SGT. JOE FRIED, Y.

JACK WEBB

OFF. FRANK SNQTH

OFFICER N.

T NITRPHY.

Jr.

OFFICER, N.

NDNITOR, N.

CIµiMLCH{.

HUNTER, N.

STiySLEY Fs.

LG 0789038
"THE BIG LISTEN"

N.B.C. #229 CHESTERFIELD # 61

FOR BROADCAST: JANUARY 5, 1954

1 MUSIC: DRAGNET SIGNATURE

2 FENN: (EASILY) Ladies and gentlemen, the story you are about to hear is true. The names have been changed to protect the innocent.

3 MUSIC: DRUM ROLL UNDER:

4 GIBNEY: Dragnet is brought to you by Chesterfield, made by Liggett and Myers, first major tobacco company to give you a complete line of quality cigarettes.

5 MUSIC: UP AND FADE FOR:

10 FENN: (EASILY) You're a detective sergeant. You're assigned to Robbery Detail. You get a call from an informant telling you that three known gangsters have moved into your city.

12 You don't know who they are or why they're in Los Angeles. Your job... check 'em out.

15 MUSIC: UP AND FADE FOR:

(COMMERCIAL INSERT)
DRAGNET RADIO. The documentary drama of an actual crime.
FIRST COMMERCIAL

The thirty commercials being used with the Los Angeles
program are designed to sell a product you have to make it good and keep it good.

FENNEMANN: What do the latest reports show about Chesterfield?

Our research laboratory has compared it with the leading cigarettes in the country. Chesterfield is highest in quality...low in nicotine. Another reason why thousands of people are changing to Chesterfield every day. Smoke America's most popular two-way cigarette...regular or king-size...You'll find Chesterfields really mild...really satisfying...Best for you.
Dragnet, the documented drama of an actual crime. For the next thirty minutes in cooperation with the Los Angeles Police Department, you will travel step by step on the side of the law through an actual case transcribed from official police files. From beginning to end...from crime to punishment....Dragnet is the story of your police force in action.

MUSIC: UP TO SEMI BUTTON AND FADE ON SUSTAINED CHORD:

SOUND: JOE AND FRANK'S STEPS DOWN CEMENT STAIRS AND THEN ONTO LEVEL, SLIGHT ECHO.

JOE: It was Wednesday, August 4th. It was warm in Los Angeles. We were working the day watch out of Robbery Detail. My partner's Frank Smith. The boss is Chief of Detectives, Thad Brown. My name's Friday. We were on our way out from the office and it was 9:42 A.M. when we got to the Osborne Turkish Bath....(SOUND DOOR OPEN AND SOUND OF STEAM IN) .....the steam room.

SOUND: COUPLE OF STEPS THEN STOP!

FRANK: Hot. Don't it.

JOE: Yeah. Must be Dell back there.

SOUND: STEPS ON CONCRETE, THEN STOP:

JOE: (UP A LITTLE) Dell?

DELL: (LITTLE OFF) Yeah. Who is it?

JOE: Friday and Smith.

DELL: Oh.....be right with you.

JOE: Okay.

(Beat)
1 FRANK: You ever had one of these Joe?
2 JOE: What?
3 FRANK: Turkish bath. You ever had one?
4 JOE: No.
5 FRANK: Understand they're great for colds. Just sit there and you sweat all the germs right out. Great.
6 JOE: You ever had one?
7 FRANK: No but my brother in law takes 'em all the time. He tells me about how it does for colds. Next time he has one, I think I'll go with him.
8 JOE: A cold?
9 FRANK: Joe.
10 JOE: Yeah. It's a good idea.
11 SOUND: DELL FADES IN
12 DELL: (FADING IN) Hi... sorry to keep you waiting but we've been havin' trouble with the boiler. Gotta keep a close check on the steam pressure in here.
13 JOE: It's okay.
14 DELL: Let's get outta here huh.
15 JOE: Won't make me unhappy.
16 SOUND: THE THREE OF THEM WALK OUT OF THE STEAM ROOM. HEAVY STUDIC TYPE LATCH DOOR OPEN AND CLOSE. SOUND OF STEAM OUT.
17 DELL: C'mon upstairs. We can talk there.
18 JOE: Okay.
19 SOUND: UNDER THE THREE OF THEM WALK UPSTAIRS.
20 JOE: What've you got for us Dell?
Might not go anyplace, but I thought I oughta fill you guys in on it.

Uh huh.

Fella rolled in here last night. Must have been about 10:30. Night man's out with a cold so I had to fill in.

Cold?

Yeah.....some kinda virus or somethin'.

Oh yeah.

C'mon....we can talk in the office.

Sit down. You mind if I go over some of these bills while we talk?

No.....go ahead.

Well, this bimbo rolls in here last night.....really carryin' a load. I registered him and had Jimmy take him upstairs. Guy's kinda loud.....y'know rollin' all over the place. I wanted to get him upstairs to a room figurin' that he'd sack out and we wouldn't hear no more from him.

Yeah.

He had a different idea. Couple of minutes later he comes downstairs wants to know what's goin' on.

What'dya mean?

Wants to know where the steam room is. Says he's not gonna sit in a little room all night. He paid for a steam bath and that's what he wants.

Uh huh.
I took him downstairs and shoved him in the steam room....
let him bake for a while. Wasn't anybody else in there so
it don't matter too much about how he's yellin'.

Yeah.

Next thing I know, I hear this crash kinda and I went
downstairs to see what was goin' on. Guy has come out of
the steam room and knocked over a massage table. 'bout
that time I was gonna throw him out. Then he starts to
tell me what a big man he is.

Huh?

How him and a couple of friends of his are out here from
the east to do some business and unless I want a lotta
trouble, I'm gonna leave him alone. 'Bout this time....
couple of things start to make sense.

What'd'ya mean?

When he checked in, I asked him if there was anything he
wanted to check in the deposit boxes. Y'know what I mean?

Yeah.

We can't be responsible for valuables that aren't checked.
Well, this guys got a bankroll that has no start. Musta
been carryin' 4.....5 thousand dollars. Real big roll.

Said he didn't want to check it. Didn't want to leave his
watch either. Said that he'd take 'em up to his room.

They'd be alright there.

Uh huh. Might be something. You got anything else.

I told you....maybe it isn't. I'm just tellin' you guys
cause I figure it's something you might be able to use.

Go ahead.
DEL: When he starts to talk about his high powered friends and this deal they're out here to pull... I kinda think there's something wrong.

FRANK: He say who the friends were?

DEL: Not right out. Just mentioned a guy named Bud. Kept talking how Bud was gonna be sore at him because he got drunk. Musta said it a hundred times. How Bud was gonna be real sore. Sounded to me like this Bud is the big man in the deal.

JOE: Uh huh. No idea what the deal is though?

DEL: Most he said was that when they left town...they were all gonna have a lot of money. More money than I'd ever seen.

JOE: You got a name on this guy?

DEL: Here's the register...

SOUND: WE HEAR DEL OPEN A LARGE LEDGER AND TURN A PAGE. JOE GET'S UP AND TAKES A COUPLE STEPS TO THE DESK.

DEL: You can see here. (READS) Vernon Carmichael Los Angeles.

JOE: Didn't give a hoot address.

DEL: Once he mentioned that he had to meet Bud at a hotel down on South Flower. Didn't say which one though.

FRANK: Flower's a long street...doesn't help much.

JOE: Didn't give you any idea at all of what the deal was gonna be huh, Dell?

DEL: No. Must be good one though.

JOE: Why do you say that?

DEL: When I took him up to his room last night, I could see his clothes hangin on a chair.
JOE: Yeah.

DELL: On top of his coat, he had a shoulder holster... looked like a forty-five automatic in it. Way I look at it... guy that carry's that kinda muscle is figurin' on scorin' heavy.

JOE: He make any phone calls while he was here?

DELL: No.

JOE: Anybody had the room since he left?

DELL: No. I told the clean-up man to leave it alone... figured maybe you'd want to go over it.

JOE: What time'd he leave this morning?

DELL: Jimmy says it was about 7:30. I figured sure he'd sleep most of the morning. If I'da known he was gonna leave that early, I'd have called you last night.

JOE: Uh huh. Well, we'll take a look at the room. Might be able to come up with something that'll tell us who he is.

DELL: I got something else for you.

JOE: What's that?

DELL: I mentioned how I thought about this Carmichael to Jimmy last night. Told him that I thought there was something wrong.

JOE: Yeah.

DELL: Reason the guy left so early is that he got a call from somebody. Guess it's the guy that picked him up.

JOE: This Jimmy see who it was?

DELL: No. Did the next best thing though.

JOE: What's that?

DELL: Got the license number of the car.

(END SCENE 1)
10:15 A.M. we got in touch with Latent Prints and Harlan
Stall sent a crew out to go over the room. Frank put in a
call to the record bureau and had the name Vernon
Carmichael checked. There was no record on anyone
answering the description we'd gotten from the manager of
the Turkish Baths. In addition, a radiogram was sent to the
Department of Motor Vehicles in Pennsylvania asking for all
available information on the owner of the car bearing the
license number we'd been given. 11:30 A.M. Harlan Stall's
crew finished checking the room and told us that they'd
been able to lift a complete set of clean fingerprints
from a waterglass. They were photographed and classified.
In checking our files, there was no record of the prints.
They were forwarded to George Brereton in Sacramento and to
the F.B.I. in Washington D.C. Two days passed. On Friday,
August 6th, we got word from D.M.V. in Pennsylvania that
the car was registered to a Howard Nielson. The radiogram
also gave a description of the car and the registered
owners address in Pittsburg. On receipt of this
information, we got in touch with the Police Department in
Pittsburg and obtained the facts that Howard "Bud" Nielson
had a misdemeanor record. Late Friday afternoon, the
kickback from Washington D.C. arrived with the information
that the fingerprints found in the room at the Turkish
bath were those of Vernon Carmichael. His record listed
arrests for petty theft and robbery in Pennsylvania.

(MORE)
He'd been brought to trial but had been acquitted. Both men were well known to the Police department in Pittsburgh as hoodlums. On Saturday morning the mugg shots of both Nielson and Carmichael arrived. 10:15, we met with Lieutenant Jack Smyers and decided that the information coupled with the records of the two men made the incident worth investigation. The mugg shots of the pair were copied and a canvass of the hotels on South Flower Street was started in an attempt to find the residence of the suspects. The search went on for another two days without results. Monday, August 9th, 11:47 A.M. Frank and I got back to the office from communications.

Sound: DOOR CLOSE AND JOE AND FRANK WALK INTO THE SQUADROOM.

SQUADROOM B.G.

FRANK: We'll all feel pretty silly if Carmichael and Neilson are already back there.

JOE: Yeah.

FRANK: Beginning to look like the tip from Dell about the hotel on Flower was off.

JOE: Still a lot of places to check. They gotta be someplace.

Sound: PHONE RING OFF

JOE: I'll get it.

Sound: JOE WALKS TO THE PHONE AND PUNCHES BUTTON, HE PICKS UP RECEIVER.
JOE: (INTO PHONE) Robbery Friday...Yes ma'am. What? I'm not sure ma'am. The officer that handled the case isn't here right now. Can I take a message? Yes ma'am...he'll call you when he gets in. Alright...Uh huh...Yes ma'am. If you'll wait a minute...I'll transfer you to the main jail. They'll probably be able to tell you. That's right. Just a minute.

SOUND: JOE CLICKS RECEIVER A COUPLE OF TIMES

JOE: (INTO PHONE) Would you give this call to 2329 please... that's right Bail Clerk. Thank you.

SOUND: JOE HANGS UP THE PHONE

JOE: Call for Benson...woman wants to know how much it's gonna cost to get her husband out of jail.

SOUND: DOOR OPENS AND MURPH WALKS INTO ROOM

MURPH: Friday...We got it for you.

JOE: Huh.

MURPH: Carmichael and Neilson...we found the hotel.

(END SCENE 2)
At 10:30 that morning, Officers Murphy and Rafferty had gotten the first affirmative answer to their questions about the suspects. A room clerk in a small hotel at the corner of South Flower street and Bunker Hill Avenue had recognized the mug shots of Carmichael and Nielson. Further questioning brought out the name of the third man in the trio. He was identified as Ernest Hunter. A check of the name through our records netted us no new information on him and the name and description was forwarded to Brereton at C.I.I. in Sacramento and to Pittsburg for possible identification.

In talks with Lieutenant Smyres and Chief of Detectives Thad Brown, it was decided to keep the man under 24 hour surveillance. Three additional teams of men from Robbery Detail were assigned to the duty. For the next seven days, the three men were under constant watch. At that time, we'd gotten no indication of what they might be planning. Their habits were regular and their movements during the day followed the same general pattern. The kickback on Ernest Hunter disclosed no criminal record. At the end of the first week of watching the men, it was decided that the next step in the operation was to place a microphone in their room so that we might be able to monitor their conversations. Frank and I got in touch with the Sound Crew at the Crime Lab and made arrangements with them. The necessary permits were obtained from the Federal Communications Commission and the listening equipment itself was readied.
JOE: We made arrangements with radio car officers to pick up
the suspects for investigation. The Sound Crew, Frank
and I along with Murphy and Rafferty stood by for word
that the trio was in custody. Tuesday night, 9:40 P.M.

SOUND: OUTDOOR NIGHT NOISES...TRAFFIC...THERMAL NOISES
FRANK: Should be gettin word pretty quick.
JOE: Yeah.
MURPH: (ON RADIO FILTER) Red two to red one. Red two to red one
Come in red one.
FRANK: Murph.
JOE: Yeah.

SOUND: CLICK OF RADIO PHONE
JOE: (INTO PHONE) Red one to red two....come in red two.

SOUND: CLICK
MURPH: (ON FILTER) Any word yet? Over.
SOUND: CLICK
JOE: (INTO PHONE) No...not yet. Over.
SOUND: CLICK
MURPH: We're all set in the manager's apartment. Soon as we
hear we can move in. Over.

SOUND: CLICK
JOE: (INTO PHONE) Right. The sound men with you? Over.

SOUND: CLICK
MURPH: (ON FILTER) Yeah. Somethin' you want? Over.

SOUND: CLICK
JOE: (INTO PHONE) Better test their equipment. Over.

SOUND: CLICK
JACK: (ON FILTER) Red three to red one...red three to red one. Come in red one. Over.

SOUND: CLICK

JOE: (INTO PHONE) Red one to red three...red one to red three...are you receiving me? Over.

SOUND: CLICK

JACK: (ON FILTER) Red three to red one. Receiving you loud and clear. Over.

SOUND: CLICK...THE CAR RADIO SQUELCH COMES IN

MONITOR: (ON FILTER) Monitor to Outpost one. Monitor to outpost one. Come in outpost one.

FRANK: Sounds like they got 'em.

JOE: You wanna take it?

FRANK: Yeah.

SOUND: FRANK TAKES MIKE FROM THE COMPARTMENT

JOE: (WITH ABOVE ACTION) Stand by red three.

FRANK: (INTO MIKE) Outpost one to monitor. Outpost one to monitor. Go ahead.

SOUND: CLICK OF MIKE OF CAR RADIO

MONITOR: Monitor to outpost one. Information received that suspects are in custody. Repeat...Suspects are in custody. Acknowledge.

SOUND: SQUELCH OUT

FRANK: (INTO RADIO MIKE) Outpost one to monitor...outpost one to monitor. Message received. Outpost one out.

SOUND: FRANK PUTS THE MIKE BACK IN THE GLOVE COMPARTMENT

FRANK: You heard it.
JOE: Yeah.

SOUND: CLICK OF PHONE

JOE: Red one to red two and red three. Red one to red two and red three. Do you read me red two and red three. Over.

MURPH: (ON FILTER) Red two to red one. Read you...over.

(BEAT)

JACK: (ON FILTER) Red three to red one...receiving clearly.

Over.

SOUND: CLICK

JOE: (INTO PHONE) Red one to red three. Suspects are in custody. Proceed with installation of listening equipment. Over.

SOUND: CLICK

JACK: (ON FILTER) Roger Red one. Over.

SOUND: CLICK

JOE: (INTO PHONE) Red three...please keep contact. Over.

SOUND: CLICK

JACK: (ON FILTER) Will do red one...Red three out.

SOUND: CLICK

JOE: (INTO PHONE) Red one to red two. Come in red two.

SOUND: CLICK

MURPH: Red two to red one...over.

SOUND: CLICK

JOE: (INTO PHONE) Murph...can you see the suspects apartment from where you are? Over.

SOUND: CLICK
MURPH: (ON FILTER) Not good Joe... It's down the hall and around
the corner... first door. Over.

SOUND: CLICK

JOE: (INTO PHONE) Red one to red three. Come in Red three.

SOUND: CLICK

JACK: (ON FILTER) Red three to red one... over. 1030

SOUND: CLICK

JOE: (INTO PHONE) Are you in the apartment yet? Over.

SOUND: CLICK

JACK: (ON FILTER) Yes. We're just starting to install the bug.

SOUND: CLICK

JOE: (INTO PHONE) Can you give us a description of the room?

SOUND: CLICK

JACK: (ON FILTER) Yeah Joe... One large room as you enter... I'd
say it's about 18 by 20... something like that. On the
south wall... that's the one that faces Bunker Hill Avenue...
there's a door that goes into a small alcove. Got a gas
plate and a small sink. Not much else. Alcove is about
8 feet square. To the left of the door as you enter the
room, there's a coat closet and on the other wall there's
a door that leads to a bathroom. That what you want? Over.

SOUND: CLICK

JOE: (INTO PHONE) Yeah... is there a radio in the room? Over.

SOUND: CLICK

JACK: (ON FILTER) Yeah... small table model. It's on a
nightstand next to the bed. Over.

SOUND: CLICK
JOE: (INTO PHONE) Can you fix it before you leave? Over.

SOUND: CLICK

JACK: (ON FILTER) Yeah. I'll pull one of the wires so it won't work. Over.

SOUND: CLICK

JOE: (INTO PHONE) Where're you puttin' the bug? Over.

SOUND: CLICK

JACK: (ON FILTER) We're layin' it under the edge of the carpet near the door to the kitchen. Should be able to pick up the whole room from there. Over.

SOUND: CLICK


SOUND: CLICK

MURPH: (ON FILTER) Red two. Yeah Joe. Over.

SOUND: CLICK

JOE: (INTO PHONE) Raff with you Murph? Over.

SOUND: CLICK

MURPH: (ON FILTER) Yeah Joe...he's here. Over.

SOUND: CLICK

JOE: (INTO PHONE) Will you ask him to shake down the room as soon as the sound crew gets through. Like to turn that 45 Carmichael's supposed to have. Over.

SOUND: CLICK

MURPH: (ON FILTER) Right. Soon as they get through with the installation, we'll check it. Over.

SOUND: CLICK
1 JOE: Nothin' to do now until they get it finished.

2 FRANK: We got the recorder all set up?

3 JOE: Yeah. It's in the room. Sound Crew came in this afternoon
and made the installation on it.

4 FRANK: You know how to work it?

5 JOE: Yeah. Jack checked me out on it. Pretty simple. Like
playin' a piano. Just press the key and it goes.

6 FRANK: Hope you got it. I've always had trouble with 'em. Last

time out, I wanted to rewind one of the spools and listen
to something...ended up erasing all we had.

7 JOE: I remember that. Very well.

8 FRANK: I was afraid you would.

9 SOUND: CLICK AND SQUELCH.

10 JACK: (ON FILTER) Red three to red one. Red three to red one.

11 Come in Red one.

12 SOUND: CLICK

13 JOE: (WITH CLICK) Sound Crew (INTO PHONE) Red one to red three...

14 Over.

15 SOUND: CLICK

16 JACK: (ON FILTER) Have completed installation. We are leaving
the apartment.

17 FRANK: Tell 'em about the radio again.

18 JOE: Yeah.

19 SOUND: CLICK

20 JOE: (INTO PHONE) Red three...did you fix the radio?

21 SOUND: CLICK
1 JACK: (ON FILTER) Yeah Joe. It won't play. I pulled one of
the wires on the bottom of the chassis. Over.
2 SOUND: CLICK
3 JOE: (INTO PHONE) Roger Red three...Red one to Red two. Come
in Red two.
4 SOUND: CLICK
5 MORPH: (ON FILTER) Yeah Joe...over.
6 SOUND: CLICK
7 JOE: (INTO PHONE) Wanna ask Raff to check the room. Sound
Crew's leaving. Over.
8 SOUND: CLICK
9 MORPH: (ON FILTER) Okay Joe. I'll go with him and we can keep
contact. Over.
10 SOUND: CLICK
11 JOE: (INTO PHONE) Okay Murph. Let us know what you turn up.
12 Over.
13 SOUND: CLICK
14 MORPH: (ON FILTER) Right. Red two out.
15 SOUND: CLICK
16 JOE: Red one to Red three. Come in Red three.
17 SOUND: CLICK
18 JACK: (ON FILTER) Red three. Go ahead.
19 SOUND: CLICK
20 JOE: (INTO PHONE) Where are you now? Over.
21 SOUND: CLICK
22 LG 0189057
19-

JACK: (ON FILTER) We are in the listening room. We are making
the final hookup to the recorder. Over.

JOE: (INTO PHONE) Have you seen anyone in the halls? Over.

JACK: (ON FILTER) No... We've been pretty lucky on this one. Over.

JOE: (INTO PHONE) Let's hope it'll hold up.

(END SCENE 3)

11:15 P.M. The installation of the listening equipment
was completed, and Frank and I along with Officer Pat
Murphy took up our positions in the room we intended to
use as a monitoring post. Officer Rafferty went back to
the city hall and told them that we'd finished and were
ready to have the suspects released. In the meantime,
Carmichael, Neilson and Hunter had been fingerprinted
and mugged. A search of their persons had failed to
reveal any incriminating evidence and the time they'd been
held had allowed us to make the necessary installation.
After the trio had been released, we received information
the officers following them through the monitor station
that they were proceeding toward the hotel. Frank,
Murphy and I waited for them to come into the room.

12:35 A.M.

SOUND: ON THE SMALL SPEAKER WE HEAR THE SOUND OF THE DOOR BEING
UNLOCKED IN THE SUSPECTS ROOM AND THE THREE MEN ENTERING.
FRANK: That's them.

JOE: Set the recorder.

MURPH: Right.

SOUND: MURPH MOVES TO THE RECORDER AND SNAPS IT ON THE TAPE

HEELS TURN.

JOE: You wanna take care of the log Frank.

FRANK: Yeah... (LOOKING AT HIS WATCH)... 12:36 A.M.?

JOE: Uh huh.

PRODUCTION NOTE: ALL OF THE FOLLOWING SPEECHES FOR CARMICHAEL,

NEILSON AND HUNTER ARE ON FILM THROUGH THE SMALL

SPEAKER.

NEILSON: (F) Loser deal.

CARMIC: (F) They just wanted to ask some questions, that's all.

NEILSON: That's what you think. They had a reason.

CARMIC: You're so smart you tell me why.

NEILSON: Oh shut up Carmichael. You weren't a big man when they started to ask you the questions. You all the time saying how you were gonna tell 'em off.

CARMIC: (F) Oh shut up.

NEILSON: Probably when you got tanked up in that turkish bath. That's probably what tipped 'em.

CARMIC: What tip? Couple of uniformed cops stop us on a routine investigation. They got nothin'... if they had anything on us you think they would have let us go.....

NEILSON: Oh shut up. Hey Hunter....

HUNTER: Yeah.
NEILSON: Turn on the radio huh. Get some music.

HUNTER: Yeah.

NEILSON: Next time you get tanked...come back here huh....don't go roamin' all over town. That's why they picked us up. You said something.


You're bein' the big man....you tell me what I said to them that they picked us up. Go ahead....tell me.

NEILSON: You said something. I don't know what it was....but you shot off your mouth. (TURNS AWAY) What's the matter with that radio Hunter....I thought you were gonna turn it on.

HUNTER: (LITTLE OFF) I'm tryin' to.

NEILSON: We hear him hit the top of the radio a couple of times.

HUNTER: Thing must be broken. Don't work.

NEILSON: Don't make any difference. I'm gonna hit the sack.

CARM: Be nice to have you shut for a while.

NEILSON: Look Carmichael. I'm gettin' sick of your mouth. You're gonna open it a little to wide one of these days and I'm gonna shove your foot into it.

CARM: Anytime you think you wanna try you go right ahead.

HUNTER: Why don't you guys knock it off. You wanna keep up this beefin'....go outside and do it....I'm gonna get some sleep. Can't do it with you yellin' at each other.

CARM: He's all the time talkin' about how I'm gonna queer the deal.

NEILSON: You are.
1 HUNTER: Nobody's gonna queer it. We got another week to go.
2 Now try to go along with it huh. It's the reason we came out here. There isn't any other one. You guys are the only one's that're gonna lose it up. So shut up and get some sleep.
3 SOUND: We hear steps and a door open.
4 NEILSON: First thing in the morning we gotta get that radio fixed.
5 CARM: Yeah... we'll take care of it. Big deal. What's so important about the radio.
6 NEILSON: I want it fixed that's what's important. That's a good enough reason to get it done.
7 CARM: Big man.
8 NEILSON: You open your mouth any more and you got more trouble than you can handle.
9 CARM: That's the way it looks to you.
10 NEILSON: It does.
11 HUNTER: If you guys don't shut up... I'm gonna throw both of you out of here. Now shut up and get to sleep.
12 BEAT:
13 G'night.
14 CARM: G'night.
15 NEILSON: Still wish we had the radio fixed.
16
(NARRATING) That's the way it went for the next five days. When the men were in the room, they argued continually. They talked about the deal they were working on, but from their conversation, there was no way of learning what they planned. When they left the room, they were constantly under surveillance but their movements were routine. They took their meals in the same restaurant. They went to movies, they sat in bars, Always together. During the time they were out of the apartment they made no local contacts. They received no telephone calls and made none. We knew that they were planning something but there was no way of knowing what it was. All conversation in the room was recorded and listened to over and over again in the hopes that we could come up with a lead but the time spent in replaying the recordings netted us nothing.

From what they'd said, we figured that whatever they were planning would take place on either Tuesday August 17th or on Wednesday August 18th. On Tuesday, three cars were assigned to the streets in front of the hotel but the suspects acted as usual. On Wednesday they didn't leave their room. Frank, Murphy and I waited. On the streets outside, three other teams of men were standing by in undercover cars.

9:30 P.M.

SOUND: ON THE SMALL SPEAKER WE HEAR A TELEPHONE RING.

PRODUCTION NOTE: ALL VOICES OF CARMICHAEL, NEILSON AND HUNTER ARE ON FILTER OVER THE SMALL SPEAKER.
FRANK: Got the recorder, Murph?

MURPHY: Yeah.

SOUND: MURPH SNAPS ON THE TAPE RECORDER

JOE: 9:31 P.M.

FRANK: Yeah.

SOUND: UNDER THE ABOVE, THE PHONE HAD RUNG AGAIN.

CARM: (F) I'll get it.

SOUND: CARMICHAEL MOVES TO THE PHONE IN THE ROOM AND PICKS UP THE RECEIVER.

CARM: Hello. . . . Yeah. Uh huh. When? Right...Okay we'll leave right now. What...Yeah....that's the word we got. Right. We'll see you in about 30 minutes.

RIGHT. How we gonna know you? Yeah...Uh huh. . . Yeah I got it. Right.

SOUND: CARMICHAEL HANGS UP THE PHONE

NEILSON: The contact?

CARM: Yeah. Says the stuff just got in. We're supposed to pick it up right away.

NEILSON: Looks like maybe we can go to work now.

CARM: Ain't too soon for me. Let's go.

SOUND: THE THREE MEN LEAVE THE ROOM.

JOE: That's it. I'll get it out.

SOUND: JOE MOVES TO THE RADIO AND PICKS UP THE MIKE.

JOE: (INTO MIKE) Outpost one--to--Units--1K89...1K87... Outpost one to Units 1K89...1K88...1K87. Suspects are leaving room. Suspects are leaving room.

Outpost one out.

SOUND: JOE HANGS UP THE MIKE AND MOVES TO THE DOOR.
JOE: Let's go.

FRANK: Wish we knew what it was.

MURPH: Sounds like it might be narcotics.

SOUND: THE THREE OFFICERS REACH THE DOOR AND OPEN IT

JOE: Could be. Doesn't make a lotta difference.

FRANK: Huh?

JOE: Least we know it's startin'.

(END SCENE 4)

JOE: By the time we got to the street, the suspects were getting into their car and pulling away from the curb. Frank, Murphy and I got to our unit and followed them. They drove down South Flower to the corner of Palm Drive and turned left. Three blocks further, they pulled in a gas station and apparently asked directions. They turned south on Broadway and drove about a mile. At Santa Barbara Avenue they turned left again and drove three blocks. They stopped and parked the car in front of a small bar. We informed the other unit of the activity and asked them to stand by in the area. Carmichael got out of the car and entered the bar. Murphy left us and entered the bar after him. Carmichael returned in a few minutes with another man. The two of them got back into the car and talked. At the end of that time, all four of the men got out of the automobile and entered the bar. Shortly after that, Carmichael, Neilson and Hunter walked out of the place. Carmichael was carrying a small package wrapped in plain brown paper and tied with string. The fourth man wasn't with them. Frank, and I got out of the police car and approached the men as they stood talking.

SOUND: STEPS ON SIDEWALK OF JOE, FRANK AND MURPHY. SLIGHT TRAFFIC B.G.
JOE: Police officers, I'd like to talk to you.

CARM: What about?

FRANK: What've you got in the package?

NEILSON: None of your business.

JOE: C'mon, let's take a look.

CARM: Keep away from me, you.

JOE: Let's see what's in the package.

CARM: I told you, keep away from me.

JOE: Okay Carmichael, you've had it. Keep your hands out of your pockets; you're under arrest, that's see for the other two.

FRANK: Now hand over the package.

CARM: (As he swings at Joe) You try to take it.

SOUND: Small Tie Breaker.

JOE: C'mon-get cuffs.

NEILSON: Alright, lousy deal. Hope you're happy Carmichael. Hope you're real happy.

CARM: What're you talkin' about?

NEILSON: Gotta lay this one to you. You really took care of this.

SOUND: Under we hear Frank put cuffs on the men.

FRANK: How 'bout the package, Joe?

JOE: I'm gettin' it now.

SOUND: Joe unwraps the package.

FRANK: How 'bout it?

JOE: Doesn't make a lotta sense.

FRANK: What?

JOE: Money, 20-dollar bills. Must be 15, twenty thousand dollars worth.
1 FRANK: Queer?
2 JOE: Near as I can tell it's good.
3 FRANK: Where's that put us?
4 JOE: Just about where we started. Well, there's a load here!
5 (END SCENE 5)
6 (END ACT 1)
7 GIBNEY: You are listening to Dragnet, the authentic story of your Police force in action.

(COMMERCIAL INSERT)
FENNEMAN: There are good reasons why thousands of people are changing to Chesterfield every day... Why Chesterfield is the largest selling two-way cigarette in America....

Why Chesterfield is best for me and best for you.

People these days want facts. When you want people to use your product...you have to tell them what effect it has on people who do use it regularly.

That's why a doctor has examined for almost two years, a large group of Chesterfield smokers.

Forty-five per cent of them have, on the average, been smoking Chesterfields for well over ten years.

What is the effect on these people from smoking Chesterfield?

No adverse effects to the nose, throat and sinuses...says the doctor. Consider Chesterfield's record with these smokers...with millions of other smokers throughout America.

Another good reason for you to change to Chesterfield.

Regular or king-size... Chesterfield is best for me...

Best for you.
JOE: 10:02 A.M. The four suspects were taken into custody and removed the city hall for interrogation. We got in touch with the Secret Service and asked them to come over to the office and check on the currency. The agent arrived and after looking at the money, pointed out several minute mistakes that had been made in the engraving of the plates. He went on to explain however that the printing was one of the best he’d ever seen. He told us that the paper used in the bills would be analyzed and that we’d receive copies of the reports as soon as they were finished.

12:14 A.M. While Murphy, Rafferty and the Secret Service man questioned Neilson in the interrogation room, Frank and I talked to Carmichael in the squadroom. We questioned him for an hour but he refused to say anything that would help us get a lead to the source of the counterfit. 1:30 A.M.

FRANK: How long do you figure you can keep this up Carmichael?

CARM: I don’t know what you’re talkin’ about.

JOE: Come off it. We’re gettin’ tired of playin’ kid games.

CARM: Who say’s it’s queer?

JOE: Guy that printed it was pretty sloppy. He made a lot of mistakes.

CARM: Not as big a mistake as you guys are makin’. I don’t know what you’re talkin’ about.

FRANK: Where you from Carmichael?
CARM: Huh?
FRANK: Where you from? What city?
CARM: What's that for?
FRANK: Gonna do any harm if you tell us?
CARM: I wanna know why you're askin'.
FRANK: Maybe you'd like to have us tell you.
CARM: Go-ahead... I gotta lot of time.
SOUND: Door to the squadroom opens off
MURPH: (OFF AT THE DOOR) Joe?
JOE: Yeah, Murph.
MURPH: See you a minute?
JOE: Yeah.
SOUND: Joe walks to the door, couple of steps out into corridor.
JOE: Door close behind them.
MURPH: Nothin'. Neilson won't say a word. Gives it to us that he didn't know what was goin' on. Says they just went out there to pick up a package.
JOE: Say who they were runnin' the errand for?
MURPH: No. Tells it that he just went along for the ride. The whole thing was Carmichael's idea.
JOE: Uh huh.
MURPH: We thought maybe we'd go to work on Hunter. See what we can get from him.
JOE: Okay.
MURPH: You gonna stick with Carmichael?
JOE: Yeah. From what we heard in the room... if there's gonna be a break, I got a hunch that it's gonna come from him.

MURPHY: Okay. You get anything let us know will you?

JOE: Right.

SOUND: JOE TURNS AND ENTERS THE SQUADROOM. DOOR CLOSE BEHIND

HIM. STEPS INTO THE ROOM AND STOP

CARM: The big man's back again. Your friend there tell you all about it?

JOE: No, but yours did.

CARM: Huh?

JOE: Neilson just laid the whole thing in your lap.

CARM: You're kiddin'.

JOE: You wanna talk to him?

CARM: What'd he say?

JOE: Way he tells it... he was just along for the ride. You're the big wheel in the whole thing.

CARM: He said that?

JOE: I said you could talk to him.

CARM: He ain't gonna make it. He ain't gonna lay it on me.

FRANK: You wanna tell us your side of it?

CARM: Yeah, I tell you the way it happened. That lousey bum. How'd ya like that, Him-sayin' I'm the wheel. I'll tell you.

JOE: Where'd the queer come from?

CARM: I don't know.
FRANK: Thought you were gonna tell us?

CARM: I'm doin' that. I really don't know where it came from.

JOE: You turn up with 20 thousand dollars in 20 dollar bills and you ask us to believe that you don't know where it was printed?

CARM: I'm not askin' you anything. I'm tellin' you what I know. That's it.

JOE: Tell us about your part.

CARM: Neilson, Hunter and me were approached in Pittsburg.

JOE: By who?

CARM: I don't know.

FRANK: We're goin' that way again, huh?

CARM: So you don't believe me. That's the way it happened.

JOE: You didn't know the man who made the approach?

CARM: Never saw him before.

JOE: How 'bout Neilson and Hunter. They know him?

CARM: No.

JOE: Why'd he pick you?

CARM: I don't know.

HEAT: Get your coat.

JOE: Where you takin' me?

JOE: To jail. Maybe you wanna sit around here all night and tell us phoney stories. We haven't got the time for 'em. C'mon... get your coat.

CARM: But I'm tellin' you the truth. I'm trying to give it to you the way it happened.
FRANK: The guy who approached you...he just walked up and said here's twenty thousand dollars. Just like that?

CARM: No. Deal was that Neilson, Hunter and me were supposed to come out here. We were supposed to check into a hotel and wait for a call. Guy who called would have the queer. He'd turn it over to us and we'd pass it.

JOE: You bought the counterfit?

CARM: Yeah.

FRANK: What'd you pay for it?

CARM: 2 and a half.

JOE: For twenty dollars.

CARM: Yeah. 2 and a half for twenty.

JOE: You paid the other man we picked up?

CARM: Yeah. We gave him 25 hundred bucks.

JOE: You ever seen the man before?

CARM: Huh?

JOE: The man you bought the queer from. You know him?

CARM: No. Never saw him before.

FRANK: He's not the man that made the original contact in Pittsburg?

CARM: No. Guy back east was an old man.

JOE: How old?

CARM: I dunno...Maybe 55.....60. Around in there.

FRANK: Not the fella you met tonight?

CARM: I told you that before. It's not the same man.

JOE: How'd you know who the contact out here was gonna be?
I told you...he was gonna call us. He'd tell us where to pick up the queer.

If you've never seen the man before...how you know if you had the right one. Lotta people in that bar.

Guy we were supposed to meet would be wearin' a Grey pin-strip suit. He'd be sittin' at the bar drinkin' a mixed stinger. I was supposed to sit down next to him and order an old fashioned with soda. That way we'd both know.

Uh huh.

I took him out to the car. Him and Neilson and Hunter and me talked...made sure the deal was okay. Then we went back in the bar and got the dough.

You bought without seein' what you were gettin'?

He showed me a sample. It looked even better than we'd heard. After we paid him off we went out to the car. We were just goin' to check the package when you walked up.

You know who the guy in the bar was gonna turn the money over to?

No.

Didn't you hear him use a name of any kind?

No. He just showed me the sample. We talked about it...

I showed it to Neilson and Hunter and we bought.

Back in Pittsburg...when you got the original contact...

any names used there?
CARm: No. I remember, I wanted to know what the guy's name was there. Said I wanted to be sure that we weren't comin' out here on a wild goose chase. He said just to call him Pop. That's all... Pop.

JOE: During the time you were with this, Pop...was there anybody around who seemed to know him?

CARm: What d'ya mean?

JOE: Where'd you meet him?

CARm: In a bar.

JOE: Did the bartender know him?

CARm: I don't think so.

JOE: But you're not sure?

CARm: I'm sure.

FRANK: How 'bout the waitress in the place.

CARm: Wasn't a waitress. Just the barkeep and he didn't know him.

JOE: You give us a description of this man Pop?

CARm: What's in it for me?

JOE: What have you got now?

CARm: Nothin'.

JOE: It'll stay that way. You're in big trouble Carmichael.

If you're smart at all, you're gonna cop out to the whole thing and cooperate.

CARm: Lousy Neilson. Him all the time yellin' about how it was all set. All the time sayin' that we had it made.

(BEAT) Sure...I'll go with you. I just wanna see Neilson get his. That's all...just to see him get his.
FRANK: We're gonna want you to look at some pictures too.

CARM: I told you I'd go the route. You just tell me what you want to know and if I got the answer, so have you.

JOE: Okay.

CARM: What he tell you?

JOE: Huh?

CARM: That Lousey Neilson. What he tell about how it happened.

JOE: He tell it the way I did. He tell it that way?

JOE: Pretty much, yeah.

CARM: Had to be...that's the way it happened. He had to tell it the way I did. Isn't any other way.

JOE: Yeah?

CARM: Sure. That's the way it happened. Can't be told any other way.

JOE: Neilson might give you an argument.

(END SCENE 6)
Further interrogation of the other three men in the operation served to corroborate the story we'd been given by Carmichael. 25 hundred dollars in cash was found on the forth suspect. Once the other men were confronted with the fact that Carmichael had told us everything he knew concerning the operation, they all followed suit. But other than telling us that they knew the head man in the counterfiting act as Pop, they couldn't come up with any further information. From the man who'd been in the bar we learned that he'd met "Pop" in Pittsburg. He also told us that as far as he knew the counterfitter had been in prison at one time or another. However, the suspect was unable to tell us in what state or on what charges Pop had served time. He went on to tell us that he'd gotten the money in Pittsburg and that Pop had told him that he'd be contacted later. The Secret Service had complete their analysis of the counterfit bills and told us that they were some of the most perfect printing jobs they'd run across. The counterfitter had made one major mistake however. In the printing of the currency, he'd impregnated the paper with small silken hairs so that it would stand close inspection. However, the currency now in use is made with nylon hairs. The agent from the secret service told us that they had agents working on tracing the manufacturer of the paper in the hopes that they could come up with a lead to the identity of "Pop". The four suspects were booked into the city jail.

(MORE)
Thursday, August 19th, we ran the name Pop through our
miniker file. Of the 47 cards turned over to us by the
record bureau, 19 of the suspects listed matched the
description we'd been given. The pictures of the men were
pulled and shown to Carmichael and the other three suspects,
they were unable to give us an identification. The name
and description was sent to George Brereton in Sacramento,
and he sent us another 150 possibles. These were checked
out without result. The nickname and physical description
of the man was sent to Washington and we got back over a
thousand names and pictures. 6 weeks passed working with
the Secret Service, these possibles were checked out.
Result, nothing. Tuesday, October 5th, Frank and I checked
into the office.

SOUND: SQUADROOM B.G. JOE AND FRANK ENTER. AS THEY DO...THE PHONE
RINGS.

JOE: I'll get it.

SOUND: JOE WALKS TO THE PHONE, PUNCHES THE BUTTON AND LIFTS THE
RECEIVER.

JOE: Robbery Friday...Yeah. Uh huh...Wait until I get that down.

SOUND: HE WRITES.

JOE: (INTO PHONE) Yeah. Well, it should check out. Uh huh.
Right. Okay, we'll meet you.

SOUND: PHONE HANG UP.

FRANK: What is it?
JOE: Report of the paper in the queer bills just came through.

FRANK: Yeah.

JOE: Looks like we've found Pop.

(END SCENE 7)

JOE: In checking the manufacturers of paper similar to that used in the counterfeit twenty dollar bills, the Secret Service had come up with the name of a small print shop in Long Beach. The paper used was of an unusual type and there were not many orders for it. The particular shop in Long Beach had ordered large quantities of it in the past and was continuing to use it. In checking out the name of the man on the order blanks, the secret service had found that the man had been convicted of robbery and had served a term in the federal penitentiary in Atlanta. He'd been released and had come to California and opened a small print shop. We spent the next two days checking the man out. His name was given as Stanley Farrar, age 57. From what we could learn in the neighborhood of the print shop, Farrar was respected by the people in his community. He was a member of numerous clubs and civic organizations. In checking his background, we found that he was living the life of an exemplary citizen. Mug shots of Farrar were obtained and positively identified by the four suspects we had in custody. (MORE)
JOE: However, without being able to find the plates that had been used to print the counterfeit money, we'd have a difficult time building a case. For the next week, the print shop and Farrar himself were kept under constant surveillance. On Thursday October 14th, the suspect was seen to leave his home at 11:50 P.M. He was followed to his print shop. He entered the place and turned the lights on in the press room. Frank, Murphy and I waited in our car down the street.

SOUND: NIGHT NOISES ... TRAFFIC SOUNDS OFF.

FRANK: What do you think?

JOE: I dunno. Might be startin' to work again.

MURPH: I'll get around back of the shop Joe...see what's goin' on.

JOE: Right.

SOUND: CAR DOOR OPEN AND MURPH GETS OUT OF THE CAR. WE HEAR HIS STEPS FADE OFF.

BEAT

SOUND: IN THE DISTANCE WE HEAR THE SOUNDS OF A SMALL HAND PRESS

RING OPERATED.

FRANK: Joe?


FRANK: Back door's around here.

JOE: You see Murph?
FRANK: No... Probably with the Secret Service men.

JOE: Take it easy...

FRANK: Yeah.

JOE: Can you see what's goin' on in there?

FRANK: (LOOKING) No, he's got the windows all painted, over.

What d'ya figure?

JOE: Doesn't leave us with a lot of choice. If we go in and he's not printing counterfeit, we're gonna make him so hinky that we might never nail him.

FRANK: If we don't go in he might get rid of the plates and we're in trouble there too.

JOE: Like I said... we haven't got much choice. Let's go.

SOUND: JOE AND FRANK MOVE A LITTLE PAUSE. THEN JOE KICKS THE DOOR OPEN. THE TWO OFFICERS RUN INTO THE ROOM. THE SOUND OF THE PRESS COMES IN STRONG.

STANLEY: What's goin' on... what're you doin' in here?

JOE: Police officers. You're under arrest. Wanna check the press Frank?

FRANK: Right.

STANLEY: You've got no right to come in here like this. I know my rights. You haven't got a warrant. You've got no right to act like this.

SOUND: FRANK UNDER THE ABOVE TURNS OFF THE PRESS AND FADES BACK ON MIKE.

FRANK: Plates are in the press Joe. Doin' the green overlay.

Take a look.
STANLEY: You haven't got any right touching those. They're mine.

They belong to me.

JOE: Where'd you get the plates? Who made 'em?

STANLEY: They're good aren't they. Best I've ever seen. Very
best.

JOE: Where'd you get 'em?

STANLEY: I made 'em. Made 'em myself.

JOE: Where'd you learn engraving?

STANLEY: In prison. When they sent me to prison I learned all
about engraving. Real engraving. Not photo process...but

Very best money. Best I've ever seen. Fool anybody. And
I did it myself. Real engraving. Real. Pass it anywhere...

buy anything with it.

JOE: One question.

STANLEY: Huh?

JOE: What'd you do in prison?

MUSIC: SIGNATURE
1 PENN: (EASILY) The story you have just heard is true. The names were changed to protect the innocent.
2 GIBNEY: On January 11, trial was held in Federal Court, southern district of California. In a moment, the results of that trial.
3 PENN: Now here is our star, Jack Webb.
4 WEBB: COMMERCIAL INSERT
Now, here is our star, Jack Webb.

Thank you, George Fenneman. Friends, we've tried to set a Dragnet standard.....Putting it in just a few words, we're out to make each program the kind of entertainment you want. Believe me, we're going to keep working real hard at it.

You know, the people who make Chesterfields feel the same way about their cigarette. To sell a product you have to make it good and keep it good. And the latest reports from our research lab shows Chesterfield is highest in quality.....highest in quality.....low in nicotine. Smoke America's most popular two-way cigarette. Chesterfield - regular or king-size.....they're milder...they're satisfying .....they're best for me. Best for you.
GIBNEY: Vernon Alex Carmichael, Howard Raymond Neilson, Ernest
Richard Hunter, Phillip Roger Harger and Stanley Norman
Ferrar were tried and convicted of violation of title 18
U.S. code section 474, printing and issuing counterfeit
money. Violation of this title is punishable by a fine of
5 thousand dollars and imprisonment in a federal
penitentiary for a period not to exceed 15 years.
You have just heard Dragnet -- a series of authentic cases from official files. Technical advice comes from the office of Chief of Police, W.H. Parker, Los Angeles Police Department. Technical advisors: Captain Jack Donohoe, Sgt. Marty Wynn, Sgt. Vance Brasher. Heard tonight were:

Ben Alexander


Watch an entirely new Dragnet case history each week on your local NBC Television station. Please check your newspapers for the day and time. (BEAT) Chesterfield has brought you Dragnet, transcribed, from Los Angeles.

(FATIMA HITCH HIKER)