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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

MEMORANDUM

JRM

By James R. Malley

Date June 5, 1974

FILE: Governor's Justice Commission

MITCHELL KENNETH RIGEL
Yoke Crest, Inc.
Alternatives, Inc.

① A source in Harrisburg advised that MITCHELL KENNETH RIGEL, FBI 711 672 A, was sentenced in the U. S. Court, Northern District of Ohio, on December 14, 1951 to serve 15 years in prison on a charge of bank robbery and ITSMV (Interstate Transportation Stolen Motor Vehicle). He was sent to the Federal Penitentiary at Terre Haute, Indiana.

② He was paroled on April 9, 1957. He violated his parole (nature of violation not immediately available). He was re-arrested and returned to the penitentiary on February 21, 1966. He was again paroled on June 15, 1970, at which time he had been transferred to the U. S. Penitentiary at Lewisburg, Pennsylvania.

When paroled, he was to be employed at Yoke Fellow Half-Way House, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Rigel is under the supervision of U. S. Federal Parole Board in Harrisburg and will remain under supervision until October 27, 1975.

Information was furnished that Rigel, when he came to Harrisburg, was married and had two children. He was subsequently divorced and remarried VALERIE PAUL on February 19, 1972.

We were advised that in connection with the bank robbery Rigel was involved in (exact name of bank and location not known) Rigel was accompanied by WILLIAM D. METZGER and that both Metzger and Rigel had pistols in their possession while committing the bank robbery.

The FBI identification sheet was not readily available and the source was unaware whether Rigel had prior convictions to the bank robbery for which he served time.

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*Federally Insured S+L
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Another source in the Federal Building, Harrisburg, advised that Rigel was arrested on suspicion of robbery in the State of California in 1964, which charge was dismissed. Later, he was arrested for selling mortgaged property and robbery. On August 19, 1965, this case was heard in the ~~Superior~~^{FEDERAL} Court, Los Angeles, California. Rigel was given a 20-year suspended sentence and was given five years probation. ~~The charge involved an automobile transaction.~~

It was noted this was in 1965 and Rigel did not go back to the Federal Penitentiary until 1966. Questions were asked relative to this matter, and it was determined that allegedly another FBI warrant was placed against Rigel. The indication was that it was for a robbery charge, which does not seem consistent with an FBI warrant, however, no details were available. The source advised that based on the above mentioned 20-year suspended sentence and five-year probation, the Federal Parole Board revoked Rigel's parole and he was returned to the Federal Penitentiary.

*Feb. 21, 1966 went back. Terminal Island Penitentiary -
Allenwood
Terre Haute
-
Re-paroled
6-15-70
Mr. James
Hanks*

While the dates are not clear, it is noted that in addition to serving time in the U. S. Penitentiary at Terre Haute, Rigel was at one time confined to the Chillicotte, Ohio U. S. Penitentiary. In 1968, he went to the Allenwood, Pennsylvania Institution, which is a part of the Lewisburg Penitentiary. He apparently was released again on parole in 1970 from Lewisburg.

It is understood that DONALD STEPHENSON, U. S. Probation Officer, is quite interested in Rigel's case inasmuch as that office is supervising his parole. It is possible that Stephenson may be in touch with this office by telephone for any additional details that would be of assistance to him in handling Rigel's parole.

ADDENDUM: - Mr. Rice

Stephenson, on June 10, said that the offense that ultimately resulted in revocation of Rigel's parole was the robbery of a federally insured savings and loan bank on August 19, 1965 in California. It was not a state charge and did not involve an automobile. He was arrested on August 20, 1965. When the case was heard before the Federal Court (not Superior Court) in Los Angeles, Rigel was given a 20-year suspended sentence and 5-year probation. He was returned to jail on February 21, 1966. He was sent to Terminal Island Federal Penitentiary, then to Lewisburg, Allenwood and Terre Haute. On June 15, 1970, he was re-paroled from Terre Haute and came to Harrisburg as he had already established some connection with Yoke Crest.

Originally Yoke Crest was a half-way house; but under Rigell's guidance as Executive Director, it became a place where violators could be sent directly from court rather than coming from prison. Some sources believe that the Yoke Crest format as a place for first-time losers has some merit and it is currently being used by the Federal judges in the Middle District of Pennsylvania.