

Franzese, Two Cosa Pals Indicted

'Sonny' Gives Himself Up On 42 Bookie Charges

By Bob Greene and David Zinman

New York—Cosa Nostra kingpin John (Sonny) Franzese of Roslyn surrendered to Manhattan District Attorney Frank Hogan today on an indictment charging him with 42 felony counts of bookmaking and one count of conspiracy.

Indicted along with Franzese were Rosario Natasa, alias Black Sam Natasa, and Arthur Sonnenschein, alias Arthur Sunshine. Their addresses were not immediately available.

The 45-year-old Franzese, who was accompanied by an attorney, was accused of taking a percentage of the bookmaking profits of the other two for supplying Natasa to collect debts from reluctant losers and for protecting Sonnenschein when he was in debt. Franzese received about \$100 a week from four bookmaking offices and got substantial additional payments periodically, police said.

Sonnenschein was accused of operating the four bookmaking offices in Manhattan, doing a total business of \$100,000 a

week. One office, it was learned, was on 34th Street in the back room of a button factory. Another operated under the front of a midtown Broadway fur shop. Two others were in private apartments on 44th Street and 84th Street. The indictment charged the trio with running the illicit bet concerns from Sept. 1, 1964 to Nov. 1, 1965.

Sources in the district attorney's office disclosed that Natasa has a criminal record three sheets long and Sonnenschein has previous arrests and convictions for bookmaking. The operation conducted by the trio was one of many suspected bookmaking enterprises in New York and Long Island in which Franzese is suspected of getting a percentage.

Assistant District Attorneys Bennett Cullison Jr. and Michael Metzger, who have been investigating Franzese for a year, did the bulk of the work in the present case. If convicted on all counts, Franzese could get sentences totaling 211 years. The bookmaking charges carry

five-year maximum prison sentences and the conspiracy charge, a misdemeanor, has a top penalty of one year.

Franzese, a crew-cut, ruggedly good-looking man, has been described as the fastest-rising young executive in the Cosa Nostra empire of crime. Sgt. Ralph Salerno, Cosa Nostra expert for the New York City Police Department, once said: "Sonny Franzese is the big corner in the Cosa Nostra. He has an extraordinary talent for organized crime . . . and most important, he is an expert at not getting caught."

Police say that Franzese controls various underworld rackets in Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens and the majority of Cosa Nostra activities in Nassau and Suffolk Counties. He is presently believed to be the under boss (second in command) of the Cosa Nostra crime family headed by aging Joe Columbo of Brooklyn.

Franzese, police believe, squeezes an income of more than \$100,000 annually from his control of such varied rackets as gambling, shylocking, and phony labor unions. In addition, he represents extensive Cosa Nostra interests in the entertainment industry and is the behind-the-scenes owner of several nightclubs and restaurants in New York and on Long Island.

Norman Levy, rackets bureau chief of the Nassau district attorney's office, and



John (Sonny) Franzese
Surrenders to the Law

Lt. James Brooks, commander of the Suffolk County Police intelligence squad, both believe that Franzese controls more than 50 per cent of all organized crime on Long Island. Levy has said: "We're convinced he even gets a cut from some stick-ups. He seems to be involved in every—Continued on Page 11

East and West, Ties Grow Slack

Peking Blasts, Snubs Russians

Tokyo (UPI)—The Chinese Communists have rejected an invitation to the Communist World Congress opening in Moscow Tuesday with a vitriolic denunciation of Russia that all but severed the ties between the feuding major Red parties.

The snub may have doomed any joint Peking-Moscow action against the U.S. in the Vietnam war. The broadcast statement, made Tuesday by the central committee of the Red Chinese party, accused Moscow of collaborating with the U.S., described as "the main enemy of the people of the world." It said Moscow and Washington were trying to form an alliance to encircle Socialist China.

(At the United Nations, a Soviet UN delegation spokesman told a rare news conference that the Chinese Communist rejection was "a move that will not help maintain peace." Soviet First Secretary Vladimir V. Aldoshin called the Peking rejection "a bad step that would undermine the solidarity of the struggle for peace and against colonialism" by the world's Communist parties.)

In quick succession, the pro-Peking Communist parties of Albania—Red China's only ally in Europe—and New Zealand also rejected the Soviet invitations. But observers here and in Hong Kong were waiting to see which way the North Korean and the Japanese Communist parties would sway. North Vietnam, which already has pledged to attend the conference, also was being watched. "This really puts North Vietnam directly on the spot," a diplomat in Hong Kong said. If the North Vietnamese do attend the congress, they may find themselves abandoned by China which has been their major armorer in the war. But if it does not attend, Hanoi might find its supply of anti-aircraft defense weapons, including missiles, and other aid cut off by the Russians.

'In These Circumstances'

Peking's statement, dated March 22, said the Russians distributed an anti-Chinese letter to world Communist parties recently and asked: "In these circumstances, how can the Chinese Communist Party, which you look upon as an enemy, be expected to attend your congress?" The Russian letter, as published in West Germany this week, accused the Chinese of trying to involve the Soviet Union in a war with the U.S., of stirring up incidents on the Russian border, and blocking Soviet arms aid to North Vietnam. The Russians said the Chinese had rejected united action to resist the U.S. in Vietnam. The dramatic refusal to attend the Soviet congress all but snapped relations between the two countries and may have doomed—Continued on Page 118



AP Wirephoto
WITH OR WITHOUT. President Johnson tells members of the Foreign Service Institute in Washington yesterday that U.S. and 13 other NATO members will preserve the alliance, even if France withdraws from the organization.

Say DeG Is Firm On NATO Stand

Combined News Services

Paris—Informed sources close to the French government said today that President Johnson's renewed defense of NATO's integrated military command will have no effect on President de Gaulle's determination to withdraw from the alliance.

The officials said that the French government is working actively on a new memorandum explaining in detail de Gaulle's plans for pulling France out of the North Atlantic Treaty organization's military setup and ousting American bases and troops from this country. The new memorandum may be handed to the other 14 NATO member countries before the end of this month, the sources said.

In a Washington speech yesterday, Johnson appeared to have all but abandoned any hope of getting de Gaulle to change his mind, and declared instead that the U.S. and its allies would carry on with a strong Atlantic defense system with or without France. He also appeared to be going over de Gaulle's head to the French people, with an eye toward the future, in stating: "We are hopeful that no member of the treaty will long remain withdrawn from the mutual affairs and obligations of the Atlantic community. A place of respect and responsibility will await any ally who decides to return to the common task."

No Official Reaction

French Foreign Minister Maurice Couve de Murville reported briefly to the cabinet yesterday morning on the latest developments since the 75-year-old French president flung down his challenge to the alliance. Information Secretary Yvon Bourges said afterward that Couve de Murville did not give any official reaction to Johnson's latest letter to de Gaulle but said merely that the government is studying it.

French officials also refused to give immediate reaction to Johnson's address. However, informed sources in Paris predicted de Gaulle's determination to carry through his pull-out will not be affected in any way. De Gaulle, the sources said, stated his position unequivocally in his Feb. 21 news conference and in his letter to Johnson two weeks ago and his memorandum to all of France's NATO partners. They said there is no question of his going back on this now.

Johnson outlined the U.S. position on the growing NATO crisis in a speech delivered to senior Foreign Service officers at the State Department. While the President did not once mention de Gaulle by name and used the word "France" only sparingly, the 15-minute nationally—Continued on Page 118



Douglas DC-8 Takes Off in Long Beach, Calif.

AP Photo

Say New DC-8 Might Be Too Noisy for NY

By Don Smith

Newsday Washington Bureau

The Port of New York Authority has warned major airlines planning to put into service a new version of the DC-8 that New York airports may be closed to them because of the plane's engine noise.

The first model of the DC-8-61, an elongated version of the DC-8-50 series of four-engine jet transports made by the Douglas Aircraft Corp. of Long Beach, Calif., was test flown last week. Among the airlines that have placed orders for 28 of the new planes and received the authority's warning are Eastern, United and Delta airlines. A Douglas spokesman said yesterday the company is not concerned about the Port Authority's noise fears because its tests show that the plane is no louder than craft now using Kennedy International Airport in Queens.

The authority also operates La Guardia, Newark and Teterboro airports.

The company spokesman said, "I'm certain the question will be resolved to everyone's satisfaction as soon as they (Port Authority) make their first meter test." The Super 61 is 187 feet long, or 36 feet longer than the DC-8-50, and can carry 235 passengers, or 57 more than the older model. The company spokesman said each of the elongated DC-8s sells for between \$6,500,000 and \$7,000,000 depending on what special specifications each company sets for its planes.

Although the craft is longer, the official said the engines are the same size as those on the DC-8-50. The new model is scheduled for six months of extensive flight and safety checks by the Federal Aviation Agency and the Civil Aeronautics Board before it can be certified for service. The airlines hope to introduce it to their fleets early next fall. An Eastern Airlines official yesterday said engineers studied the company's specifications before deciding to buy the plane and that they were confident it would not be banned for use in New York by the Port Authority.

The authority's warnings to the airline companies came after its engineers analyzed engine data supplied by the Douglas Corp. Port Authority Director of Aviation John R. Wylie said, "Our calculations show the plane will be noisier and above the acceptable levels. If the companies asked for permission to fly in and out of Kennedy today we would have to say no. But the plane will be carefully tested within a few months and then we will be in a position to know exactly if they will be acceptable or not."

The warning was revealed yesterday by Rep. John W. Wylder (R-Garden City) who predicted it would "spur the airlines themselves to pay more attention to noise abatement because it seems they have invested in a plane that can't be used in the New York area unless it can be made quieter." Wylder, a member of the House Aeronautics and Space Committee, yesterday urged his committee to designate the National Aeronautics and Space Administration as the agency to test noise-abatement measures and to add \$20,000,000 to the budget for them to go to work.

Wylder said, "We have had years of research and theorizing about aircraft noise. With President Johnson calling for a solution to be found, it seems to me we could begin actually testing some of the ideas." Wylder said he felt there was no need to wait another year before appropriating funds and that the committee could do it now while it wrestles with the space agency budget.

Committee Chairman George Miller (D-Calif.) said yesterday he agreed with Wylder's call for action now but that the space agency's budget was pared to the bone and doubted that extra funds could be found. Wylder also urged that the committee set up a subcommittee on aeronautics that would oversee jet noise-control programs and the testing and development of noise suppression devices. Miller said he has been thinking of that for some time and hoped to put one in operation before this congressional session ends.

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thing." Levy's file on Franzese weighs more than nine pounds.

Until today, Franzese had been arrested a dozen times since he turned 18, on charges including felonious assault, rape and attempted extortion. He has been found guilty only twice, each time of minor gambling offenses. The Army, which discharged him in 1944 after one year of service, classified him as "a psychoneurotic with pronounced homicidal tendencies."

Married twice and the father of six children, Franzese presently lives with his second wife, Tina (nee Capobianco), in a \$32,950 development home just off Shelter Rock Road. The only thing that sets the house off from others in the neighborhood is the total lack of trees, bushes or shrubs. Police say the house is bare of landscaping because Franzese fears the possibility of ambush.

Otherwise, Franzese blends inconspicuously into his neighborhood. He frequently takes his children to nearby amusement parks, drives his wife to the supermarket and attends mass every Sunday at St. Aidan's Catholic Church in Williston Park. Each morning, at approximately 10:30, he waves goodbye to his wife and small children and is driven to New York by his chauffeur-bodyguard.

During the day, he holds frequent meetings in Manhattan with businessmen and hoodlums in the theatrical district, usually talking with them as he walks around the block to avoid police eavesdropping devices. He employs the same meeting tech-

nique when conferring with underlings in Nassau and Suffolk. Fearful of tapes, he never uses a private phone and public phones never more than once.

Franzese, born in Naples, Italy, was brought to Brooklyn as a small boy by his parents, who ran a bakery on Lorimer Street in the Greenpoint section of Brooklyn. During the three-year battle between the Gallo mob and the Profacci crime family, Franzese frequently attempted to mediate. His neutral position made him a favorite with both factions when the feud was settled approximately 18 months ago. Since then, police say, his star has become a blazing meteor.

Assemblyman's Son Badly Injured by Car

Rockville Centre—The three-year-old son of Democratic Assemblyman John S. Thorp was seriously injured yesterday when he was struck by a car in front of his home at 92 Voorhis Ave.

The child, Richard, was reported in critical condition today in South Nassau Communities Hospital, Oceanside, with a head injury and multiple bruises.

Village police said the child ran into the street from in front of a parked car, and that he was hit by a small foreign convertible. They identified the driver as Mrs. Lila Barrett, 28, of 69 Capitolian Blvd., Rockville Centre. No charges were filed. Police said the child's father flew home last night from Albany, where the Legislature is in session.

Officials Seek Key to Meter Problem

By Martin Schram

Kew Gardens—New York's parking meter keepers were to meet with Queens District Attorney Nat Hentel today to decide how to cope with the likely underworld existence of enough keys to empty each of the city's 55,000 meters regularly.

Police in 13 states, meanwhile, were still searching today for the alleged headmaster of a Valley Stream school for parking meter pilferers, TV repairman Charles Zambito. The 30-year-old father of three has not been seen since police raided his cottage at 122 Gunther Ave. Tuesday night and confiscated items that police said included key-making device, several city meters, and 7 duplicate keys.

Today, as the time for the official meter meeting approached, the city's problem remained: what to do? Hentel, said he believed duplicate keys to all city meters are now floating about the underworld. "The city must give urgent attention to retooling its parking meters," he

said. And a city finance department official quickly countered: "Think of the cost!"

Hentel said he favored changing the locks on each meter, plus inserting a coin-counting device in each instrument. He acknowledged that keys to new locks could possibly be made by crooks in the future, but he said it was a necessary step. However, Clinton Evans, first deputy of collections in the finance department, said that to retool the city's meters would cost \$250,000. "I don't know if it's worth it," he added.

At 3 PM today, Hentel, Evans, and Acting Traffic Commissioner Theodore Karagheuzoff were to meet in the Queens district attorney's office to discuss possible alternatives. Yesterday, Hentel stood in a room cluttered with key-making devices and cutaway meters and said: "The truth of the rumors are borne out. Keys to parking meters can be purchased for a price." He gestured at the paraphernalia, which he said was confiscated in Tuesday's

raid, and added: "It is my belief that these are not the only keys available."

The discovery of the key-making ring, police said, was made three days ago, when 29-year old Peter Beltrandi was caught in the act of emptying Rego Park meters with duplicate keys. Beltrandi confessed that he was a cog in a larger key-for-hire ring, police said, and named Zambito as the man who taught him all he knew. He told police Zambito was also the man to whom he paid \$300 a week for the use of keys to all the odd-numbered meters in the Queens. Police said Beltrandi had gotten \$9,000 from the meters during his month-long career.

Beltrandi told police he was driven blindfolded to Zambito's house after first meeting a city contact man for the ring. He named that contact as Richard Diamond, 29, of Flushing. Police knocked on Diamond's door the night of the raid, but he too was out and has not been seen since. Diamond is wanted for questioning, but has not been charged with a crime by police.