

RG: According to the oldest no?? I never thought he was, he ~~never~~ acted independently, he was a brother of Harry and he was an extortionist went to federal prison for having machine guns in his car. He got a long sentence and he didn't get along at either <sup>Atlanta</sup> ~~Landmar~~ or Levinworth where he was first sent and they transfered him to Alcatraz. and when he got out of prison he came up to see me at the newspaper and to tell me that he had and wasn't going to go back into rackets anymore and he also mentioned that he spent 40 years in solitary confinement and I didn't believe this at alcatraz. Because Alcatraz itself was almost solitary confinement but I just didn't believe that it was physically possible and however I was talking a short time later with a chaplain from Alcatraz and he knew Louie well and he verified his story but when he was out only a couple weeks the ~~news~~ headlines started appearing ~~news~~ about ~~cleaning~~ cleaning establishments and barber shops being blown up and I began to wonder very ~~seriously~~ seriously if he hadn't fallen back into his old ways and it wasn't to much later maybe ~~six~~ six months that the police ~~ga~~ caught him red-handed

blowing up a tailor shop. It was an extortion thing you know he went on the payroll or up ~~went~~ the place would go in smoke if they refused.

was going  
So he told me he ~~would go~~ into the junk business, the family, his father had done that business and it done well in it , reasonably well, but and the kids all grew up in it knew it well and there was no question that he would have made a decent living if he had done what he said he wanted to do, that he was going to do. But I guess the other was more tempting and he ~~got~~ <sup>thought if he</sup> still went around and got on the ~~payroll~~ payroll like they ~~is~~ used to do in the 20's, times had changed while he was away and he didn't realize it.

MK: As far as you know he's still in prison

RG: He's either in ~~prison~~ prison or he's dead. I think he died in prison.

MK: I see, ~~there was~~ <sup>Keywell</sup> There was Philip ~~Keowall~~ a member of the Purple Gang

RG: Yeh and Harry of course went to was the one that he went into accounting with. Philip

MKX

MK: Now he came to grief some time later.

RG: Before, no he came to serious trouble in the 20's. He and ~~an~~ man named Wayne Rader allegedly had a garage, a wooden garage, with a lot of liquor stored in it and they someone attempting to break into the place and shot him. He got life for that, Rader got a much lesser sentence but Philip got life and he spent an awful lot of time, at least 35 or 40 years in Jackson prison on that charge and he came out in very bad shape too. Prison you know is such a horrible sad way to treat human beings because if they get out and don't sin again it's ~~in~~ in spite of their experience in our penal system ~~because~~ <sup>not</sup> because of it. And ah if a person is there a length of time he lost to society because he just ~~is~~ vegetates. <sup>U</sup> Now this is an example he wasn't able to do anything and if he isn't there long enough to do that he gets more embittered every day and comes out and takes out his hostility on others and each repeating crimes. The <sup>recidivism</sup> ~~resylabism~~ rate <sup>ought to</sup> ~~out a~~ be enough to tell us, that <sup>Just</sup> in itself <sup>ought</sup> ~~out~~ to be enough to tell us that

our whole system is useless courts, our police and our prison  
~~XXXX~~ they don't work out. If we have 75%, and this is a fairly  
good, you know, figures are very deceiving, but 75% at least of  
people in prisons~~xx~~ in state prisons~~xx~~ have been ~~px~~ in prisons  
and reformatories before. <sup>They're</sup> ~~Their~~ repeators, <sup>They're</sup> ~~their~~ repeators many  
times some of them. So what we do for them isn't doing the right  
thing. Now the other 25% <sup>maybe</sup> they can change real well, or they commit  
crimes after they've been out but haven't been caught. So we  
don't know the real rate of repeators. I was in the yard in  
Jackson prison one day with the then warden, Bill Bannen, who had  
been before he was transferred to Jackson in ~~xxx~~ Michigan's prison  
in Ionia~~x~~, that's for young offenders, in theory some older ones  
are there, but principally it's for young offenders and I noticed  
that Bannen's an exceptional man in his field but when he got to  
know so many of the inmates were speaking to him, friendly and he  
would call them by name, Hello Joe or Tom or whatever, and I said  
Bill how come you know ~~xxx~~ so many of these, I think the count as

they as ~~KRM~~ at Jackson was well over 5,000 and he knew an awful lot ~~KRM~~ of them by their first name and he said Ray Oh those are the ones we rehabilitated at Ionia, which was a better sarcasm of sort but it was very appropriate because it was such a revolving door. We havent <sup>Gegur</sup> ~~begone~~ to get at the roots of any of these crimes ~~we~~ it's just we <sup>ought</sup> ~~out~~ to know by now after having do<sup>e</sup>n it for so long that our system doesn't work but ~~why~~ nobody spends any, ~~KRM~~ they just want to be morally pressive.

Mk: As a newspaper man and a student of nature how do you explain a phenomenon like the Purple Gang, for example how do you explain a family like the <sup>Keywell</sup> ~~Keewalls~~ that produced two sons separately convicted of murder, ~~x~~ and a third son who's a respected Judge.

RG: Yeah, Uh Of course I've known other families where one brother would be a priest and another be a burglar, or something like that with the same, well because, look, this is vague, and I ~~think~~ think were getting in a very big area for we ~~don't~~ don't know, in an area where we don'tk know an awful lot about but I think that there is a combination of heredity and <sup>environment</sup> ~~x in a crime~~, in other words I think

-31-

there ~~comes with each person into the world~~ in each thing which comes with a person into the world and then his learning process, his influence by the part of him which he brought in with him and the learning experiences may be as identical as we can tell from observation of say those two brothers in a home and at school and ~~in~~ in growing up but what we don't know what they brought in with them which must be ~~in~~ all different, and the learning process to you will react ~~in~~ differently with what you brought with you than to your brother who has taken the other route. Now this is vague and I'm just taking the cases where everything seems to be equal but there are brothers that, for instance, one will go with one gang of kids who are harmless kids and grow up with them, and the other will find that he enjoys being to a greater extent, with so called bad kids, the lawless kids and he'll go toward them. I think it's something within these two kids which twists them in that direction that we don't know about. We don't know what the infant brings into the world with him but potentially the learning process will act

differently on one than the other because of what's there. It's pretty embarrassing ~~XXX~~ often for the law abiding that have to live with the <sup>onus</sup>~~owness~~ of the lawless in a family.

MK: Ray do you think it's to <sup>of it</sup>late to ascribe <sup>the</sup> ~~X XX~~ phenomenon ~~to~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ like the Purple Gang to the depression or to poverty.

RG: Well poverty of course is a quick answer to a lot of things and it isn't obviously the complete answer because you see so many of the poorest people you know who have an excellent reputation and who do the finest work. So poverty doesn't make crooks out of ~~them~~ all people. Maybe it's one of the many influences, I think that, now some of those fellows in that Purple Gang ~~were~~ their parents were really affluent, upper middle-class, they had family's were indulged in ~~xxx~~ things, they had the materially things they wanted and others were poor but they, that wasn't with them ~~were~~ it wasn't the problem. I know of course that there's more ~~x~~ crime in areas where there's more poverty and this is the general rule we follow.

I think one of the reasons is if a person is poor and he can't  
~~by~~ buy what he needs he steals it. I would, I'm sure I would,  
 despite my ~~upbringing~~ upbringing, I'm sure many of us would if it  
 was a matter of feeding a family, yourself but you know that  
 wouldn't be true in that case. It is ~~in~~ some cases sure, there  
 is more crime, that kind of crime now were talking about crime  
 pretty much in the sense of street crime, not the white collar,  
 not the banker who steals the bank or the railroad man who steals  
 the railroad, were talking more about kids who steal things off  
 of box cars, I think there are different motivations, Many  
 different, one is need, one is greed, I think that it's very  
 difficult to generalize too. One might do it to make an impression  
 on his ~~peers~~ peers on his ~~peer~~ peer group, another on his girl to boast his  
 own manner, I think it is very wrong to say Oh sure we can attribute  
 crime to this because there are too damn many exceptions that can  
 be pointed out if you say it's, we know there are factors, look one's  
 that are being talked about now finally most are you know poverty,



unequal education, housing, lack of jobs, Ugh things like this. Well in spite of this~~x~~ these handicapps, many ~~people~~ persons who came up that same ~~way~~ way have made remarkable successes and are fine upstanding citizens. So I don't think you can just say this is the reason for it. I think it's a matter of action of the learning experiences growing up on what is there.

MK; Would you say Ray that if a man like Louie <sup>Fletcher</sup> ~~Fletcher~~ was a congenital criminal that there were others in the Purple Gang who reformed <sup>who</sup> / went straight in later years.

RG: They went

MK: without the intervention of lengthy prison terms.

RG: Yes, yeah they went into Ah yeah the borderline. For instance, gambling several of them went to Nevada and got in gambling

MK: Legitimately

RG: Yeah or somehow legitimately. Some couldn't get in because of their record ~~xxx~~ others did, others went into the resturant business or bar. ~~They~~ Usually they'd get it under someone ~~xxxxxx~~ else's name.

Yeah, I think maturity whatever that means has a lot to do with it. and I believe that a person as he gets older often gets too tired to do these things or he's had too much grief connected with it. Or w a woman ~~XX~~ may seem to change a person for the better. This is ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ in my experience, I've seen this

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happen and I know a man who spent ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ with a criminal lawyers life, he spent at least 20 years, different times in

prison. He's K now in his 60's and he'll take anything for a legitimate living, ~~XXXX~~ wash walls, do any kind of menial work

he told me that he would never never commit another x crime because he's had to pay too much for it, he's not interested in it. Well a lot of things have happened to him, he's gotten old and tired and suffered and he's missed a lot. But I don't have confidence in our system of justice at all for rehabilitating when a person needs help.

*I think*

I ~~KK~~ don't think we do, we have two forms of justice one needs a cliché but we do we know that, one for the affluent and one for the poor, and the difference is so great, its sooo great. But the person who to repeat

if the person survives our prison system and becomes a good law abiding citizen after having been there, I think has overcome a great handicap, the prison being the handicap and has done this in spite of his experience because brutallity another cliché, he gets brutality and if our prison system and our system of justice doesn't demonstrate that every minute of every hour of every ~~h~~ day then I don't know what does. ~~XXXXXX person can go to a prison and not get~~

~~XXXXXX~~ When he comes out a mild person can go to a prison and cannot brutalized and in the moods who brutalize many others because of his brutalization in them penatentary. And there <sup>is</sup> all bad everyone of them is bad. I know something about scores of prisons and say with out exaggeration, if not by direct contact by reading and I don't know of any \_\_\_\_\_ who talk about a mild prison. For instance, in California, its great publicity for a while than <sup>it</sup> develops <sup>that</sup> it can be worse than some of the ones in Alabama. No, don't ask me for the way to do it right because I don't know.

MK: RAY looking back over the prohibition ~~XX~~ era and specifically the

style of reporting, do you ever wonder if the newspapers perhaps didn't glamorize crime and actually attract people into it. Make heroes ~~out~~ out of gangsters ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ in other words.

RG: Well the gangsters didn't think so, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ the ones that I knew and I knew a lot, a large number, they did an awful lot of complaining that they were being badly treated by the press and but I don't know and I think perhaps the papers had a not intentionally, I don't think it was intenitonally ~~done~~ done but by reporting the things that were going on, I think this became attracting to people and whether that sent anybody into it or not I wouldn't know but it might have made it more tolerant. I think that the fact that law was not observed, did not have anything really to do much to do at least with the newspapers or anything else, it was just a public, I mean it was a feeling of the public that this is not what we want, this is unfair law, this was put over on us, ~~XX~~ this was not the <sup>will</sup> ~~XXW~~ of the majority, because the voters were in France fighting a war, and whose got the right to tell me when I can drink. It was horribly unpopular.

And I think (1) it would have been violated perhaps just as much  
of  
without any publicity and (2) whether the good profits ~~in~~ bootlegging  
enticed ~~XXXXXXXXXX people~~ an awful lot of people anyway not the  
glamor but the profit, people who had nothing with  
any kind of luck and there was ~~was~~ a lot of luck around then, could  
make a money and fast and they didn't have to learn this from the  
paper they learned it from, they saw it, they saw it happening to  
people they knew or didn't know but saw ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ how they would  
progress.

MK: Ray there seems to be a good deal of ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ <sup>mythology</sup> methodology  
about organized crime and one popular theory has it that organized  
crime as we know it or think we know it today is directly traceable  
to specific <sup>gangs</sup> ~~gangs~~ in the prohibition ~~era~~ era. Is that your  
impression at least in terms of Detroit?

RG: Well I think there's organization before prohibition or gangs  
that would be hold up you know bank hold up gangs, not large but it'd  
be gangs that would specialize in other illegitimate enterprises that  
were not thought of as we think of it today. Yeah, I think there were

myths connected with it, and I don't know the true story of organized crime. If were talking as the papess and books and so on~~x~~ with the exception of one that is coming up pretty soon and is stricken all mention of mafia but people think in terms of the mafia, they don't know precisely what that means or the Cosa Nostra or whatever name they have for some lawless people who come to this country from Sicily or Southern Italy and they get blamed for everything. And, of course, the Italian~~s~~ people the legitimate people by far majority resent these labels and I can understand it I think that sometimes their a little hypersensitive but I suppose maybe I would be too, if I had an Italian name and were ~~a~~ law abiding. I think that we don't know two kids with a screw driver going to break into an autormobile could be an organization could be organized crime. But then what we generally mean is people who are believed to control a gang with a common ethnic background, who are believed to control gambling, vice, even politics, or many things in large cities. ~~XXXX~~ In detroit, and I think to know the whole story correctly, I've heard so many things to be mythical ~~sometimes~~ ~~XXXXXX~~ somethings I'm not sure of at all and somethings

*I know*

96

I've heard I think are right about certain clic<sup>ques</sup>es but I think in order to know what one is talking about he has to be born into this, if this honorable ~~XXXXXX~~ as they say society as it's referred to in books, I'm convinced that there is an organization in Detroit that is dictated ~~XXX~~ as a dictator , it's a criminal organization and has a dictator, or a troik<sup>o</sup> or maybe just two or one anyway and that there's others in descending ranks of importance and that they have a great deal of business ~~XXX~~ in gambling, loan sharking and other rackets not in prostitution tomy knwoledge, not in narcotics. I think that at one time the predecessor's of this so called organization which is rather loose ~~XXXXXXXX~~ did deal in narcots, did deal in prostitution but I don't think they have for many many years in Detroit I think this is a free enterprise. I'm not too sure of the narcotic business but I'm positive that if you could go to Chicago and fill up your car with herione you could bring it back to Detroit and if you made a connection with retailer's you could sell it at a high price and ~~KNOW~~ no gang is going to come in and take it away from you, that is,

the gang ~~which~~ we are talking about, but I don't think they'd have anything to do with it. It started in Detroit when it was known when it was getting the Black Hand Gang and these people whoever they were would prey on others from their country and they'd send notes demanding payment, threateneing kidnappings, threatening murders, Threatening various things, an fact there was in the Detroit Police Department a squad known as detectives in the Black Hand Squad and because of protests from the Italian community the name was changed. It was changed to the Crime and Violence Squad and then changed again to special investigation. But I think that if you wanted to start and had the money to start a big numbers operation in Detroit, you might be visited by people who felt had a monopoly on that one, there must be roughly about 20 number houses in Detroit including the small ones, and the small ones are in business by sufference.= Their just the big ones \_\_\_\_\_.

But most of the number s in Detroit is being run at least on the surface since October 1963 by Black People, there were there had been two or





Detroit. I think the reason were having so many as the newspapers say Narcotic connected murders, now is because of this newfound riches and because people are fighting to get the most they can out of it and exclude others from it but I don't think that the organized crime is engaged in either of these operations. I've never heard from any reliable source nor have I seen any signs that they are, I've seen really \_\_\_\_\_, for the type things than but years ago might have been different, I don't know. Now in I'd say that when the gangs took charge during prohibition, they had the ~~XXXXXX~~ Purple's as I said did the land business, ~~XXX~~ they made this tough bottle that made the labels, got the bottles and had their own business but the others brought it across the river and they hoodlums came from all parts of the country because this was such a busy port of entry. Now the, there again we get to persons of Sicilian and Italian background and they moved into ~~XXX~~ Detroit, many of them, and Took over a ~~XX~~ good bit of the river that doesn't mean that that others of other ethnic background just went out of business, they didn't because

there was a lot of business for everybody but the aggressive newcomers were pretty rough and succeeded in a hurry in getting a good part of the business and they did ~~X~~ this by just muscle and mere killing, beatings and killings and threats, it wasn't a sissy business at all.

MK: Prostitution has undergone some changes <sup>cool</sup> in the years hasn't it, for instance, houses of prostitution were common <sup>in</sup> ~~in~~ the 30's but have ~~virtually~~ disappeared though prostitution itself, ~~X~~ of course, has not.

What accounts ~~for~~ that?

RG: I think it is largely economic, I think that the house of prostitution is too expensive to operate and there isn't enough profit for either the ~~XXXXX operator~~ operator or the girls or their pimps. The pay off would have to be ~~X~~ too great and the dangers would be too great. The neighbors would be probably too difficult to keep quiet and the complaints would ~~XX~~ make it ~~XXXXXX~~ harder to house the \_\_\_\_\_ nation, of course, where ~~gix~~ many girls take their customers but these are in pretty run down neighborhoods as a rule. Now in street prostitution is completely changed ~~XXXX~~ from

white, whihc it was, to black. One hardly sess a white prostitute working the street now, black prostitutes have taken over. The white prostitutes, of couse we have no count on them, we don't know how many there are, but we know that <sup>they're</sup> ~~their~~ in business and they work by telephone. Their telephone taxi cabs or out of bars. Some bars have many many white X girls and the man buys them a couple of drinks then gets in a K cab and goes to their apartment or a motel and then the girls are back at the bar for their next customer but the houses themselves are a thing of the past because I think as I say for ~~KNE~~ those reasons, the economic thing probably the biggest one. The street girls are for instance, there is a big rubarb in the police department ~~think~~ about putting ~~women~~ women, policem~~an~~ out to pretend their prostitutes and then have four to five detectives higing to pounce on the man, that was proposed to me when I was polic~~e~~ commissioner and I rejected it and ~~many~~ I many times have rejected it because some people think its very unfair that ~~KNE~~ only the girl is prosecuted. Well I think its very simple, I don't know how you'd prosetute the man unless

you have a witness and the ~~prosecutor doesn't~~ prostitute doesn't want to testify against the customer or she's out of business. So you don't have a witness, so you ~~can't~~ can't prosecute the man.

UNless in very unusual ~~circumstances~~ circumstances that don't exist, so they put suggested putting policewomen out and let the man solicit them and ~~they~~ they arrest a man for accosting and solciting I, as I said had refused it for two reasons, one it's not there's a question in my mind about ~~entrapment~~ entrapment; two I don't think its fair to have the policewoman to pretend she's a prostitute pose as a prostitute and act up to a certain point as if she's a prostitute and three I think its extremely dangerous to put a police-woman on the streets with the other prostitutes because they have t heir own territories and if she isn't hust by some proposed ~~customer~~ <sup>X</sup> customer, if the police can't get there in time to protect her, one of the other girls might stab her ~~for~~ for ~~encroching~~ encroching on her territory and then there's the fact that for one lously ~~misdeameonor~~ misdeameonor you've got a man for maybe propóstitutioning a ~~girl~~ girl which I'm sure

happens quite frequently, ~~you tie up in a city that's~~ you tie up in a city that's  
 very very short of policemen for serious crimes to protect people on  
 the streets and do all sorts of things, for this other thing, you tie  
 up five ~~xx~~ policemen and a policewoman for this one little insignificant  
 case and I think crime ~~xxx~~ and I know it can be swept aside but I  
 certainly think it has its priorities, I think it's much more  
 important to capture or to stop a person from killing people, for  
 instance to have a crack down on overtime parkers and I think you  
 have too and to me the prostitution thing which is illegally which  
 is perhaps immoral is just not worth the effort because they only  
 reason that I would occasionally put more policemen in certain areas  
 is to keep the prostitutes ~~xxxx~~ to a lesser number is to keep some  
 order in the streets otherwise they take over but there's going to  
 be, no police department can ~~xxxxxxx~~ stop prostitution and it's  
 changed. We had a very bad practice in the police ~~xxxx~~ department  
 were arresting girls illegally, a prostitute would be picked up and  
 locked up over night and charge with ~~DPI~~ meaning Disorderly Person

Investigation and how do you investigate a person for being disorderly, I don;t know, ~~XX~~ either one is disorderly or isn't, it meant nothing, it was just something to put after their name in the book. This has been going on for years, ~~X~~ if we keep the girls off the street for a few ~~XXXXX~~ hours at night she'd be released in the ~~XXXXXX~~ morning because ~~xx~~ there'd be ~~XXXX~~ no court case, no case against her, it would be an illegal arrest to begin with. The Board of Health, Oh the excuse was that the Board of Health could examine the girls, but I checked into that and only about one out of ten to twenty girlshad an examination and if it was an examination for ~~XXXX~~ <sup>Syphilis</sup> syphilis, they were ~~XX~~ examined for ~~XXXXXX~~ ~~XX~~ gonorrhoea and syphilis, and if they didn't have gonorrhoea they'd be ~~XXXXXX~~ released. The syphilis and the results for the syphilis test wouldn't come back until long after the ~~XX~~ girls were gone and the y usually left their phony address and phony name so what could you do about, what good was a fictitious persons if they had it if you couldn't get them in for treatment. So that was a

hoax another hypocritical thing so I stopped all the arrests on that  
 and just made cases and we thought we had an ordinance that would  
 cover it but the ordinance was eventually found unconstitutional  
 and it's the police were operating a losing battle because the  
 girls would gang up on the streets and it's pretty hard to get them  
 off unless <sup>They're</sup> ~~their~~ creating quite a disturbance. Now the point I  
 originally wanted to make was that while this practice of  
 arresting a ~~XX~~ DPI was in effect the streets were still mobbed  
 in certain areas at 2:00, 3:00, 4:00 in the morning with prostitutes.  
 They'd stop traffic and create quite a trouble and when the law went  
 in it didn't seem to make any difference one way or another, ~~XXXXXX~~  
 it didn't reduce the numbers or hide them ~~X~~ they were about the same  
 and you see they work for their pimp and their pimp doesn't care ~~XXXX~~  
 about the weather and <sup>They're</sup> ~~their~~ out in sub zero weather, he's warm where  
~~X XXX~~ he is and he doesn't care if they have to spend some time in  
 jail ~~XXXX~~ except that it cuts off that particular income for that  
 length of time but what ~~XXXXXXXX~~ happens, the girl isn't a human  
 being it's just something he uses to make money and maybe ~~X~~ you would a



machine and ~~he~~ his influence on the girl is much greater than the ~~combined~~ combined influences ~~of~~ and instruments of society.

The laws the courts , the jails so this is another, its a shame that police have to waste ~~so~~ so ~~much~~ much time with this as they do, there ought to be a separate police department that would handle traffice and a branch to that ~~that~~ that would ~~handle~~ handle such things as prostitution perversion on the street or in public places, and narcotics because there's an overlapping police problem and very social problem and I don't think that the police are equipped ~~to~~ to handl certainly if to arrest a homosexual and drag him through the courts andput him in jail, isn't doing society a damn good, he's a sick person who treatment probably won't ~~help~~ ~~it~~ help it might but certainly jail isn't going to get any place, we have a law here and most of the harmless type to put the dope user in jail doesn't do society a damn good, if they put the prostitute in jail it doesn't help society because if she doesn't get right back at it somebody else is standing in the wings to take her place. It's kind of an uphill fight and I don't think

you can, I think were pretty confused as to what should be a law and what should be moral thing or else what should be a sin and

I don't think ~~XXXX~~ something that should be a moral ~~XXXX~~ <sup>abberation</sup> ~~abiration~~

necessarily should be a crime. I dont' ~~XXXXXX~~ have many people

agreeing with me but maybe someday ~~XXXXX~~ <sup>will</sup> their realize that were

wasting billions of dollars on our police, court and prison system

while were neglecting so many other things, Were neglecting the

kids were neglecting the families and do something about it. If

it ever gets through to ~~x~~ enough people, I seriously doubt it will,

people are not interested in crime unless it directly affects them.

<sup>vine</sup> Their not ~~XXXXX~~ interested ~~DDDL~~ in what ~~XX~~ goes on in prison unless

<sup>vine</sup> their directly involved because a member of their ~~XXXXXX~~ families there.

I had a radio program and a doctor who was a psychologist , a prison

of Jackson ~~XXXX~~ oneotime when I was out there said If I could only

get something for the mental patients here in prison, it was ~~XXX~~ a

shame of the state that their <sup>vine</sup> not supposed to be in prison of course

<sup>vine</sup> their supposed to be in a hospital but their <sup>vine</sup> in prison, ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

<sup>the</sup>
~~the~~ in a certain part of the prison, back in the cells just locked  
 up perpetually with no treatment with no nothing, he said if I could  
 just get something to get them out of their shell and I know I could  
 make some sort of step ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ forward, If I would get a  
 television and I said I'll get you a television someday. So I  
 talk&d about it on the radio and I got no answe~~r~~e and I had a  
 fairly good program, it was going pretty good then, and I got no  
 answer and I talked about it a second time and I got two television for him  
 but the interesting thing to me was that both of the people who bought  
 and donated good television sets for the people ~~who~~ were parents who  
 had sons one had a son in the prison at that time and another had  
 a son ~~who~~ who had been there, ~~on~~ people who had been involved with the  
 prison system, no one else it seems takes any interest. I do think  
 that if we~~XXX~~ did get our collective minds together, some collecti~~ve~~  
~~x~~ funds together we could find some answers to the problems in the  
 area of crime and crime prevention but were not ~~going~~ going to do it  
 by putting more ~~police~~ police on the streets, it just moves it from the

street there to over a block or two. We're not going to do it by giving longer sentences. We've tried all those things, you see

if they get terribly heavy ~~XXXXX~~ sentences and the <sup>recidivism</sup> ~~recidivism~~ rate went up just the same and then they thought lets try <sup>probation</sup> ~~prohibition~~

parole, so they gave them shorter sentences and let them out on parole or gave more <sup>probation,</sup> ~~XXXXX prohibition XXXX~~ crime kept going up

well there were changes in our society that accounted ~~XXX~~ at that

time for part of this but there's more to it than that, because

what happened in the short time they were in prison to them and

it is what happened to them ~~on~~ parole and <sup>probation</sup> ~~prohibition~~ neither

of which has been given a chance to work, now I was head of the

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ <sup>probation</sup> ~~prohibition~~ department in Detroit for its

Criminal courts and I don't know when <sup>probation</sup> ~~prohibition~~ is going to

work or isn't and I don't know and I think its a very good thing

but I'm not sure it is for the simple reason that I have never had

a change to prove it. We never had, there's only one ~~xxx~~ place in

the ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ country for a short time had funds and adequate people

who did the work in a <sup>probation</sup>~~prohibition~~ department or a parole and the right trained people to do it. that was the Saginaw project, Saginaw, Michigan and that apparently worked out and does demonstrate that if you had the proper people and then if you have enough of them, it's much better to put a person, ~~in~~ most persons on probation that it is to sent them to prison but that hasn't been in that satisfied that ~~XXX XXXXX~~ that's the answer either based on that one experiment and needs more. But we haven't given them a change. A probation worker who may or may not be trained will have a case load that is

end of tape

111

Reel 3 -- August 11, 1971

MK: Ray you have some more on rum running.

RG: Yes a few little incidents ~~up at the~~ towards ~~at~~ the mouth of the Detroit River and down at the outlet where the ~~Ferry~~, Train Ferry <sup>ies</sup> didn't break up the ice in the winter time, when there would be snow on the ground. Of course, the bootlegger<sup>s</sup> ~~g~~ <sup>boats</sup> couldn't get through the ice nor ~~XXX~~ could the customs or border patrol. <sup>So</sup> Some bootleggers used to get ~~a~~ sled<sup>s</sup> and put their load of whiskey on the sled<sup>s</sup> and get themselves completely covered in white sheets or white coveralls and they'd cover the load with white so they ~~it~~ blended in the snow and then they'd push it across that river and unload it <sup>That way</sup> ~~at that~~, but they had to worry about the shore patrol<sup>s</sup> not the boat<sup>s</sup> but it was impossible to see them out during bad weather untill they got right up to the shore and that was a very successful trick most of the time, ~~the~~. Another trick they used ~~XXXXX~~ they soon found out it was foolish when a border patrol boat was overtaking them to just to dump their load over board and <sup>lose</sup> loose it all rather than be arrested. They had to get it out of the boat or <sup>They'd have</sup> ~~be~~ <sup>lose</sup> taken in, ~~lose~~ their boat, ~~and~~ maybe go to prison but they took to ~~XXXXX~~ putting the

liquor in burlap sacks and then throwing the sacks overboard in the shallow<sup>2</sup> water, they knew on their route, then when~~X~~ the ~~XXXXX~~ boarder patrol would overtake them there<sup>1d</sup> would be nothing on the baot, no counter<sup>ra</sup>band. The bootleggers would go on as if they were just on a pleasure trip and come back later, ~~XX~~ probably at night probably the daytime when the boarder patrol wasn't around, with lines with hook<sup>3</sup> much like the police harbor master <sup>during</sup> use to retrieve bodies ~~XXXXXX have X drowned~~ <sup>in the river</sup> of people who have drowned and the hooks would catch on the burlap and they would retrieve at least part if not most or all of the load which they'd thrown over, so they saved a lot that way. They used to take it to, often they'd load it directly in the trucks and go out, sometimes they'd put ~~XX~~ it in one truck and take it to a depot and then the next day make their ~~XXXXXXXX~~ deliveries, <sup>In</sup> and this one office of the depot was a coca-cola not machine as we have now but a long ~~W~~ ice box and the federal<sup>5</sup> raided the office one night and this one bootlegger jumped <sup>right in this</sup> into the coca-cola thing and half full <sup>it was</sup> of ice water there was no ice or coke in it but they didn't the feds didn't look into this machine, this ~~XXXXX~~ story is bad or they would have seen him of course, but it took him two weeks to get over the chill

he got while <sup>he was</sup> hiding ~~KK~~ in that ice water. They'd resorted to just about everything to get away from being arrested. There are ~~XXXX~~ many former bootleggers still walking around Detroit, their <sup>fire</sup> a little top heavy from <sup>the</sup> bullets they got in chases by some of the police, the feds, the border ~~XXXXXXXX~~ patrol, even immigration had been shot and the shots wouldn't stop them if they could possibly keep going they'd keep going.

MK: Did any ~~XXXXXXXX~~ go on to glorious careers in the Navy during the second ~~WW~~ world war?

RG: Not that I heard of, they'd be a little over <sup>aged (?)</sup> eazed wouldn't they?  
 They'd given their all to  
 no I don't know of any who did. they stayed and kept their country <sup>supplying it</sup> supplied with liquor, maybe they thought they done their <sup>best</sup> deed. No, they were I know ~~X~~ some of the people who tried to get in the service, tried to enlist but were turned down because of their police record and couple I was told just because of bootlegging, the importation of spirits. They finally closed the export <sup>doles</sup> tax in Windsor by clsoing <sup>it</sup> <sup>pret</sup> them meant they couldn't export liquor to the United States anymore.



SO the stuff <sup>that</sup> they filled <sup>the</sup> their boats with were marked ~~XXXXXX~~, you know,

Ireland, England, Scotland, Foriegn Countries, <sup>I</sup> it was a technicality

and at first <sup>it</sup> worried the importers that <sup>their supply would be cut,</sup> supplied the ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ but

they soon found a way by sending it to another country and if they

happened to stop off in the United States on the way <sup>say</sup> to Australia

there wasn't anything in the manifest to prohibit it.



rubber boots or anything because people had access to it. One very well known and very competent and ~~XXXXXXXX~~ incidentally quite beautiful woman reporter, Vera Brown, and she had come back one day from covering a murder of a woman, so she was telling two or three of us about ~~XX~~ her experiences and she was gushing about a little boy who was left motherless because of this crime and the little boy it seemed had blond curly ~~XXXX~~ hair and captured Vera's heart and she said ~~XXX~~ You know I love children, there is anything I wouldn't do for children, Vera by the way had no children of her own, she said I just wanted to take him home and <sup>what</sup> ~~when~~ <sup>and</sup> I did, /at this point about a ten year old kid tugged at her sleeve and said you want to buy some peanuts lady and she said no dear thank you I don't want any peanuts, and he waited and she said I wanted to bring my son out and got out a ~~XXXXX~~ big quart of ice cream for this little boy and said You darling you just eat the whole quart and Oh I just hate to give him up and here ~~has~~ mother was lying dead and he didn't know what it is and he said "Mommy speak to me Mommy" and this kid

in the office untugged her sleeve and said Peanuts lady and she said No firmly this time, No I don't want any peanuts. <sup>s</sup>o she said all my life I;ve loved children, I'd like to have a home in the country with twelve children all my own and just bring them up because I love them and the kid tugged at her sleeve again, Lady don't you want some peanuts, and she said, No god damn it, you little bastard get out of here with your god damn peanuts. ~~XX~~ I told you that story, it was funny when it happened. Yeh, Uhm, I was going to talk about that city room. One of our big advertisers in the Times who was a music fancier called up one time and wanted to talk to our music critic who <sup>42</sup>~~s~~ name was Harvey Tailor, got the city desk by mistake and the city desk had him transferred to Harvey Tailor, now the man who was calling stammered and our Harvey Tailor also stammered and they didn't know each other, so the caller was a little suspicisou about this man stammaring because it sounded as if he was mimicking him. He I got this thing wrong, No, ~~HOWXHH~~  
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ let's start this again, how can we do it

MK: No that's allright we'll just

-8-

RG: The call went to Harry Tailor who, by mistake, wasn't the music critic, he was a feature writer and he stammered badly and he told the man who was quite suspicious that he was being mimicked, ~~XXX~~ look you have the wrong Mr. Tailor, I'll switch you to the one you want to talk to, so he had the call transferred to Harvey Taalor, who's the music critic and who also stammered and he got on the phone stammering at the man and the man became enraged, ~~W~~ he was sure it was a plot to humiliate him and he hung up the phone and he removed all his advertising from the Times, persuaded whatever friends he could to do the same thing and it took a little time you know a little diplomacy to explain that this was the damnest coincidence that ever happened in the wide world, that you had two people by the same name, ~~and~~ who stammered on the same paper and also the advertiser and they were not ~~XXXXXX~~ mimicking him at all but were merely talking as they always talk.

MK: Not a halting(??) explanation I trust.

RG: Not what

MK: Not a halting explanation

RG: No we had someone who could speak very articulately and quickly do most of the work. The Of course, the place was always full, had its as every newspaper office has it s x number of press agents, and politicians and others looking for something for nothing. That is stories not ads. but and the reporters shouldn't be left out because they were the principla inmates and some ~~xxxx~~ years ago it was quite common for reporters to do a lot of drinking, it really sor t) of went with the work and there were no hours, one didn't wait till the day he was done and he had his cocktail before dinner because the day was never done in newspaper work and one didn't have dinner at the same time nighlly and one didn't get home very often for dinner or anything else. So the drinking went on during the day but it was, you know, it didn't interfere with the work , the papers took a more tolerant attitude toward it than they now do, there's much less of it now, it's practically and comparatively non existent now to what it was like 30 years ago. But it was sort of an all day thing and then when we'd start in the morning and where'd

we go someone would want ~~XXXXXXXX~~ to get a drink from him right away and there was so much tension in the work and so ~~XX~~ much waiting you know, it was a hurry up and wait thing like they later used to say in the army because you'd ~~XX~~ either be figuratively speaking, putting out singlehandedly putting out a five alarm fire, playing checkers in the fire hall, there'd be a long long waits and that would have to be spent, you know you'd have to spend it somewhere why not at ~~XXXXXX~~ drinking. Now there wasn't drinking in the city room as such, that was frowned on but the ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ attitude in general was pretty tolerant toward it and the reporters helped each other. If one wasn't quite up to writing a story somebody else would do it for him, this happened many times, in fact, there is a classic ~~xxx~~ story of a reporter being out of town and the city ~~XX~~ desk receiving by Western Union, three different ~~xxx~~ stories signed by him and they called him up and <sup>to</sup> asked him why three, and he was inarticulate he couldn't talk at all, but what had happened was that he didn't write any of the ~~xxx~~ stories but his friends knowing he couldn't, he sent a story in, not knowing that anyone else had done it

he thought he was doing a favor. So they got three good stories instead of one. One reporter covered a Democratic Convention in Chicago but the office couldn't find him, he took to drinking when he got there and they were calling him all over. This was in the very early 30's when, I believe, Roosevelt was nominated and he the politicians that year were using the term that the office is seeking a man. When they finally did contact this guy, he said ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ well I don't think I should be seeking the office, I think the office should seek the man, they would have found me sooner. He stayed on, there were (you want to shut it off for a minute). There was of course a great deal ~~of~~ more drinking as I've said before then many years ago in the newspaper business then now but one character that stands out in my mind was a copy reader, he had the one fault as they say, ~~he~~ he liked to drink but he always came to work cold sober and he'd sit down at the copy desk and after his, he put him time in he got up and he'd be roaring drunk practically legless. Now people



would observe him and he never got up in the meantime from that chair and he never stopped working. It took quite a while to figure it out but what he would do would have a fairly large, he would come into work with a fairly large bottle of Misteka in the inside pocket of his suit coat and two glass straws, so they wouldn't crumble and he put, ~~M~~ putting his head down over the copy reading the copy and writing headlines and he did a good job at it he'd be sipping this Misteka, that's a Greek drink that tastes like Annis, and its pretty powerful, so he'd get up and start staggering around, was mad at everyone in the city room because people did not drink in the city room and it was I'd say months before anyone figured out ~~WHY~~ how he achieved intoxication without once getting up from his chair.

MK: Ray you were pretty well known during your ~~XX~~ salad years as a drinker yourself, then on the wagon however for the last 26 years, tell us about it?

*I drank a lot*  
 RG: Yeh, well it was, as I said, par for the course, it didn't  
 interfere with my work really because I ~~would~~ <sup>used to</sup> think it was  
 fortunate but I think it ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> probably ~~unfortunate~~, I could  
 drink quite a bit without it affecting me, that is without me  
 showing it and without it interfering with what I had to do but  
 it was ~~XXXXXX~~ <sup>a</sup> morning and night sort of thing and I was the one  
 who drove the others home and ~~XXXXXX~~ remembered everything that  
 was said and I could work and do my writing, get my facts and do  
 my writing while carrying quite a lot of liquor. It became quite  
<sup>com</sup> impulsive with me and I finally realized that I was sort of working  
 for it. I'd ~~wither~~ <sup>, I'd have</sup>, if I ~~had~~ to go on an assignment and be with  
 somebody, <sup>I remember</sup> I'd have a debate with myself whether I should take a  
 one or two more drinks before going to see this person or going  
 to this place or whether I should ~~wiat~~ <sup>wait</sup> until I came ~~XX~~ out, ~~XX~~ you  
 know if I took two before I went ~~ink~~ would it show, wait until I  
 came out, take some ~~wihh~~ <sup>either</sup> me. One ~~year~~ it was thinking about it  
 all the time, =practicically all the time or participating in it but

as I say ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ fortunately I was able to keep going and keep

my senses <sup>but</sup> and I liked it. Well I quit finally because ~~of~~ I guess <sup>of</sup>

a combination of things. One I saw too many of my friends <sup>fall</sup> ~~XXXX~~

down ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ figuratively and not be able to get up again

and probably die from the effects of liquor. People with talent

with a great deal to offer and I saw too many homes broken up, I

saw too much suffering from it. But of course all I the years

you see those things ~~and~~ you think ~~XX~~ well that won't apply to

me. ~~I did~~ finally I went one night to a cabaret ~~and~~ that was

very loud it was <sup>The Bowery</sup> a bowery and I was with some people and the next

day one of them said something about it and I didn't know what

he was talking about. I had spent two or three hours in this

place and didn't remember a thing about it. This scared me

because <sup>I was</sup> ~~I was~~ always one who remembered everything but I just

didn't remember and I checked and found that I didn't act drunk )

I ~~XX~~ acted sober ) and the people I was with didn't even know that

it had affected me. Then I had the experience of waking up one

-15-

morning and not remembering how I got home, did I drive with my  
 was my car bumped, what was happening, I had driven myself home  
 and apparently driven alright, the car was unscaged, I didn't  
 have any tickets for traffic violation<sup>s</sup>, so I guess I drove alright.

Well a friend of ~~my~~ mine who, well two friends of mine as a matter

of fact, had talked to me about alcoholics anonymous which was

just getting started then. This was in <sup>1945</sup> ~~1940-45~~ <sup>and</sup> but it was

under way but it wasn't like it even is now. They were both in

it and they ~~were hopeless~~ both were hopeless alcoholics, I thought.

one of them I had take to El<sup>we</sup> ~~weese~~, now called the Wayne County

General Hospital, twice and I didn't think he'd come out either

times, I thought he'd die there but after the first time he came

out, he wasn't on skid row he was down in the jungle<sup>s</sup> which was

below skid row, worse than skid row, and this was a guy with

immense talent, looks, personality, breeding, and another was

doing his work but just about, he ~~was~~ from out of town, from

Washington as a matter of fact, he worked for a string of newspapers

-16-

there and <sup>he</sup> was a brilliant writer and a brilliant newspaper man,  
 he and I sat up <sup>in New Orleans</sup> Wharlings one night when we both were covering  
 a story there and he was telling me about his being in AA and I  
 remember, I wasn't drink at the time ~~XXXXXX~~ I was on the wagon  
 for a month or two, and I remember at the time that I said Gee  
 its wonderful that you alcoholics have a place to go, that some-  
 thing can be done for you, you know, <sup>And.</sup> this is alcoholic thinking  
 on my part and this is the way an alcoholic thinks, its great  
 that something can be done for you because your an alcoholik,  
 me, I can take it or leave it alone. Then what he was ~~do~~ doing  
 was subtly <sup>was trying to</sup> get me to come in AA's. Then he wrote to me about  
 a year later, year or two later, and he said he was coming into  
 Detroit, and would I save a little time for him and I replied  
 sure I'd be glad to see him, he <sup>was</sup> ~~s~~ coming up on an assignment.  
 So I was in the one of the Downtown Hotels, <sup>to sleep there</sup> ~~in a~~ ~~XXXX~~ suite there  
 and this happened frequently and we had several of us with a  
 party that just lasted for days and I remember in the midst of  
 this thing, that <sup>jeepers,</sup> my friend was going to be in Detroit that day.

So he always stayed at that smae hotel when he came to Detroit,  
 so I called there and yes he was registered there and yes he  
 was in ~~this~~ room and they rang for me and I talked to him and  
 said Gee I just happened to be in your hotel and I'm in rm. such  
 and such which was directly across the hall from his room. He  
 came into this suite of ours and there were a lot of people and  
 they were all celebrating something and he ~~XXXX~~ had a coke and  
 we had a nice pleasant <sup>little</sup> visit and he went and said he had to go  
 back to work , so he left, and I didnt' know <sup>until</sup> ~~till~~ sometimes after-  
 wards that he had arranged that trip to Detroit to this specific  
 purpose of talking <sup>me</sup> into getting into ~~this~~ AAA and he of course  
 saw that i was not in very good shape to talk about it then.  
 Well getting back to the first friend I had put in the hospital  
 not expecting to get out on two different occassions, he had come  
 out and he had gotten sober and he had was gogten back in the  
 newspaper work and he was ascending rather rapidly, <sup>Now</sup> and I knew  
 this about him but I hadn't seen hi m and he got in touch with me

-18-

one day and wanted to see me and he said you probably wonder ~~why~~  
~~I~~ or how I quit drinking and you probably know I have and wonder  
how I did it. I said yes I did and he said well its AA. And he  
said ~~that~~ I think <sup>that</sup> you'd enjoy it, And You'd like <sup>that</sup> ~~it~~ way to go.  
He was very careful about the way he talked and I said Gee I  
said just as soon as I get to feeling better I'll be ~~X~~ very glad  
to go, what do I do. <sup>Call me</sup> ~~Come with me~~ and we'll have dinner and go  
together, ~~XXXXXX~~ I said I'll do it in probably a couple of days.  
Well it was about 6 months before I guess I reached my own <sup>id</sup>  
base botton or hit bottom and with me it was pretty much of an  
<sup>no key says</sup> emotional thing. I was really very down, and depressed, and I think  
it was the drink that did it and I knew that it was running me,  
I could see that but I didn't want to admit it. One of the  
things I said to him, that was a classic example of alcoholic  
thinking, yeh but if I should go with you and people see me ~~g~~  
coming out of an AAmeeting they'll think <sup>they'd</sup> ~~I'm~~ <sup>I was</sup> an alcoholic. You  
know, of course they'd seen me coming out of ~~XX~~ <sup>5</sup> a Saloon at 3:00

in the morning but I went with him to the first meeting and it was 26 years ago and I havent' had a drink since, I've never missed it and <sup>I've</sup> <sup>ed</sup> <sup>every</sup> ~~that~~ I thank God for ~~that~~ every day for the help I got through Alcoholic's Anaonymous because its the only thing <sup>conceivable</sup> ~~that~~ I can think of <sup>that</sup> will help a person who has that problem. Now I did a lot of things before that. I tried you know the usual. I was brought up in the Catholic Church, so I tried prayer. I went ~~to~~ in ~~PSYCHOLOGY~~ psychoanalysis and spent a lot of time and a lot of money in that, thinking that if I could get the reason for it this compulsion to drink, I could handle it before it got worse than it was because while I was getting by I knew ~~I just~~ <sup>that</sup> I couldn't last much longer. None of the things that I did meant anything but being with the people, <sup>in AA</sup> at the first meeting, they all had had worst experiences than I had had. They were re-established and they were happy, normal, people. I suppose I <sup>felt</sup> ~~thought~~ well if they can do it I can do it, <sup>that's</sup> probably part of the psychology, but I ~~didn't~~ went to meetings for quite a while



and they were very very important and I <sup>, of course,</sup> could have got the ~~XX~~ help through conversations with people in the organization and it gave me the lift I needed over the rough time <sup>when trying to quit</sup> I was ~~having~~ and I had some rather traumatic experiences right after I quit to just fill ~~in~~ in, and fortunately I was able to handle them and I think that ~~XXXX~~ if they were later in later years if I had the urge to drink under stress <sup>id</sup> I think back to the early part of my sobriety and think well Jesus I was able to get through those without drinking, I <sup>sure can</sup> should get through this one, because this is a ~~XXXX~~ <sup>big</sup> small comparison.

XX MK: Will you admit to feeling the urge during the 67 riot.

RG: No, I <sup>actually</sup> think I <sup>had</sup> don't have any urge in maybe 20 years. But the first couple of years, particularly and maybe the first five, you do have.

MK: How long did you stay with AA?

RG: I suppose I still am a <sup>peripheral</sup> ~~periferal~~ sort of person, in that I've never stopped doing what they call <sup>12th</sup> twelve step work and that's helping others who have the same problem. And I've gotten many

people in AA since I've stopped being really active. I think I went to meetings, one or two a week, on a pretty regular basis for about three years but for the whole time I've never stopped trying to help other people with the problem and ~~KKX~~ taking them or seeing someone else with them, <sup>or</sup> staying with them to get through.

MK: Tommy Macintire had <sup>a similar</sup> ~~the same~~ order of experience, didn't he

RG: He didn't go to AA, well I mean, pardon me I want to correct that, I ~~KNXX~~ I guess he went to some meetings for a while. Yes he did. Yeh, I don't know however if <sup>whether</sup> ~~that KNXX~~ helped, whether that

is what helped him ~~XX~~ I really don't know that or with some <sup>several</sup> newspaper men around. As a matter of fact, I was the second

person on the Times, I found out later, to be in AA by about three

months. <sup>When</sup> ~~Then~~ others got interested, and we had in the editorial

staff roughly twenty-some people who were alcoholics <sup>that</sup> who had gone

to AA, and John <sup>McClellan</sup> ~~McCallum~~ was our ~~MANAGER~~ <sup>man</sup> managing editor~~x~~ said to

me one day, Ray I'm scared to death of this thing, and I said why,

he was not a drinker by the way, he said well, with all this sobfiety  
on this newspaper, something that <sup>5</sup> never happened, he ~~xx~~ said that  
I'm afraid that someday ~~it~~, one of you will go over the cliff,~~x~~  
you know fall off the wagon in other words, and we never <sup>MAA</sup> called it  
the wagon, and then it will be like a bunch of lemmings and  
everyone ~~xx~~ <sup>body</sup> on the <sup>whole</sup> staff will get drunk and we'll have no newspaper,  
but it didn't happen ~~and it~~ I would say about 20 people from the  
city <sup>room</sup> people got help from them, and god knows how many I know are  
outside newspaper work, ~~that~~ the man who came to take me to my  
first meeting said, look <sup>your anonymity</sup> you're ~~anonymity~~ (look here's our girl)  
was preserved, then as it should be now and probably is, but I nver  
tried to ~~xxxxxx~~ make any particular secret out of it, out of my  
participation because I thought that if its known and somebody  
has a problem and ~~xx~~ want <sup>y he</sup> to talk and knows that I'm participating  
he <sup>might</sup> may want to talk about it and I'm sure some heard about it and <sup>that way</sup>  
did come in, but he as I <sup>say</sup> said this friend of mine had said that  
you'll <sup>be going to be</sup> be surprised now when you go ~~xxx~~ to this first meeting to

see some of your old friends there and I was surprised. There were a number of persons that I knew but didn't know had a serious drinking problem, and then later other friends would come in and wouldn't know anything about and wouldn't know that they had a drinking problem at all. I think it's the greatest thing in the world when ~~as a~~ <sup>one has this illness -</sup> ~~stonest~~ there is a help he can get if he wants it. Of course, that's the big thing, one has to want sobriety before he ~~XXXX~~ can get it. It can't just yell AA at you and ~~XXX~~ take care of your problem. But if the individual wants help he can get it ~~in~~ <sup>it's from</sup> there, and there are some people who have <sup>had</sup> experiences who ~~are~~ probably as bad or worse probably than he's had. So it was, I don't know, its hard to <sup>You see</sup> ~~fight~~ <sup>propitien</sup> ~~a~~ in a person, a doctor can tell a person ~~XX~~ <sup>you</sup> he won't live if you don't stop drinking and I don't know anybody who <sup>ever</sup> stopped ~~drinking~~ because of a thing like that but he ~~just~~ could as I said <sup>if</sup> after you have to <sup>hit bottom</sup> ~~you brought him~~ and then you stopp and that's what I guess happened to me.

MK: And its entirely coincidental Ray that your last drink coincides

with the end of World War II.

RG: Well I think the condition <sup>or</sup> of the problems that I was havin  
at that time with myself. I was out of the army then, <sup>were</sup> was so  
great that I didn't even realize that the date <sup>day</sup> August 10, was  
the date they were signing the papers on the Missouri, if that  
is the right date, I think it is, I know its the day I quit  
drinking. Yes, entirely coincidental, no connection at all.

I'd had a private war~~s~~ with ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ alcohol, it wasn't in any  
way connected with the ~~XXXX~~ world war except that I didn't stop  
drinking while I was in the army ~~or~~ when I came out .

MK: and its been a cold war ever since

RG: It is.

~~XXXX~~ MK: Ray is sobriety ever a disadvantage in <sup>the reporting</sup> ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ business.

RG: No, No I don't think so at all. I used to think so but that

~~XXXX~~ was part of the rationalization. You know the story that

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ you can't definsively one would said sh<sup>y</sup>  
<sup>well sure I'm in</sup> away from bars and blind pigs that's where you get <sup>is</sup> knews, you

don't get a story in Church. Which is fairly true but you can be in

-25-

bars and blind pigs sober too. Of course, I thought that people were going to be insistent I drink, you know that I'd have a lot of pressure, and it was a very pleasant surprise to find that my friends would break my arm if I'd reach for one after ~~it~~ had been announced that I had because they all wanted me to stop but I didn't know it until I had stopped and got other people who didn't know ~~me~~ me I'd say no I didn't drink and that usually ended it if they were too persistent I'd say look I'm way ahead of schedule, I've had all the drinking that one can stand and I don't drink any more. So I was looking for a problem there that didn't exist (would you sit down).

MK: Ray yesterday was were talking about ~~gangs~~ gangs who operated various rackets during prohibition, we didn't refer to the kidnapping specialists.

RG: That was a big omission because kidnapping was one of the big rackets. When gambling was ~~pretty~~ pretty wide open here in *Det*

in Detroit during prohibition, and there was a gang that was usually referred to as the Leg <sup>Lohman</sup> ~~Leg~~ kidnapping gang. Oh, I can see some names that come back to me, Oh <sup>Halsey</sup> Harry ~~Ellis~~, Stanley Gelone, oh there <sup>were</sup> was about ten of them in all, and they made a practice of kidnapping gamblers and there were a lot of them and they made alot of money <sup>had</sup> and ~~KNE~~ bootleggers, and there standard fee for releasing them was \$25,000, and ~~KNEK~~ they got paid off every time, they didnot <sup>you know,</sup> under threat of murdering a ~~of KNEK~~ person, they didn't murder anybody. Actually they weren't rough on the person they were holding. Now these were not as a rule reported ~~KNE~~ to the police. The gamblers didn't want to say anything about it nor the bootleggers, they just tried to keep it quite <sup>and</sup>, pay off the money, they tried to negotiate to get the price down but I don't think they ever succeeded <sup>and</sup> there might have been cases where more than 25 was paid and some less. The usual fee was \$25,000 and ~~KNEKXWNE~~ that was the money <sup>would</sup> he paid, he'd <sup>the man would be</sup> ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ back at work, <sup>he'd</sup> and the man would explain that he'd been on vacation someplace without telling

-27-

anybody except those who were very very close to him what his  
 experience had been. The police however found out what was  
 going on. Oh incidentally Bernstein I remember told me that  
 he, this is a tough kid gang, <sup>Alie</sup> Ed Bernstein told me that he when  
<sup>draping fee.</sup>  
 the Purple's had a big reputation somebody interceded with him  
 to get <sup>Lahman</sup> Lahman to release one of the kidnap victims, so he  
 reached him by long distance tleephone and told him who he  
 was and said he'd appreciate it as a favor and he said Lahman  
 told <sup>me</sup> him to mind my own god damn business and not bug him anymore  
 about anybody and ~~he~~ hung up on me and he said, I did. <sup>S</sup>o they  
 weren't to be interfered with. But the police, as I <sup>say</sup> said, found  
 something out about them, <sup>him</sup> got enough to make some arrests, one of  
 the persons arrested was Lahman who was shot while the arrest  
 was being made because it was, ~~XX~~ <sup>up</sup> it was kinda a rough arrest  
 and he ~~was~~ shot. He told me while he was in prison that he was  
 beaten by the police with chains while <sup>he was</sup> in Receiving Hospital, <sup>that</sup> he  
 was subjected to all kinds of torture and he wouldn't ~~XX~~ tell on



anybody else but they did manage to arrest a few members of that gang. About a year later we were surprised that the police rounded up another half dozen or so from the gang. It seems that Lahman had ~~tole~~ the police, sent for the police and told them the ~~XXXX~~ whole kidnapping story, <sup>on his own accord</sup> and told on all his accomplices and the reason he did it was that he had a wife and baby and he felt that the gang members <sup>who</sup> were ~~not~~ in prison should have been sending money to his wife for both her and their little baby and ~~XXXX~~ that <sup>and he had sent word to them,</sup> if they did not do it, he told, me several times, ~~he~~ was threatening them, and they still didn't do it, so he said ~~to~~ <sup>he</sup> hell with them <sup>When</sup> and they turned their backs on me so I figured its every man for himself. He his sentence was lessened, either he was transferred first of all to the house of correction and put <sup>among</sup> him ~~XXXXXXPERSONS~~ with the persons who were in prison for misdemeanors not the tough ones, he was ~~ta~~ken out of the state prisons so there wouldn't be reprisals, and he was then let out and I forgot whether <sup>it was commutation of</sup> by ~~commutation~~ sentence or by what the <sup>but</sup> procedure was he was let out after serving three years or so.

He told me ~~at~~ after he had named all the others and told the police the whole story, he told me that he ~~g~~ had no qualms about it all, he'd do it anytime because of the way they treated his wife and baby. This was a very unusual thing. He disappeared after that, by disappera I don't mean that anything happened to him, I don't know that it did, but he left Detroit when ~~KN~~ he got out of jail and I've never heard anything about him since, ~~just~~ I assumed he probably went to another city under another name and maybe even went legitimate, I don't know, but I've never heard anything about ~~KN~~ him. The others all got a long sentences and ~~there~~<sup>y're</sup> all out, I mean their sentences have been served and ~~there~~ out and whatever ~~they're~~<sup>y're</sup> doing their not collecting \$25,000 for it.

~~KN~~ While this ~~KN~~ kidnap gang was busy picking up the bootleggers and gamblers who were their main victims, the bodyguards got a lot of work. The gamblers ~~WHXXXXXXXX~~ were either carrying 45 ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ caliber automatics in their belts or they were accompanied by bodyguards, often both, ~~same~~ same with a lot of bootleggers but , of

~~XX~~ course, in spite of that they ~~continued until~~, they continued kidnapping and collecting until L<sup>h</sup>man finally decided to talk, I think that <sup>that</sup> before the gang was broken up they must of kidnapped and collected ransom money from <sup>in</sup> Detroit 40 to 50 people, which seems like a large number and it is a large number, but they were goign ~~X~~ pretty good and nobody could catch up with them. I know that there were a lot of people who might have been tougher than this kidnap gang ~~X~~ looking for them but they just couldn't catch up with them <sup>or do</sup> doing anything or if they did catch up with them they weren't strong enough to do anything. But they had a few years <sup>that</sup> which were very profitable and they had a lot of <sup>racko's</sup> ~~rackles~~ in town terrified that they were going to be kidnapped next.

MK; Was there any <sup>protocal</sup> ~~prodiacal~~ ~~XXXX~~ Ray, such that once kidnapped a man was immune from further, \_\_\_\_\_

RG: Noone every got kidnapped twice to my knowledge. Yeah, he seemed to have a pass from then on and I don't recall any of these, <sup>Certainly</sup> ~~at least~~ none of theones I knew or talked with were in anyway injured by them and ~~XX~~ they were usually taken to some isolate d house, kept

in the basement, so that their living conditions while negotiations were going on weren't very good, but they weren't injured.

(I think that's all, you want to shut if off)

AUGUST 18, 1971

MK: Ray you have some more background on the Collingwood Massacre

RG: Yeah, for instance the day before the murders, the people ~~was~~ who were convicted got two of their youngsters, 15 or 16 years old that they knew in their neighborhood and sent them up to the apartment in the Collingwood Manor with two buckets of paint and had them laid outside the door. They told the kids that they were going to paint the apartment the next day and the kids didn't know anything, they gave them a ~~doxy~~ dollar or so for taking the paint. What they were planning and what they'd use the paint for in these buckets was to drop their guns in on the way out after the murders. They did that, two of ;the guns were found in the paint buckets which was a novel way of getting rid of the incriminating weapons. They didn't want them with them by any ~~chance~~ chance they were stopped ~~by the~~ on the way out by the police. The way that Levine got in the ~~picture~~ picture, he rode out with the Purple's who were going to do the shooting and

they told him that he was to be the peace maker, that he was to help them talk the members of the Little Navy Gang into paying their bill for the alcohol that they owed but ~~ix~~ he believed it I'm convinced that he didn't believe that they'd do anything that desperate in his presence cause Levine was not a tough guy in that sense. He was a gambler, he lived on the other side of the law but not no violence connected with him but on the way out they passed a police car and one the detective's in the car recognized Levine and then when they heard ~~xxx~~ about the shooting a couple of hours later, he recalled who he ~~xx~~ saw in the car and they the police immediately started looking for all these people and Levine and the others were a little hard to find but Levine was available ~~x~~ so they arrested him. And he eventually told them that sotry and testified against the Purples. While we were, I had an exclusive story on it and Mr. Levine I remember there was a fellow called Sam and another man I didn't know. Sam I had known as a Bootlegger and a hold up man. They were sitting in a

-34-

car when I was crossing the street to use a telephone in a drug-store on the corner and Sam~~x~~ called me, he said look I thought you'd be out here and I wanted to tell you that they just arrested Solly Levine, this was all news to me, in fact, I had never heard of Solly Levine, so he told me who he was and who arrested him and what Levine's story was about being with the Purple's. So I had that exclusively and in the last edition of our paper and Sam worried me because I really liked him, I've known him a long time and he had been a bootlegger, he was rather young but he had done a lot of things in those years and he was in the business of holding up often single ~~XX~~ handed handbooks and robbing them. As a rule he didn't bother the customer he used to just take the bank roll of the handbook, so I said to him one time, look Sam there's no future in that thing you're either going to get killed or your going to jail, you can't keep it up and win all the time. I've never had it so good, he said, this is X such an easy touch, those rackets who run the handbooks aren't going to identify me if they do know me