

BAILING OUT. Vincent Asaro, center, is flanked by two FBI agents in Brooklyn Federal Court yesterday on his way to post bail after his arraignment with another man on charges of robbing a Queens bank last year of \$10,460.

2 Nabbed in Bank Theft Linked to Cosa Nostra

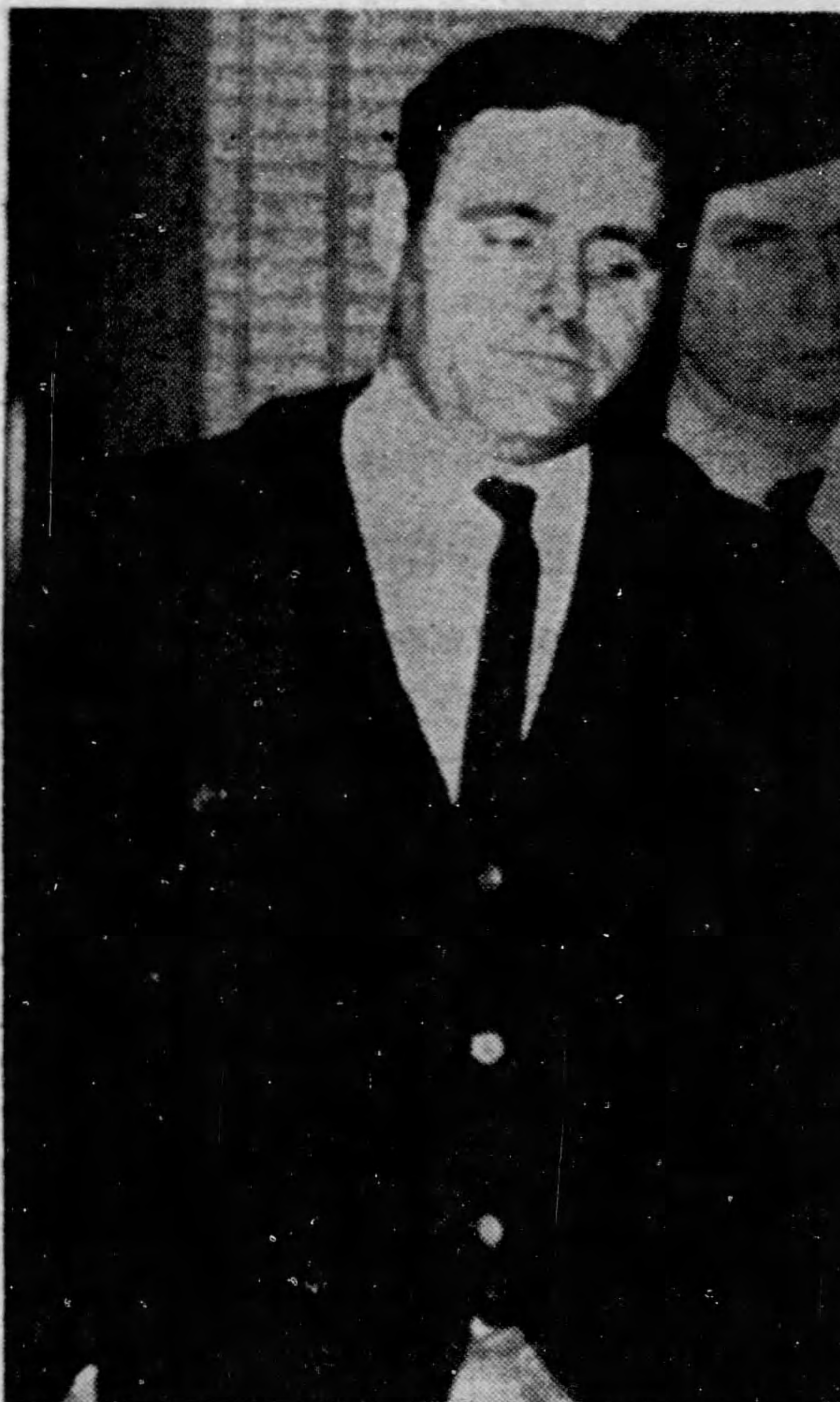
Brooklyn—Two men, one of them from Long Island, were arrested yesterday and charged with a \$10,460 Queens bank robbery last year that is reported to be linked to a Cosa Nostra-directed nationwide bank robbery ring.

The two, identified as Donald F. Scotto, whose address was given as 244 Flower Rd., Valley Stream, and Vincent A. Asaro, whose address was given as 689 Drew St., Brooklyn, were arrested at their homes yesterday morning by FBI agents. Arraigned before U.S. Commissioner Max Schiffman, the two were released in \$2,500 bail each for a May 6 hearing. Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Gillen said Scotto and Asaro held up the Elmhurst, Queens, branch of the Jamaica Savings Bank June 18, 1965, for \$10,460. Gillen said that Scotto had been the lone gunman and Asaro the driver of the getaway car.

Gang Link Hinted

Sources close to the investigation said the Elmhurst robbery was believed to be linked to the nationwide bank-robbery gang allegedly headed by Cosa Nostra chieftain John (Sonny) Franzese. Franzese and 9 other alleged members of the ring were arrested on bank robbery charges April 12.

Scotto, Nassau police said, currently is free on bail on charges of bookmaking, maintaining a book-making establishment and conspiracy, with a trial in District Court, Mineola, scheduled for May 10. William Sonenshine of Brooklyn, Asaro's attorney who also represented Scotto yesterday, said he knew nothing about the charges. If they are convicted, Scotto and Asaro could receive a sentence of up to 45 years in prison. It could not be learned whether Asaro had a previous record.



Donald F. Scotto

Bill Calls for Hearings on New Parks

Newsday Albany Bureau

Albany—The State Senate passed and sent to the Assembly yesterday a bill that would require the Long Island State Park Commission to hold public hearings before acquiring land for parks, parkways or access roads.

Chances for Assembly approval of the bill, which was sponsored by Sen. Bernard C. Smith (R-Northport), are uncertain. It was passed 42-19 following a short debate between Smith and Senate Minority Leader Joseph Zaretzki (D-Manhattan). All 19 "no" votes were cast by Democrats.

In the debate on the Smith bill, Zaretzki read a memorandum in opposition to the measure from the State Conservation Department, which said that the bill "would hamstring the Long Island State Park Commission at every turn and make it completely subservient to local prejudices and selfish interests." Smith said that the

memo was in error because the bill would not give any community power to block any parkway plans. "It just requires them (the park commission) to consult with local planning authorities," he said.

In other action, the Senate yesterday confirmed the appointment of Cecil L. Hall, 61-year-old president of the Tinker National Bank and a resident of Poquott, as a member of the Park Commission. Hall's appointment had been announced last month. His term in the unsalaried post runs to June 1, 1971.

The Senate also confirmed the reappointment of Milton A. Hendrickson of Atlantic Avenue, Lawrence, president of the Hendrickson Brothers Inc. contracting firm, as a commissioner of the State Insurance Fund, for a term ending next Dec. 31. Gov. Rockefeller, meanwhile, announced the reappointment of five members of the Fire

Safety Advisory Board in the office of local government, including Michael J. Zerucha of 46 Ribbon St., Franklin Square. Zerucha is chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Franklin Square and Munson fire districts. His appointment, which was sent to the Senate for confirmation, is for a term ending March 31, 1968. The Hendrickson and Zerucha posts are both unsalaried.

Albany—Chances of the Legislature adding any new items to the list of exemptions from the state sales tax are all but dead, legislative elders said yesterday.

Senate Majority Leader Earl W. Brydges (R-Niagara) and Assembly Speaker Anthony J. Travia (D-Brooklyn) said that they were no closer to agreement on exemptions than they were before the Legislature's Easter-Passover recess.

LBJ Should Go By His Instinct: Schlesinger

By Abraham Rabinovich

Stony Brook—Arthur Schlesinger Jr. suggested last night that President Johnson might profit in Vietnam from the lesson President Kennedy learned in the unsuccessful Bay of Pigs invasion—to ignore the experts and trust his own instincts.

The former aide to Kennedy, speaking to about 1,500 persons at the State University at Stony Brook, said that the late President never hesitated to overrule the military and diplomatic professionals after their advice led him to approve the abortive invasion of Cuba in 1961 by Cuban exiles. The situation in Vietnam might be better, he said, if Johnson "relied on his own instincts—which are good and sound instincts—rather than on the advice of those around him." He did not say what advice Johnson should ignore.

Schlesinger, invited to speak by the university's student activities board, said the United States would probably never have become involved in Vietnam if it knew where this involvement was leading. "I don't think there was ever anything in Vietnam, per se, of vital national interest," he said. "The best solution would be a negotiated settlement to permit withdrawal of U.S. troops."

In his current best-selling book, "A Thousand Days," Schlesinger wrote that Kennedy "realized that Vietnam was his great failure in foreign policy, and that he had never really given it his full attention." Schlesinger said in the book that Kennedy increased U.S. support in Vietnam because "the fact that the Vietnamese seemed ready to fight had made him feel that there was a reasonable chance of making a go of it . . ."

"Yet with his memory of the French in Indochina in 1951, he had always believed that there was a point at which our intervention might turn Vietnamese nationalism against us and transform the Asian civil conflict into a white man's war."

He said he was encouraged by current political developments in Vietnam because they lead to "a genuinely representative" government, "neutralist, probably, in its designs for South Vietnam." Such a government, he said, might negotiate with the Viet Cong and invite the U.S. to leave. "It would release us from our commitments," he said, "and we could go with honor."

Schlesinger's most severe criticism of the Johnson administration was over Latin America, where, he said it had abandoned Kennedy's idealistic approach. "In Kennedy's view," he said, in answer to a question from the floor, "the important groups in Latin America were the young people, the student, the labor leaders, the intellectuals. They would shape the future. In his view, communism could be averted only by democratic social change."

The present administration, he said, believes in dealing with businessmen and the army in Latin America and views democratic social change as dangerous because it can't be controlled. "A good deal of idealism has drained out of the Alliance for Progress," he said. And in Latin America, he said, "Idealism is the only true reality." The Alliance, established by Kennedy, is a 10-year program calling for \$20 billion in aid to Latin America with the U.S. furnishing more than half.



Arthur Schlesinger
Advises Johnson