

# FBI Wiretap Heard Mafia Decide Not to Attack Muslim Construction Worker

Following are excerpts from transcript of electronic recordings made by the Federal Bureau of Investigation dated May 24, 1965.

These documented recordings, as the accompanying story shows, verify the fact that even the notorious Mafia think twice before abusing the follower of The Honorable Elijah Muhammad.

The FBI account appeared in the June 14, 1969 edition of the New York Times.

NK 2461-C (refers to FBI agent doing the wiretapping), in an advisory dated May 24, 1965, gives the F.B.I. the following information:

ROSARIO COCCHIARO, on May 24, 1964, was assaulted with a shovel by Matthew Shumate, a Newark N.O.I. (Nation of Islam) (the Black Muslims consider themselves a sect of the Nation of Islam) and suffered broken ribs and a collapsed lung. Rosario was hospitalized until May 26, 1966. Rosario and Shumate had a fight at a construction job in the Elizabeth, N.J. area.

The DeCavalcante "family" was initially infuriated by Shumate's action due to Rosario's father, Frank Cocchiaro, being a DeCavalcante "family" member. Frank asked for "satisfaction" and meetings were held to determine the family's retaliation measures. It was decided at first that Shumate would be physically beaten. Then it was decided that Shumate was to be murdered with a knife to make it look like a "nigger job."

IT WAS ALSO considered to murder Shumate by using a pistol, due to Malcolm X being murdered by this method. In back of all this murderous intent was the specter of the N.O.I. learning that Shumate would have been murdered by the DeCavalcante family and the possibility that the N.O.I. might retaliate in vengeance and cause an all-out war in the Elizabeth, N.J. area.

DeCavalcante met with Frank Majuri, his underboss, on June 1, 1965, and at this time DeCavalcante said he had met with Carlo Gambino that day and had told Carlo of this matter. Gambino told DeCavalcante that a La Cosa Nostra member can ask for satisfaction in such an instance, but he doesn't have to get it if there is a risk of destroying the borgata (family). Based on what DeCavalcante told him, Gambino recommended that any retaliation be held up for two to three months.

DeCavalcante and Majuri, from their conversation, now appear to be quite ready to hold retaliation in this matter in abeyance or forgetting about it altogether. From what was said, they believe Rosario might have avoided this trouble as he started the fight, and Majuri said Rosario wasn't injured that severely.

FURTHERMORE, they said Shumate, being a Negro, wouldn't know about showing respect to DeCavalcante family members or their children. Majuri asked DeCavalcante if he had told Frank Cocchiaro of Gambino's suggestion in this matter. DeCavalcante said he hadn't.

DeCavalcante probably would have permitted almost instantaneous retaliation against Shumate if he wasn't a Muslim member. Frank Cocchiaro, not immediately known of this is the Frank Cocchiaro known to be acapo in the DeCavalcante family or some relative of his, had met with DeCavalcante family members on May 7, 1965, and told DeCavalcante that he and/or Rosario are quite willing to retaliate against Shumate on their own. Frank Cocchiaro said he didn't want to bring trouble on any other DeCavalcante family member as he considered this matter to be a personal threat.

DeCavalcante told him that he wouldn't permit Cocchiaro to handle any retaliation measure alone.

The following was logged by an F.B.I. employe on May 27, 1965 (NK 2461-C)

Sam, asks Frank (Majuri) "what do you think?"

Do you think we should go all the way?" They are still concerned with the fact that he (Shumate) is a Black Muslim. They are thinking about possibly using Corky to pose as a cop and bring the guy out on suspicion of narcotics because he was a narcotics addict.

FRANK SUGGESTS that they wait a little while to see how the compensation case (Rosario's) works out and the stories that come out. In case the guy is

knocked off it might look like a case of vengeance if anyone told the real story about the beating.

On June 3, 1965, NK 2461-C reported the following outcome to the Rosario-Shumate incident:

CONCERNING the Shumate affair, Larry (Wolfson, DeCavalcante's business partner) asked DeCavalcante what would be done in retribution for his (Shumate) having hit "that kid" (Rosario) with a shovel. Sam replied, "You can't do nothing to him."



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