



Mob Victim Ernest (The Hawk) Rupolo

## As 'Eyewitness' Tells It

Kew Gardens—A man who claims to have been an eyewitness to the mobslaying of hoodlum Ernest (Ernie the Hawk) Rupolo in 1964 is being held by federal authorities in a secret location.

The alleged witness was one of six men convicted in connection with a bank robbery ring which federal authorities charge was headed by Cosa Nostra underboss John (Sonny) Franzese of Roslyn, who was arrested yesterday in connection with the Rupolo killing. The man being held, it was learned, has not placed Franzese at the scene of the crime, near the Skyway Motel a short distance from Kennedy International Airport. But he has named four other men, all of whom are defendants with Franzese in the murder case, as participants in the slaying.

The following, with the names of the alleged killers omitted, is essentially the story that the man told to police: He had been told to steal a car and deliver it to a location near the motel. He was told an exact time to arrive. He was unable to steal a car and instead borrowed one owned by another man who is described as a witness in the case.

When he got to the appointed spot with the car, he

saw four men lifting what appeared to be a body out of another car. They placed the "body" on the ground while they prepared to open the trunk of a third car. The "body" was Rupolo, who suddenly came to life and began struggling. Three of the men cursed the fourth, who had shot Rupolo, for failing to kill him. The fourth man took out his gun to shoot Rupolo, but the others said that would make too much noise.

Another man produced an ice pick, knelt on Rupolo and plunged the pick into him repeatedly, all over his body. Finally, Rupolo stopped wriggling. The victim's eye patch had fallen off while he was struggling. One of the men picked up the patch and threw it into the witness' car. Then they bundled Rupolo's body into the trunk of another car and some of the men drove off with it. The others were dropped off at different places by the witness.

The witness reportedly kept the eye patch as a souvenir. Still unexplained is the reason the killers insisted that the witness bring a third car and why, since it was used only to drop off a few of them, that they wanted it to be stolen.

## Indict Franzese and 4 in Killing

By Bob Greene and John Cummings

Kew Gardens—Long Island Cosa Nostra czar John (Sonny) Franzese and four gangster pals today faced a murder indictment stemming from the gangland slaying two years ago of hoodlum-turned-stoolie Ernest (The Hawk) Rupolo.

Franzese and two of his codefendants were taken into custody yesterday before the indictment was returned last night. Franzese turned himself into the Queens district attorney's office as did Thomas Matteo, 24. Joseph Florio, 40, was picked up by detectives. The other two indicted men, Johnny (Irish) Matera and William (Red) Crabbe, already were in the federal house of detention awaiting sentencing for the theft of rare coins. Crabbe is also a codefendant of Franzese's on a federal bank robbery indictment.

Franzese, 46, of 47 Shrub Hollow Rd., Roslyn, had been sought by Queens detectives since Friday. He walked into the office of Queens District Attorney Nat Hentel at 11 AM yesterday and said he understood he was wanted for questioning. He was accompanied by his attorney, Peter L. F. Sabbatino. Franzese was arrested on the murder charges and taken to the stationhouse of the 107th Precinct in Fresh Meadows, where he was booked, mugged and fingerprinted.

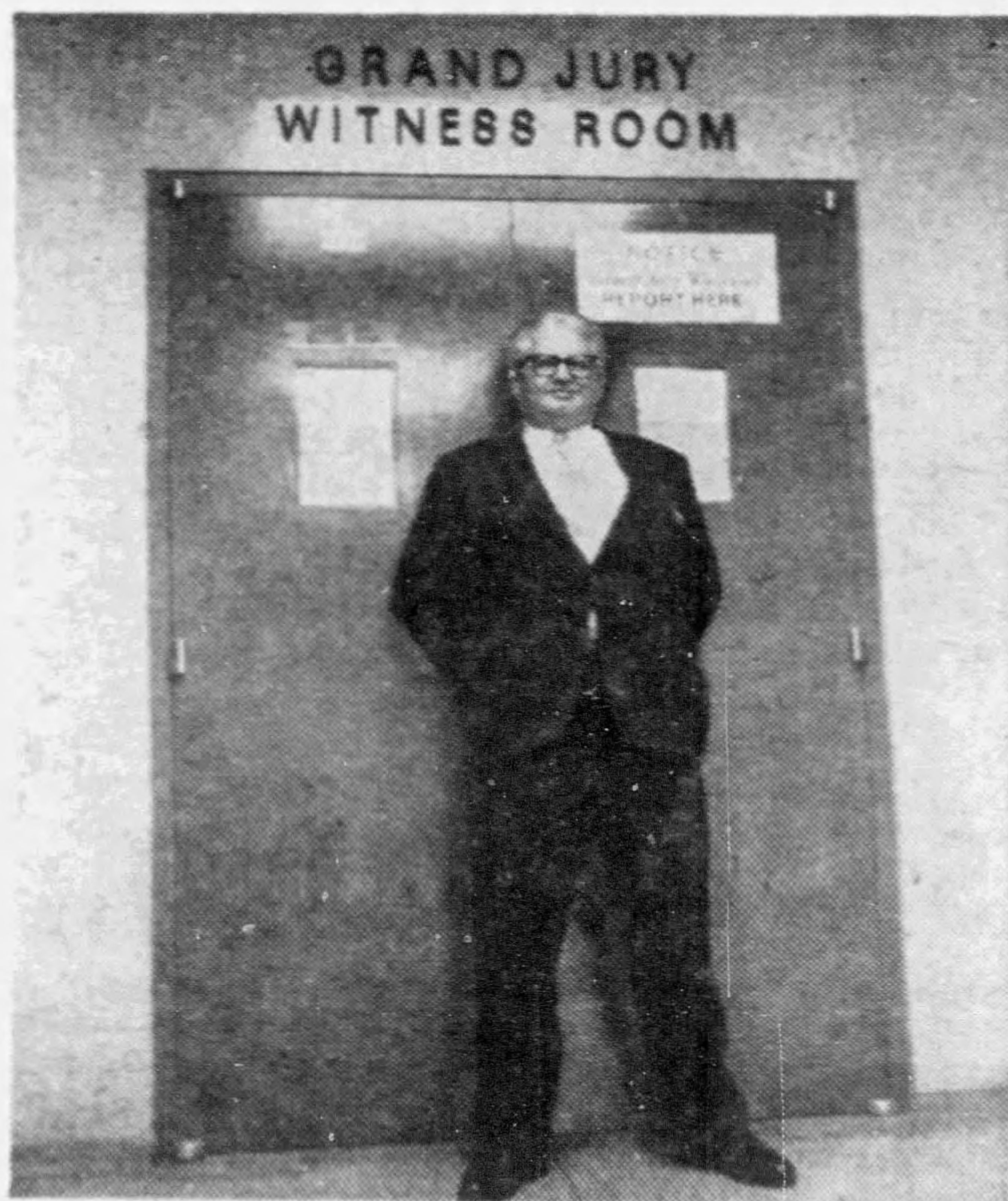
He was originally scheduled for a felony hearing today, but this was precluded when the indictment was returned.

Franzese, dressed in a gray suit with a silk black-and-white tie and matching lapel handkerchief, stood impassively before the bench at his arraignment with his blue cashmere coat folded neatly over his arm. With his careful, semi-crewcut hair, the mobster looked more like an executive posing for an Esquire clothing ad than a man charged with first-degree murder. The courtroom was packed with spectators.

The short-form affidavit filed with the court by the arresting officers, Dets. Joseph Price and William Weisler, charged that Franzese, "acting in consort with others not yet apprehended," killed Rupolo between Aug. 4 and Aug. 24, 1964, with a gun and a knife. The affidavit charged that the murder took place at 132nd Street and Conduit Boulevard, Ozone Park. Police later pinpointed the location as in the vicinity of the Skyway Motel near Kennedy International Airport.

From other sources, however, Newsday has learned that police have a witness to the murder. The witness reportedly does not place Franzese at the scene of the crime. Another witness, it was learned, said he heard

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Newsday Photos by Sussman

ON OTHER FRONTS. As John (Sonny) Franzese faced a murder charge yesterday, his alleged comrades in crime were facing grand jury questioning in Queens. At left, Det. Dan Drozowski guards the grand jury door, Michael Miranda, above left, and Anthony Carillo, above right, leave after jury session. (Story on Page 66.)

## SLA Eyes Club Mob Ties

By Tom Renner and Bob Weiss

New York—The State Liquor Authority said yesterday that it plans to conduct hearings shortly to determine whether there are any mob links with either of the two Long Island discotheques where murdered go-go dancer and bank teller Irene Brandt worked.

An SLA official said the hearings would be scheduled sometime within the next two weeks and would be based on a two-month investigation of "undisclosed ownership" of the Shore Club in Sayville and the Left Bank in Lindenhurst. Deputy Commissioner Thomas F. Ring, who announced the completion of the inquiry yesterday, said the hearings would seek to determine whether the real owners of the clubs are those listed on the licenses.

Ring said that falsification of the ownership could result in loss of the license and the forfeiture of a \$1,000

bond required for the license. He refused to say if the investigation has revealed "undisclosed ownership" at the Left Bank and the Shore Club but did say that the inquiry was prompted by Suffolk County Police reports that such might be the case. Known hoodlums have been spotted at the Left Bank, among them John (Sonny) Franzese, underboss of the Joe Colombo crime "family" and book maker-loan shark Felice (Philly) Vizzari, who is now serving a year in county jail for loan-sharking.

Meanwhile, Miss Brandt was buried yesterday and police disclosed that a car she had been using was rented with credentials lost by woman in Nassau. More than 40 persons attended services at Schmidt's Funeral Home in Seaford and the burial in Knolls Cemetery in Port Washington. Police and FBI agents mingled with the mourners

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## Robert Moses, at 77, Weds His Secretary

Special to Newsday

Jersey City—Robert Moses, chairman of the Triborough Bridge Authority, was married here yesterday at the age of 77 to Mary Grady, 49, his secretary for more than 30 years.

The 15-minute ceremony, attended by about 20 members of the immediate families, was performed in St. Aedan's Catholic Church by the Rev. Robert E. Duffy. The bride, a tall, slender brunet with blue eyes, is Catholic, but Moses is not. The new Mrs. Moses wore a cream-colored suit

and matching hat and Moses wore a dark blue business suit. The best man and maid of honor reportedly were Douglas Farrington of Babylon, L.I., and Madeline McKnight, the bride's superior at the bridge and tunnel authority. There was no reception and no wedding pictures were taken. Immediately after the ceremony, the couple left for a three-week honeymoon in the Virgin Islands.

It was Moses' second marriage. His first wife, Mrs. Mary Sims Moses, died Sept. 6 at the age of 81. She and Moses had been

married for 51 years. He has two married daughters, Mrs. Richard J. Olds of New York City and Mrs. Jane Moses Collins of Babylon, as well as five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Still Fair President

In addition to the chairmanship of the bridge and tunnel authority, which he has headed for 32 years, Moses also holds the presidency of the 1964-65 World's Fair Corp., a post which will continue to pay him \$100,000 a year until next year. He entered public life in 1924 when Gov.

Alfred E. Smith appointed him to the State Council of Parks and the Long Island Park Commission.

In the years following his appointment, he served under six governors of New York and five mayors of New York City. At one time, he held 11 titles simultaneously, which won him a twelfth title of "Giant of Authorities." He was also known as the "master builder" for his role in overseeing the construction of miles of expressways, parkways, parks and bridges. Moses has homes at 1 Gracie Terrace in New York City and in Babylon.

# Hoods Gripe About Waiting

Kew Gardens—The 13 Cosa Nostra mobsters arrested Sept. 22 while attending a meeting in a Queens restaurant got a one-week respite from grand jury appearances yesterday, but those from out of town were unhappy because they had traveled far and were not questioned.

A Queens grand jury heard five more of the hoodlums yesterday and then subpoenaed all 13 to return next Monday. Seven of the witnesses, including five who live in Florida and Louisiana, sat all morning in the grand jury waiting room at the Queens County Criminal Courts building without being called. The jury had heard all seven last Friday. One of the 13, Cosa Nostra boss Carlo Gambino of Brooklyn and Massapequa, reportedly is at home being treated for a heart condition.

Attorneys for the five Deep South witnesses threatened to move to quash the subpoenas in Supreme Court after their clients were given the new subpoenas without being heard yesterday. "My client flew all the way up from Tampa, Fla., to sit here this morning and do nothing," said Florida attorney Frank Ragano, attorney for Santo Trafficante. "Why should he have to do this?"

Similar sentiments were expressed by Jack Wasserman of Washington, D.C., attorney for New Orleans Cosa Nostra

boss Carlos Marcello, Marcello's brother Joseph, and Frank Gagliano and Anthony Carollo, also of New Orleans. "These men are witnesses, not defendants," said Wasserman. "They have not been charged with a crime and they deserve courteous treatment." At the time of their arrest, the 13 were booked as material witnesses to undisclosed Queens crimes. Both lawyers said they will decide during the week whether to move to quash the new subpoenas.

Appearing before the jury yesterday for a few brief questions were Joseph Eboli of Fort Lee, N.J., acting leader of the New York Genovese crime syndicate, Joseph Columbo of Brooklyn, boss of another New York Cosa outfit, Anniello (O'Neill) Deilacroe, of Manhattan, underboss of the Gambino New York crime gang, Joseph N. Gallo, of Forest Hills, a gambling specialist for the Gambino organization, and Dominick Alongi, of Teaneck, N.J., a member of the Eboli-Genovese gang. All took the Fifth Amendment, according to their lawyers. The other seven did the same before the grand jury last Friday.

There are reports that Hentel will offer all 13 immunity next Monday in return for their grand jury testimony. Should they then refuse to testify, they could face a 30-day contempt sentence.

The day wasn't a total loss for Trafficante. The dapper Florida mob boss listened in front of the courthouse at noon yesterday as reporters talked about the arrest of Long Island Cosa Nostra mobster John (Sonny) Franzese in connection with the murder of hoodlum Ernie (The Hawk) Kupolo in 1964. Trafficante, approached a Newsday reporter and the following dialogue ensued:

**Trafficante:** Who's getting arrested?  
**Reporter:** John (Sonny) Franzese.

**Trafficante:** I don't know him; who's he? (with straight face) **Reporter:** He's a capo (caporegime) in Joe Columbo's Cosa family.

**Trafficante** (Face still straight): Oh. Who is he supposed to have killed? **Reporter:** Ernie (The Hawk) Rupolo. He's some guy that was supposed to be stooling to the feds.

**Trafficante** (shaking his head): Tsk, tsk, tsk. That's terrible. How was this man found? **Reporter:** Floating in Jamaica Bay with a weight around his neck. But it wasn't heavy enough to sink him. It was a sloppy job, but what can you do with the kind of help you get nowadays?

**Trafficante** (laughing and slapping the reporter on the back): You're a card.

—Greene



Newsday Photo by Sussman

**DOOR SERVICE.** Joseph Columbo, left, reputed Cosa Nostra leader, walks out of a grand jury hearing room in Queens yesterday as Det. Dan Drozowski holds the door open.

## Indict Franzese and 4 in Mob Killing

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Franzese order Rupolo killed. Both witnesses are convicted bank robbers, who are key witnesses against Franzese and others in a federal bank robbery indictment, which is still pending.

Rupolo, 48, of Brooklyn, was professional underworld killer who became a police informer in his later years. The hoodlum, who once boasted to police that he made his living by "stabbing, killing, burglary or any other crime I get paid for," wore a black patch over one eye, which he said was shot out by a victim who wouldn't die even though Rupolo shot him five times. In 1946, Rupolo turned state's evidence against the over-all Cosa Nostra leader, Vito Genovese, who is serving a narcotics sentence. Rupolo accused Genovese of plotting the murder of Fer-

dinand (The Shadow) Boccia in Brooklyn. Rupolo said he killed Boccia on Genovese's orders. But the case was dropped when another state witness was poisoned while being held in protective custody in a Brooklyn jail.

Rupolo's body was found on Aug. 24, 1964, floating just off shore in Jamaica Bay. There was a weighted rope around his neck and a chain around his legs; he had been shot and knifed. Police estimated at the time that the body had been in the water for approximately two weeks, and said that Rupolo had been reported missing on Aug. 2 by his estranged wife, Eleanor.

Rupolo's wife, 33, is now married to John Cordero, 25, of 185 Atlantic Av., Lynbrook, one of the accused members of the Franzese bank robbery ring who is now a government witness. According to police sources, it was

Mrs. Rupolos shouted barroom accusation of murder against another Franzese associate that started a chain of events that led to Franzese's arrests for the robbery and now murder.

Cordero was with Mrs. Rupolo at the bar in the John Doe Room of the Kew Motor Inn on the night of July 14, 1965. She spotted Florio, of 754 Glenmore Ave., Brooklyn, at the bar. She shouted that he was one of the men who had killed her husband and screamed at Florio until Cordero hauled her outside. Looking over his shoulder, he saw Florio following, and in a fit of fright, took a shot at Florio but missed.

Subsequently, Franzese reportedly called Cordero to an underworld court at another motel to explain his actions. Cordero, police said, countered with the accusation that a number of bank robberies were being bungled. And at this point, Franzese supposedly took direct control of all the robberies, opening himself later to the testimony of non-Cosa Nostra underlings. Cordero and three other bank robbers are witnesses now against Franzese.

Following are capsule descriptions of Franzese's four codefendants:

- **Matera**, 33, whose address was given as 253-53 149th St., Rosedale, Queens, is a former Franzese bodyguard and chauffeur, who is awaiting trial on federal bank robbery charges, and sentencing on the coin charge.

- **Florio**, an Ozone Park tavern owner, a former electrical contractor and who claims to have been a member of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's bodyguard during World War II.

- **Crabbe**, 36, who gave his address as 1825 Madison St., Ridgewood, Queens, a former manager of a Queens night club in which Franzese reportedly has an interest.

- **Matteo**, about whom little is known except that he was recently indicted in a New York hijacking case.

Following Franzese's arrest yesterday, Hentel said there were "certain degrees" of association between Franzese and the 13 Cosa Nostra mobsters arrested while meeting in a Queens restaurant. But Hentel refused to comment further.

## Eye Club-Mob Ties in Go-Go Girl Case

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at both locations and they also used telephoto lenses to photograph those attending. At the services, the Rev. Rudolph Ressimeyer, of our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Seaford, spoke of a "confused and mysterious series of events" and said the services were "not for the purpose of passing judgment."

Another frequent visitor to the Left Bank has been Julius (Julie) Klein, an ex-convict and strongarm man who reportedly is connected with the Cosa Nostra although not actually a member himself. Klein has admitted knowing Miss Brandt and seeing her dance but claims he never said more than 10 words to her. In addition to police reports on the Shore Club and Left Bank, Ring said, the SLA has also received a complaint from an East Islip man, whose name he did not disclose, that his application to buy the Shore Club was turned down and that the club was a front for racketeers. "We won't pass

judgment before the licensee has a chance to be heard," Ring said. The open hearings would be held at the authority's offices at 270 Broadway, Manhattan.

The police investigation of Miss Brandt's murder is aimed toward a small number of hangers-on tagging after mobsters attempting to take over several South Shore discotheques. Miss Brandt, 20, who lived at 5 Doris Pl., Massapequa, had become involved with smalltime hoodlums, police said. She and \$21,109 in funds from the North Merrick branch of the Hempstead Bank disappeared Sept. 26 and she was found murdered in a Blue Point sump last Thursday, three days later. Miss Brandt had rented the car, a 1966 red Mustang, Sept. 24—two days before she disappeared from her bank job—and the car was found last Friday at the Patchogue railroad station. Police refused to identify the woman whose credentials were used to rent the car, but said Miss Brandt apparently rented the car with them so that her movements could not be traced.

## FHA, VA Mortgage Rates Jump to Legal Ceilings

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prohibit collection of points from home buyers, although the extra charges sometimes are passed along to the purchaser in the form of a higher price for his house. Often, the seller—in the case of a new house, the home builder, or in the case of an existing house, the owner—has to pay the points.

FHA Commissioner Philip N. Brownstein said that the interest rate increase would be "of particular benefit" to families selling existing homes. He noted that those sales often are dependent upon the terms available through FHA financing.

It was the third time this year that the rate on government-backed mortgages has been increased. In February, the rate was raised from 5¼ per cent to 5½ per cent.

In April, the interest rate went up again, to 5¾ per cent.

The Federal National Mortgage Association, known as "Fanny Mae," a branch of the Housing and Urban Development Department, also announced other actions designed to pump more money into the credit-starved mortgage market. It increased from \$15,000 to \$25,000 the maximum mortgage it will now purchase on new houses. On an existing home, it raised the maximum from \$15,000 to \$17,500. "Fanny Mae" also announced it was lowering the prices that it will pay for mortgages in order to increase the mortgage yield and make it more competitive with yields on other kinds of investments.

Fowler, in his testimony before the Senate Finance Committee, said in response to a question that the administration would find standby controls over consumer credit

"useful and acceptable." He added: "But I don't think we need them now. I would not advocate their use if they were available today." Fowler asked for quick passage of the bill to suspend for 16 months the seven per cent tax credit on expansions of industrial equipment and the accelerated depreciation allowance on commercial buildings.

Fowler testified as the Federal Reserve Board reported that consumers increased their installment credit by \$602,000,000, seasonally adjusted, in August. It was the largest expansion since March, but below the monthly average of 1965 and the first quarter of 1966. New automobile credit, stimulated by selling at the end of the model year, rose \$208,000,000 in August, the board said. Credit for other consumer goods increased \$203,000,000, while personal loans advanced \$176,000,000.