THE HOME "REPAIRMAN"

Beware of the phony "repairman" or "engineer" who offers to check your chimney, furnace, catch basin or other installation.

Such a person might say he has just completed a job in your area and has enough material left to fix your roof, or black tar your driveway—he must be paid in cash—job is done with black oil that never dries. Beware of phony inspectors who check your chimney, heating, plumbing and find damage that must be repaired to save your house. He will offer a contract for a down payment—he never returns. Beware of Topsoil salesman—you purchase baskets of it, the man spreads it for you and you later discover it to be saw dust colored by used motor oil.

Examine the credentials of the phony "Con Ed", or Gas Company, Meter readers—make sure they are from that company before you admit them.

If your auto is damaged and men come to you and offer to fix it for a low price—you will later find that the damage has been repaired with plaster and one coat of paint which will fall off when riding over a bump.

THE FORTUNE TELLER

If you have problems, don't let a fortune teller give you MORE problems!

Never mind what she calls herself—Fortune Teller, Reader, Advisor or Seer—Medium, Healer or Spiritualist, Palm Reader, Card Reader or Psychic.

She's breaking the law, and she could "break" you if you give her a chance.

She claims to have wonderful powers. A sign in her front window or a card handed to you on the street tells you about her. You're told she can help you get a better job, make more money, win back someone you love or cure a serious illness. Just any kind of problem you may have.

She does this by reading your palm, cards or tea leaves.

But she deceives you. She's clever. She listens closely to what you say. If she finds out that you have money, she may explain that it takes time to help you. She tells you, for example, that you have cancer and that there is a big curse to be lifted or "evil spirits" to be driven away. She must exorcise the evil from your money.

And if you believe she's helping you, she persuades you to come again and again, charging more and more money each time.

She steals from you. If you don't watch out, she may also steal money or valuables from you. Or she gets you to play a switch game, where she switches your money for paper.

And she disappears. Her "work" is, of course, illegal. If she's afraid the police may investigate, she and her family simply move out—overnight if necessary.

TRANSIENT BURGLARY

A female may knock on the door and ask for a glass of water because she is not feeling well. When she is invited in, she goes into the kitchen and gets a glass of water, at which time another accomplice or two sneak into the house and go to the other rooms and take money, jewelry or whatever valuables they find.

PHONEY COP COME BACK

This is a scam where one or more persons approach the victim of a previous scam by phone or in person and pose as detectives investigating a loss. They convince the victim to withdraw money from the bank on the pretense that a bank employee is involved in the previous scam. The victim turns over the cash, receives a receipt, is advised that the money would be redeposited in victims account. The next day victim goes to update bankbook, then finds another scam was perpetrated on him.

SO, WHAT SHOULD YOU DO if you have a problem? Just talking with a member of your family or with a trusted friend will help a lot. If necessary, you can consult a clergyman, lawyer or doctor.

POLICE DEPARTMENT CITY OF NEW YORK
SPECIAL FRAUDS SQUAD
1 Police Plaza, Room 1108
New York, N.Y. 10038 212-374-6850-51-52

Be aware of the con artist & the con game

THE CONFIDENCE GAME
Pros and Cons
A stranger, usually a woman, opens a conversation with you in the street. Shortly after, another woman appears with an envelope containing a large sum of money that has just been found. You do not get a chance to examine the money. The question of what to do is discussed and resolved, when one stranger states she works for a lawyer and she will ask him what to do. She leaves and returns, stating that the money was from gambling and lost by someone trying to avoid taxes. Her boss said she must share the money equally with them, but they must show they have money of their own.

The first stranger will say she has an insurance award with her, she leaves to show it to the lawyer, returns and states she has found money. The lawyer wants to talk to you. He is counting your money. The first man must return to South America the same day, before his father dies. He offers the lawyer's fee to complainant and the second man if he has in his possession a winning Lottery Ticket...

A Spanish speaking person is looking for a specific lawyer or real estate operator. He then relates one of the following stories:

1. His father is dying in South America. Years ago his father worked for a rich man in the United States. When the rich man died, the father found a package containing a large amount of money. The father stole this money and returned to South America where he invested the money wisely and became wealthy. Now that he is dying he sends his son to America to donate the money to charity so that he may die with a clear conscience; or

2. His father or employer is dying in South America. Years ago a daughter ran away to America. The daughter died in childbirth and now this man is sent to pay the hospital bill, have masses said and give money to charity so that the old man may die in peace, not owing anything.

3. He has in his possession a winning Lottery Ticket.

A second person passes and one of the above stories is related to him. He says the lawyer is a crook. The first man must return to South America the same day, before his father dies. He offers the lawyer's fee to complainant and the second man if they will help him disperse the money. However, he stipulates they must prove they are trustworthy by showing they have money of their own. The second man leaves and returns in a short time with money of his own. Complainant is accompanied to the bank so he can make a withdrawal to show he is trustworthy. After complainant obtains his money, there are two ways of separating the complainant from it:

- The first man says he feels ill and asks complainant to bring the money to the drug store for some medication (or complainant is sent for paper to make a document to disperse the money). When complainant returns, both subjects are gone with the complainant's money; or
- The first man wants complainant to hold money to be donated. The money is usually placed in a cosmetic bag or a handkerchief, along with complainant's money. The complainant is shown how to carry the parcel. When the complainant opens it at a later time, he finds either newspaper or play money as a switch was made when complainant was shown how to carry the money.

Both male and female Spanish confidence operators participate in the above confidence operation.

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