

# AN OPEN LETTER TO COMMISSIONER EDWARDS

## AN OPEN LETTER TO COMMISSIONER EDWARDS

HAZEL PARK RACING ASSOCIATION, INC.

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL  
1500 FIRST NATIONAL BUILDING  
DETROIT 26, MICHIGAN  
WOODWARD 5-8365

October 18, 1963

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES  
1650 EAST TEN MILE ROAD  
HAZEL PARK, MICHIGAN  
JORDAN 4-5755

Hon. George Edwards,  
Commissioner of Police,  
Detroit, Michigan.

Commissioner:

In a hearing before a Senate Sub-Committee on October 10th, 1963, you spoke of Hazel Park Racing Association, Inc. in these words:

"A classic example of Mafia infiltration of legitimate enterprise is the Hazel Park Racing Association, Inc. This State-licensed monopoly operation makes approximately \$1,000,000 a year. Much of this is available to further Mafia power in the Detroit area."  
(Official Transcript of said Hearing p. 970.)

We say to you, Commissioner, that the statement is untrue. We propose to test this out on a fair basis where neither party has an advantage or immunity. We propose to make available to you, in the most minute detail, all of the sources of our incomes and all of our disbursements. This proposal applies not only to the corporation but applies also to each and every of the undersigned persons as to their individual incomes and the disbursements of their money.

We rely on our belief that it is your purpose to treat all of your fellow men justly and fairly. That being your purpose, you cannot fail to give us the opportunity for complete vindication which the above offer of disclosure will make possible.

But this offer of disclosure is conditioned on your willingness, having examined the facts and being convinced of your error, to make retraction, thereby to wipe out the damage to our good repute which your utterance has caused.

Respectfully yours,  
HAZEL PARK RACING ASSOCIATION, INC.

By: Richard A. Connell  
Richard A. Connell, President.

By: James V. Bellanca  
James V. Bellanca, Chairman of the Board and General Counsel.

Approved by the Undersigned, Individually & as the Entire Board of Directors:

<u>James V. Bellanca</u> James V. Bellanca	<u>Richard A. Connell</u> Richard A. Connell	<u>Dominic P. Corrado</u> Dominic P. Corrado
<u>Louis Elias</u> Louis Elias	<u>Ralph Matkin</u> Ralph Matkin	<u>Lester A. Smith</u> Lester A. Smith
<u>Anthony J. Tocco</u> Anthony J. Tocco (J.W.T.)	<u>Jack W. Tocco</u> Jack W. Tocco	<u>Anthony J. Zerilli</u> Anthony J. Zerilli