

- Tolson
- Belmont
- DeLoach
- Mohr
- Parsons
- Rosen
- Tamm
- Trotter
- W.C. Sullivan
- Tele. Room
- Holloman
- Gandy

66 DEC 21 1959

EX-133

REC-11 143 P
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94-52549-23

Mr. Desi Arnaz

L 03723

to Mr. Stack would seem to indicate that the FBI, and law enforcement as a whole, is today incapable of handling its responsibilities. You, of course, as a personal friend and one interested in the FBI, understand the fact that the FBI's accomplishments over the years have become ever greater. Statistically, from the standpoint of money saved the United States Government, the apprehension of dangerous fugitives and many other factors, the FBI increases its accomplishments each year. Mr. Stack's sarcasm hardly rings true in the face of such facts.

While Mr. Stack may be content to revel in exploits which smack of disregard for civil liberties, I cannot with any degree of pride condone either his remarks or such actions as may be depicted on television.

I thought you might be interested in having my opinion of Mr. Stack's remarks, particularly in view of the clouds that have hovered over certain television programs in the recent past. It would seem that actors would desire to portray the true facts regarding the careers they represent on television, rather than allow suspicion and doubt to be cast on future performances because of ill-advised untruths they might utter outside their acting roles.

Sincerely,
EDGAR

NOTE:

Robert Stack, playing the role of Elliot Ness, has repeatedly used force and duress against prisoners in his television programs. His acting shows little similarity to that of a law enforcement officer who observes the letter of the law. We have protested to Desi Arnaz and [REDACTED] regarding usage of the name of the FBI and also usage of FBI cases. Although the program does not now use the FBI's name, at the same time little doubt is left in the public's mind that Ness and his group of actors do represent the FBI.

December 15, 1959

Mr. Robert Stack
Desilu Productions, Inc.
780 North Gower Street
Hollywood 38, California

Dear Mr. Stack:

604-1919

I was indeed surprised and shocked to read the comments attributed to you in the December 5-11, 1959, issue of "TV Guide" wherein you are quoted as stating: "I underestimated the appeal of the period, too. Ness is a hero with freedom. It's all in the past, like a Western, so anything goes. It's not like this sophisticated day and age when you get arrested for jaywalking if you cross the street. A friend of mine is an FBI agent and he's no more like Ness than I am. They've got so many rules and regulations in his outfit it's all he can do to blow his nose."

It takes years of hard, tedious work to develop the respect and merit the confidence of the public, yet in a few rather flippant remarks printed in a publication circulated throughout the Nation you have managed to hold up to scorn and ridicule the valiant past and present efforts of thousands of FBI employees. All of us in the FBI are very proud of the many accomplishments we have made while operating within the framework of laws passed by Congress.

Our record has shown that good work can be and has been accomplished by intelligent investigators operating within basic rules and regulations promulgated specifically to prevent brutality and other disregard for civil liberties such as depicted

ENCLOSURE

- RW
- Tolson
- Belmont
- DeLoach
- Mohr
- Parsons
- Rosen
- Tamm
- Trotter
- W.C. Sullivan
- Tels. Room
- Gandy

Los Angeles

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach

604-1919/cbc
604-1919(8)

ENCLOSURE
604-1919

(See Note next page)

RECEIVED DIRECTOR
DEC 15 1959
COMM-FBI

DEC 30 1959

REC-34

94-52579
DEC 28 1959
RECEIVED - HQ

RECEIVED
DEC 15 1959

RECEIVED

Mr. Robert Stack

in the role you play on television. While they may be dramatic, those tactics displayed by the characters who represent the "Federal" agents comprising "The Untouchables" cannot be justified merely by showing that law enforcement triumphs in the end. Most unfortunately, the general public associates this group of "free-wheelers" with the past activities of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

I would think that you would want to defend law enforcement in your public utterances since you are theatrically identified with this profession, rather than make comments which could easily be interpreted to mean that present-day investigators are incapable of handling their responsibilities because of "red tape."

Sincerely yours,

Clyde Tolson

Clyde Tolson
Associate Director

NOTE: See Jones to DeLoach memo captioned "Robert Stack, 'The Untouchables,' Desilu Productions, Hollywood, California" dated 12-14-59. GEM:paw

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WHAT TEEN-AGE BOYS LOOK FOR IN GIRLS

see page 20

TV GUIDE

LOCAL LISTINGS - DECEMBER 5-11

15c



GAYLE POLAYES, JOAN CHANDLER

AND DWAYNE HICKMAN OF 'DOBIE GILLIS'

11

THE SURPRISED MR. STACK



When Robert Stack was first shown the script for *The Untouchables*, he solemnly shook his curly head and pointed the tips of his well-bred thumbs toward the floor. It was his professional opinion that the story of Eliot Ness, United States Treasury *continued on page 10*

Robert Stack (center) as Eliot Ness; Tyler McVey (left) and Suzanne Storrs.



He finds himself starring in a TV series that was supposed to be a movie

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Robert Stack/*continued*

agent, was lacking in something.

"From an actor's point of view," says Stack, a 40-year-old California socialite, whose approach to his career has always been marked by a certain detachment, "it had no dynamics. Don't ask me what that is, but I can assure you it's a quality that's mighty important to the leading man, two critics and three other actors."

For this reason Stack was cool about playing the Ness role when it was first offered him by Quinn Martin, executive producer of the Desilu package, and Phil Karlson, its director and a long-time friend of Stack's. Aside from the fact that Martin and Karlson thought enough of him to drop by his house and make the pitch, Stack says two things made him change his mind and agree to clean up Chicago—on film, at least.

"For one thing," he recalls, "Martin and Karlson were painfully honest. They told me I was third choice for the part. They had Van Heflin lined up, but he conked out to do a picture. Then they tried to get Van Johnson. I'm not being sarcastic about this. I admired the outfit's honesty. I thought if they could level with me, the least I could do was to listen."

At that time Stack was not interested in doing a television series. Neither were Martin, Karlson and Desilu. That, says Stack, was the clincher. Staunchly conservative as a prominent member of Hollywood's old guard, he was still thinking of the dynamics of the box office and the marquee. He agreed to do *The Untouchables* as a bloody and beery movie.

"I am just as bewildered as you are," he says today, as the star of ABC's weekly hour-long excursion into the skulduggery of the Capone era. "This whole thing came up in such a hurry. Originally it was to be a

feature picture. We shot it in four weeks last season as a feature. It was for European release. It was filmed in wide screen.

"Its American release was going to be on television, but nobody thought anything about that. That was just part of the financing. It was to be cut into two one-hour film shows on *Desilu Playhouse*. Desilu got \$125,000 for each show. That made \$250,000. But the picture cost \$500,000. The other \$250,000, plus maybe a million or two profit, was to be made up from theater showings. It went on *Desilu Playhouse* in April, and I put it out of my head.

"Then in July I was leaving for Japan. Desilu called me. The darnedest thing had happened. The sponsor had an option on the time slot if Desilu would make *The Untouchables* into a weekly series. It was up to me. I had 12 hours to make up my mind. Desilu was willing if I was, and the whole thing came up just like that."

Before leaving for Japan, where he had contracted to star in an independent picture (Andrew Stone's *The Last Voyage*), Stack called Desilu back and consented, but not without misgivings. "The Untouchables," a Chicago newspaper's nickname for a seven-man squad (reduced to four in the series) of incorruptible Treasury agents, was based on the life of the late Eliot Ness, the leader. As a picture, Stack was pleased with this rehash of the 1930's, but as a TV series it struck him as a little dated.

Then, too, there were other problems. For one thing Fuselli (played by Keenan Wynn), one of Ness's agents, was killed in the picture. For authenticity, he would have to be revived as a regular in the series, always an awkward moment for all concerned.

That sticky situation had been avoided, however, by having the series begin where the picture had ended—after Fuselli's death.

And a fact overlooked last June—a television audience apparently as thirsty for the nostalgia of the early 1930's as for the nostalgia of the Old West—has taken care of Stack's worries about "dynamics."

Hollywood gossip writers have described the off-screen Stack as "good-natured," "stubborn," "determined." He developed the last two qualities in self-defense. He is a home-town boy, whose career began tamely in 1939. In "First Love," his first role, he gave Deanna Durbin her first screen kiss. Universal was charmed but not overly impressed, and assigned its wavy-haired 20-year-old a number of "tennis-racket" roles, in which Bob recalls that he mainly bounded on screen to ask, "Where's everyone? Is tea ready?"

Stack is the first to confess the parts fit. He is the son of the late J. Langford Stack, a wealthy Los Angeles advertising executive, and a fifth-generation member of one of California's first families. His great-grandfather opened Los Angeles' first theater; he is a nephew of baritone Richard Bonelli. (Stack, incidentally, is married to the former Rosemarie Bowe, an actress. They're the parents of a daughter born Jan. 20, 1957, and a son born May 22, 1958.) At the time he kissed Deanna Durbin, Stack, an ex-University of Southern California student, had a three-goal rating at polo.

Five years in the Navy interrupted all that, and Stack returned to Hollywood with a more determined approach. "To impress this town," he observes, "you have to skate upside down on one finger, playing 'God Bless

America' on the harmonica and balancing Jayne Mansfield on one foot." Stack figures that he performed comparable feats with postwar roles like the psychotic playboy in "Written on the Wind." He admits now that he erred in sizing up Eliot Ness as lacking the vividness of such roles.

"The script wasn't lacking anything," he concluded. "I was leaving something out. I was forgetting the audience. They love this guy, and no wonder. Here's a Government agent making \$50 a week and turning down \$5000 a week to lay off the mob. I underestimated the appeal of the period, too. Ness is a hero with freedom. It's all in the past, like a Western, so anything goes. It's not like this sophisticated day and age when you get arrested for jaywalking if you cross the street. A friend of mine is an FBI agent and he's no more like Ness than I am. They've got so many rules and regulations in his outfit it's all he can do to blow his nose."

Except for *Playhouse 90*, a *Producers' Showcase* and a couple of half-hour filmed dramas, Stack had done very little TV. "I wasn't snobbish toward it," he says. "I just preferred doing pictures. It's less back-breaking work." Since *The Untouchables*, however, Stack has formed Langford Productions, Inc., with his agent and a businessman friend as partners. The company owns a share of *The Untouchables* and plans to develop other properties as future TV series.

"I'm reading stories," says Stack, "but so far nothing as good as the Ness book has turned up."

High filtration & refreshing taste in one cigarette: **Alpine**

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