



SMILES WITHOUT SERVICE. Irving Flaumenbaum of Freeport, in foreground, president of the Long Island Conference of the Civil Service Employees Association, leads a group of smiling civil service workers from Nassau and Suffolk Counties as they picket state offices in Albany yesterday, seeking higher pay. About 1,500 workers, 200 of them from Long Island, protested decision refusing them a pay raise.

LI Jury Indicts Franzese On Robbery Count

By Bob Greene

Mineola—Cosa Nostra underboss John (Sonny) Franzese of Roslyn, who faces trial for murder in Queens and the possibility of 321 years in jail sentences for other crimes, was indicted yesterday on charges of masterminding a daring Oceanside house robbery.

The indictment, announced by Nassau District Attorney Cahn, marked the first time that Franzese, boss of Cosa Nostra gambling interests on Long Island, has been charged with committing a crime in his home county. Indicted with Franzese, 42, of 47 Shrub Hollow Rd., Roslyn, was his chauffeur-bodyguard, John (Johnny Irish) Matera, 33, of Rosedale, Queens, who is now awaiting trial in Florida for a multi-million-dollar Miami motel robbery.

Franzese and Matera were charged with seven counts of first-degree robbery, grand larceny, second-degree assault and conspiracy. If convicted on all counts, the pair could face 65 years in prison—bringing Franzese's possible total to 386 years in sentences. Named as co-conspirators, but not defendants, in the Nassau case were Richard Parks and James Smith, convicted bankrobbers, whose songbird proclivities have landed Franzese into most of his current law troubles.

According to Nassau Rackets Bureau Chief Norman Levy and Assistant District Attorney Raymond Lavalle, Franzese engineered the armed robbery of the home of juke box executive Al Ezrati at 432 Links Dr., Oceanside, on June 25, 1965. Although police at the time said that three gunmen had taken \$700 in old coins, Levy said they actually netted \$3,000 in cash, coins and jewelry.

The holdup was first plotted by Franzese and Matera, Levy said, "at various places in Nassau County and elsewhere." Early on the morning of June 25, Levy said Matera called Ezrati's house on the pretext of being an insurance salesman. The phone was answered by Ezrati's son, Milton, then 18, who said his parents would not be home until 5 P.M. Later, Levy said, Matera, Parks and Smith, all armed with guns, allegedly pushed into the house, handcuffed Milton and his younger brother, Lester, then 14, to a pole in the cellar and gagged them with adhesive tape.

The trio then ransacked the house and escaped. The young brothers were discovered by their grandmother, Mrs. Irene Grossman, 70, of Jackson Heights, Queens, when she came on a visit shortly after noon. The boys later had to be hacksawed free from the pole by police.

Only last week, Franzese's attractive wife, Tina, in one of the first such newspaper interviews given to a newspaper by a Cosa Nostra wife, charged that a Queens County Supreme Court judge had delayed a ruling that would dismiss the murder charge against her husband to avoid embarrassment to Queens District Attorney Nat Hentel who leaves office Dec. 31. She said Hentel had indicted her husband to help his own unsuccessful campaign for reelection.

Franzese and four co-defendants were indicted in Queens two months ago on charges of murdering underworld-stoolie Ernest (Ernie the Hawk) Rupolo, whose, shot, chained and stabbed body was found floating in Jamaica Bay in 1964. Franzese is being held in Queens County jail without bail on that count. He also faces trial in Manhattan for strongarming profits from bookmakers and in Brooklyn federal court on charges of master-minding a nationwide, Dillinger-type string of bank robberies. Parks and Smith have been state witnesses in all but the Manhattan case.

Court May Approve Adoption for Liunis

Special to Newsday

Kingston, N.Y.—Mr. and Mrs. Michael Liuni, who have been fighting to retain custody of their 4-year-old foster daughter, may be allowed to adopt the child legally if they win their custody battle.

Judge R. Waldron Herzberg, who is to hear the custody case, said yesterday that he had been designated Family Court judge by the Appellate Division of State Supreme Court, with the authority to approve adoption proceedings. And, he said, Ulster County Welfare Commissioner Joseph Fitzsimmons has indicated that he would sign the necessary consent papers if the court ordered the adoption.

The Liunis have had the child, Elizabeth St. John, since she was five days old. Fitzsimmons, who refused to let them adopt her, moved this year to remove her from the Liunis' custody so that she could be adopted by another family. The case became a subject of nationwide controversy after the Liunis revealed that among Fitzsimmons' objections to their adopting the child was the fact that they are dark while the girl is blonde, and are of Italian extraction and child is not.

Herzberg, a Columbia County Surrogate Court judge, was appointed by the Appellate Division last month to hear the case in Ulster County Supreme Court. At a brief hearing Nov. 30, he appointed a special guardian for the child, and postponed the hearing until Jan. 9. Since a State Supreme Court justice cannot sit in an adoption case, he sought and obtained the Family Court designation. The shift in jurisdiction also means that the proceedings will be private, which Herzberg said would be in the best interests of the child. Herzberg said he would appoint an investigator to make a full report on the case.

Phony Tickets Cashed After Raid at Raceway

By Martin Schram

Westbury—After 80 lawmen left Roosevelt Raceway with four alleged parimutuel ticket counterfeiters in tow Thursday night, an unknown number of persons cashed 75 phony, freshly printed daily double tickets and escaped with another \$1,800 in easy money, it was learned yesterday.

Sources close to the case said the counterfeit \$2 daily double tickets, each worth \$24, were for Thursday's first and second races. That has led officials to believe that the ring's counterfeiting apparatus was located very near the track, since the winning tickets could not have been duplicated until the second race was over at 8:50 P.M.

Track officials said that the total loss to the counterfeiters from tickets dated Thursday was more than \$5,000. The rest came from tickets cashed on previous days' races.

Tickets for each race are imprinted with special code combinations of letters and numbers by automatic tote machines at the parimutuel windows. These codes vary from day to day and from race to race. Thus, officials now believe, the counterfeiters purchased a daily double ticket Thursday night when the windows opened at 7:30 P.M., copied the code combination, and then cashed the bogus winning tickets a few hours later.

The quick-job counterfeiters went unnoticed until the track computer noed well after the last race at midnight that more winning daily double tickets were redeemed than were sold. The four men arrested in Thursday's flamboyant raid at the track had reportedly cashed tickets dated Wednesday at the "previous days' winners" window at the track.

Nassau District Attorney Cahn, whose office headed the Thursday raid, refused to comment on the informed reports that the track was fleeced by phony daily double tickets after the detectives left the scene. However, it has been learned that officials believe the counterfeiters possess two parimutuel tote machines and rolls of parimutuel tickets identical to those used at the track. The Thursday night raids were triggered by a tip received by Brooklyn District Attorney Aaron Koota's office as part of his current harness racing probe.

Koota's chief rackets investigator, Walter Buchbinder, said the tickets used by the counterfeiters may have been stolen from a track shipment that was broken into on a Brooklyn pier a couple of months ago. The tickets are manufactured in England. Each ticket roll is marked with a different chemical dye, which can be seen only under ultraviolet light. The counterfeiters bore indentations indicating that they were cranked out of tote machines just like the track's, Buchbinder said.

Yesterday, the four Brooklyn men arrested in the raid were released on \$5,000 bail by First District Court Judge Beatrice Burstein. All requested time to obtain an attorney and their hearings were scheduled Tuesday. They were identified as Anthony Scura, 38, a known member of Joe Columbo's Cosa Nostra crime syndicate, of 735 Ave. W.; Peter D'Amato, 35, of 2418 Benson Ave.; his brother Horace, 33, of 2165 W. 10th St.; and Louis Borelli, 34, of 335 Third St. Police said all four refused to talk about the counterfeiting operation. The first three are charged with forgery, grand larceny and conspiracy; Borelli faces forgery, second degree grand larceny.

Indict Trot Driver on Contempt



William Cahn
Refuses to Name Driver

Mineola—A holdover Nassau County grand jury investigating reports of fixed races at New York State harness racing tracks returned a sealed indictment yesterday for criminal contempt against a man described as a well-known harness driver.

District Attorney Cahn, who announced the indictment, refused to reveal the name of the driver until the arrest is made. Other sources said, however, that it may be some time before the driver, whom they said was "very well known," can be arrested because he currently is racing out-of-state. Criminal contempt, a misdemeanor, carries a maximum one-year jail sentence and is not an extraditable offense. The defendant is accused of refusing to testify before the grand jury.

The harness probe began last September, when Cahn ordered Rackets Bureau Chief Norman Levy to check into reports that harness driver William (Buddy) Gilmour had been beaten in the parking lot of Roosevelt Raceway by gambling racketeers for refusing to throw a race. Gilmour, who sources said has no connection with yesterday's indictment, denied the beating report. Since then Levy has interviewed more than 140 track officials, drivers and owners. This is the first indictment to result from the probe, which Cahn said is continuing.