



TREASURY DEPARTMENT  
UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE  
FIELD FORCE

OFFICE

ADDRESS P. O. LOCK BOX NO. 804

Church St. Station  
New York, 8, N. Y.

March 4, 1963

Mr. C. J. Meccarello  
228 Vassar Road  
Poughkeepsie, New York

Dear Mr. Meccarello:

Reference is made to your letter of February 19, 1963, addressed to the Bureau of the Mint, Philadelphia, Pa., and referred to this Service, as your inquiry concerns the mutilation of coins.

Title 18, U. S. Code, Section 331, provides as follows:

"Whoever fraudulently alters, defaces, mutilates, impairs, diminishes, falsifies, scales, or lightens any of the coins coined at the mints of the United States, or any foreign coins which are by law made current or are in actual use or circulation as money within the United States; or

"Whoever fraudulently possesses, passes, utters, publishes, or sells, or attempts to pass, utter, publish, or sell, or brings into the United States, any such coin, knowing the same to be altered, defaced, mutilated, impaired, diminished, falsified, scaled, or lightened --

"Shall be fined not more than \$2,000 or imprisoned not more than five years, or both."

The foregoing statute does not prohibit the mutilation of coins if done without fraudulent intent or if the mutilated coins are not used fraudulently. However, the Department seeks to discourage the practice of using coins for purposes other than to pass as money whenever possible.

Very truly yours,

A. E. Whitaker  
Special Agent in Charge