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

OCT 17 1959

TELETYPE

~~URGENT 10-17-59 12-18PM DS~~

TO DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM SAC LOS ANGELES 2P

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

END PAGE ONE

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

62 NOV 10 1959  
143

MR. DENNIS

REC-96  
EX 104

15 NOV 4 1959

COPY

PAGE TWO

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

END ACK PLS

4-23 PM OK FBI WA JG

TU DISC

M

00114525423

RECEIVED JEFFERSON

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson

DATE: November 3, 1959

FROM : C. D. DeLoach

SUBJECT: "THE UNTOUCHABLES"

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

[Signature] R.P.

I talked with [redacted]

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

[redacted] that the October 29, 1959, issue of "TV Guide" had advertised "The Untouchables" and specifically listed the phraseology, "Beginning the true story of FBI man Eliot Ness' never ending war on the notorious mobsters Al Capone left behind!" I told [redacted] that Eliot Ness had never been an FBI Agent and that we frankly wanted nothing to do with the series. He was given a complete rundown regarding our recent discussions with Desi Arnaz and was told that Desilu Productions had agreed to completely change their scheduled series inasmuch as [redacted] series took considerable liberty with former FBI cases.

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

94-52549  
NOT RECORDED

126 NOV 6 1959

ACTION:

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

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

CDD:geg

G.R.C.  
113  
50) NOV 13 1959 10/

20 NOV 6 1959

CDD:geg

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: November 6, 1959

FROM : M. A. Jones

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

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

DESILU PRODUCTIONS

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

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

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

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

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

1 - Mr. Tolson

1 - Mr. DeLoach

*Open*  
GEM:ijj  
(6)

REC-105

WFO 10 03 1

94-52549-20

FBI 11 NOV 9 1959  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

60 NOV 13 1959

*CRIMELINE*

Office of the Auditor • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. DeLoach

**DATE:** November 13, 1959

FROM : M. A. Jones

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

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

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

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**None. For information.**

1 - Mr. Tolson

1 - Mr. DeLoach

GEM:ijj  
(5)

58 NOV 20 1959  
F/63

REC-15 94-52549-2

12 NOV 18 1959



STATES DEPARTMENT

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply Please Refer  
File No.

1340 West Sixth Street  
Los Angeles 17, California

November 12, 1959

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

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

Dear Mr. Hoover: *Des. /u - Productions*

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

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

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

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

194-52549  
NOT RECORDED  
NOV 25 1959

62 NOV 25 1959 143

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover

which is being undertaken.

B2

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

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

This is very important & urgent. W. W. Burke

W. W. BURKE  
Special Agent in Charge

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

## Office Memorandum • UNITED GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: November 21, 1959

FROM : M. A. [initials]

SUBJECT:

"LEPKE"  
DESI ARNAZ  
PLAYHOUSE  
TELEVISION SHOW  
NOVEMBER 20, 1959

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

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

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

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

RECOMMENDATION:

63 DEC 2 1959

None. For information.

REC 101

94-52549-22

12 NOV 27 1959

LJH:jac (4)

CRIME MAC.

## Office Memorandum • UNITED GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. DeLoach

FROM : M. A. Jones

DATE: 11-20-59

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

Desilu Production

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

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

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

OBSERVATION:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

JRH:dmr

(4)

62 DEC 3 1959

11/20  
JRD

REC-23

5012 NOV 27 1959

CRIME REC JRD

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

Ebas  
maz  
JRH

B6

B6

Nov. 12, 1959

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

Dear Mr. Hoover,

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

REG-B

94-52549-24

yours truly,

B6

24 NOV 25 1959

EX 104

mm 11/2  
ab 11/2  
ewk/jpk

1 time copy  
11-19-59  
jpk

CRIMINAL REC

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XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXX**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
**FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET**

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

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

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

1 Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

Duplicate of 94-52549-24

For your information: \_\_\_\_\_

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

94-52549-24

XXXXXX  
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XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
X DELETED PAGE(S) X  
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X  
X FOR THIS PAGE X  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

November 23, 1959

REG-8 94-52549-24  
EX 104 [REDACTED] B6

Dear [REDACTED]

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

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

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

NOV 23 1959  
REC'D - READING ROOM  
FBI - BOSTON  
4:59

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

RWK: get MAJ 5-30  
(3) 7c

65 t81

REC'D MAIL ROOM  
MAILED 27.  
NOV 23 1959  
COMM-FBI

Olson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
McGulley \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

66 DEC 7 1959

NOV 23 1959  
RECEIVED - J. EDGAR HOOVER

REC'D - PERIODICALS

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

RA TO : Mr. DeLoach

FROM : M. A. Jones

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

DATE: November 27, 1959

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tel. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Curry *cc*  
*Ex*

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

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

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

2. 1 - Mr. DeLoach  
 1 - T. V. File

GEM:bla  
 (4) *ws*

EX 100

REC-31

94-52549-25

23 DEC 8 1959

CRIME RECD

102  
62 DEC 11 1959

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. DeLoach ✓

DATE: December 4, 1959

FROM : M. [Signature]

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

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

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

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

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

1 - Mr. DeLoach

GEM:paw  
(4)

EX-135

REC 9694 52549-26

25 DEC 8 1959

57 DEC 14 1959

CJM  
PERS/FBI

Office Men. C. dum • UNITEC

GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. DeLoach

FROM : M. A. [Signature]

SUBJECT: THE UNTOUCHABLES  
DESLU PRODUCTION

DATE: December 8, 1959

Toled  
Baldwin  
DeLoach  
McAire  
Moffat  
Parsons  
Rosen  
Tamm  
Trotter  
Walter Annenberg  
Tele. Room  
Holloman  
Gandy

TV SERIES

*Confidential*

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

*Culif Japan B appies 1919*  
The article reflects an interview with Robert Stack who stars in "The Untouchables" wherein Stack says the TV series was originally slated to be a motion picture but was later converted to a weekly TV series. The article refers to some of the early background and activities of Stack. Stack expresses the belief that the audience loves Elliot Ness (the part he plays) because he is a Government agent making \$50 a week and turning down \$5,000 to "lay off the mob."

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

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

1 - Mr. DeLoach

Enclosure

GEM:paw  
(3)

ENCLOSURE

53 DEC 16 1959

V  
REC-23

94-525-419

23 DEC 11 1959

CRIMINAL REC.

## THE SURPRISED-MR. STACK

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



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

*continued on page 10*

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

TV GUIDE  
December 5, 1959

94-52549-27

ENCLOSURE

**Robert Stack/continued**

agent, was lacking in something.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

High filtration & refreshing taste in one cigarette: Alpine

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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: December 11, 1959

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: "THE UNTOUCHABLES"  
DESILU PRODUCTIONS

9:30 P. M., 12/10/59

Person \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 W. C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

EX 109  
REG-57-94-52549-89  
In order to obtain funds to make a successful flight from authorities, the remaining gangsters kidnaped a local bookie and demanded \$60,000 ransom. The wife of the bookie manages to raise \$28,000 and promises to furnish the remaining amount the next day. The gang kills the bookie that night and abandoned the body in the woods.

1 - Mr. DeLoach

GEM:paw (4)

58 DEC 21 1959

CRIMINAL  
SECTION OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Jones to DeLoach memorandum  
RE: "THE UNTOUCHABLES"

Less than an hour later the body was discovered.

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

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

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

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

✓ ✓

December 15, 1959

[REDACTED] B/D  
Desilu Productions, Inc.  
780 North Gower Street  
Hollywood 38, California

Desilu Productions

Dear [REDACTED]

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

With warmest regards,

Sincerely,

Clyde

Clyde Tolson  
Associate Director

Enclosure

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

MAILED 27

DEC 15 1959  
COMM-FBI

REG 73

EX-117 94-52579-30

15 DEC 16 1959

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

58 DEC 22 1959 FBI  
CEMAED-DIREC108

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# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: December 14, 1959

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

*B6*  
*B7c*

"THE UNTOUCHABLES"  
 DESILU PRODUCTIONS  
 HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA

*Ble*  
*A3*  
*Whe*

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 W. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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

1 - Mr. Tolson

1 - Mr. DeLoach

Enclosure ref 12-16-59  
GEM:paw (5)

REC-71

DEC 16 1959

CRIME

Jones to DeLoach memorandum  
RE: [REDACTED]  
"THE UNTOUCHABLES"

B6

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

RECOMMENDATION:

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

✓  
gjw

December 15, 1959

REC-TIG-52549-31

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

Dear Desi:

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

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,

Clyde Tolson

Associate Director

Enclosure

MAILED 22  
DEC 15 1959  
COMM-FBI

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

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

GEM:ijj

(6)

62 DEC 23 1959 DIRECTOR

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FBI - LOS ANGELES

REC'D 12/16/59

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: December 18, 1959.

FROM : M. A. Jones

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**RECOMMENDATION:** None. For information.

GEM-paw (4)  
 I - Mr. DeLoach

REC-50 94-52549-32

DEC 22 1959  
 V. K. GAGE P. CR. M. J.

03722

December 11, 1959

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

Dear Desi:

cc- 3rd  
① Desilu Productions, Inc.  
780 North Gower St.,  
Hollywood 38, California

I wanted to call to your attention the snide, unjustified comments made by Robert Stack, who currently plays the role of Eliot Ness in "The Untouchables." Mr. Stack was quoted in the December 5, 1959, issue of "TV Guide" as stating: "I underestimated the appeal of the period, too. Ness is a hero with freedom. It's all in the past, like a Western, so anything goes. It's not like this sophisticated day and age when you get arrested for jaywalking if you cross the street. A friend of mine is an FBI agent and he's no more like Ness than I am. They've got so many rules and regulations in his outfit it's all he can do to blow his nose." It would appear to me, and I am certain that many of my law enforcement associates throughout the country join me, that Mr. Stack, who reportedly personifies a law enforcement officer on television, might give consideration to upholding this profession rather than being satirical in his outside remarks. While I am unaware of Mr. Stack's actual experience in law enforcement, it is rather doubtful that his brief acting career in "The Untouchables" establishes him as an authority to speak regarding FBI activities or those of any law enforcement organization.

cc - Los Angeles - sent 12/15/59  
While I realize you are not accountable for Mr. Stack's uncal led for actions or remarks, I am certain that you, \_\_\_\_\_ and your staff would prefer that the general public believe that Desilu Productions stands for the highest quality in performance. Such remarks as attributed

cc - Los Angeles - sent 12/15/59

1 - Mr. Jones *Send copy to* *See letter* *Aug 18* *2000 AM 12 PM*

CDD/emb

NOTE: See page 2

DEC 11 1959

LBI REC'D DE FOACH  
RECEIVED-DIRECTOR

REC-34 12 DEC 23 1959

Tolson  
Belmont  
DeLoach  
Mohr  
Mohr  
Persons  
Rosen  
Tamm  
Trotter  
Wells, Sullivan  
Tele. Room  
Holloman  
Gandy

66 DEC 21 1959

UNIT

Ex-133

Mr. Desi Arnaz

L 03723

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

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

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

Sincerely,  
EDGAR

NOTE:

Robert Stack, playing the role of Eliot Ness, has repeatedly used force and duress against prisoners in his television programs. His acting shows little similarity to that of a law enforcement officer who observes the letter of the law. We have protested to Desi Arnaz and [redacted] *EP*

[redacted] regarding usage of the name of the FBI and also usage of FBI cases. Although the program does not now use the FBI's name, at the same time little doubt is left in the public's mind that Ness and his group of actors do represent the FBI.



Mr. Robert Stack

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

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

Sincerely yours,

*Clyde Tolson*

Clyde Tolson  
Associate Director

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

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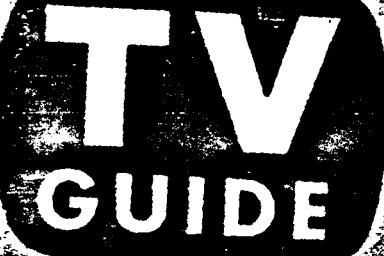
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WHAT TEEN-AGE BOYS LOOK FOR IN GIRLS

See page 20



LOCAL LISTINGS • DECEMBER 5-11

75c



GAYLE POLAYES, JOAN CHANDLER

AND DWAYNE HICKMAN OF 'DOBIE GILLIS'

11

## THE SURPRISED MR. STACK



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

*continued on page 10*

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

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



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**Robert Stack/continued**

agent, was lacking in something.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

High filtration & refreshing taste in one cigarette: Alpine

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