



PAPER TIGERS. A group of Newsday carrier boys, among many who challenged the blizzard to deliver yesterday's editions, trudge along Newbridge Avenue, East Meadow, pulling papers on sleds. These carriers are all from East Meadow, from left, Gregory Doerr, Andy Yacek, John Corrado, Robert Frohwein and Frank Delorantis.

Covered for Franzese Out of Fear, Con Says

Special to Newsday

Albany—Convicted bank robber James Joseph Smith testified yesterday that fear for his life prevented him from immediately implicating John (Sonny) Franzese and his four codefendants in four 1965 bank robberies.

When he did agree to testify, Smith said he sought protection during his prison confinement in exchange for his cooperation with the government. "I'm in jail a long time and I seen what happened to others who testified against their partners," Smith said. "There's no place you can hide in jail." Smith said he had hoped for, but did not get, assurance that he would be released from prison.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael J. Gillen sought to explain why Smith originally had portrayed Anthony Polisi as the mastermind of the four bank robberies during Polisi's trial with his son, Salvatore, for a Queens bank robbery more than a year ago. The Polisis were convicted. In testimony last week,

Smith had said that Franzese headed the alleged holdup conspiracy. Smith also implicated Franzese's four co-defendants, Joseph M. (Whitey) Florio, John (Johnny Irish) Matera, William D. Crabbe and Nicholas Potere.

Smith testified yesterday that after his Sept. 30, 1965, arrest, he was visited at the Nassau County Jail by his girl friend, Carol Salza. He said that Miss Salza told him that Potere had said that the other men charged in the holdup had talked against the Polisis and "if I wanted to jump on the bandwagon, against the Polisis, it was okay. But I wasn't to go any further."

Smith has been convicted of four bank holdups which the government alleges were masterminded by the five defendants in the current trial. He is awaiting sentence.

Asked if he was "in fear" when he made statements to government officials, and when he testified against the Polisis, Smith said "Yes." "In fear of what?" Gillen asked. "Getting killed," Smith said.

CORE to Fight Airfield's General Use

By Hugh McDonald

Wyandanch—The new chairman of the Suffolk branch of the Congress of Racial Equality said yesterday that the group will try to stop the use of Republic Airfield in Farmingdale as a general aviation airport.

Irwin Quintyne, 40, of Amityville, who succeeded Henry G. Smith as CORE Suffolk chairman this week, said CORE is opposed to Republic Airfield's use as a general aviation facility because the increased air traffic creates a disturbance and because some of the takeoff areas are directly over our people's homes in North Wyandanch-Amityville area. A spokesman for Grumman commercial airlines will also seek to use the airfield for regularly scheduled flights.

Since Dec. 7, Flight Safety Inc., which leased the property from Fairchild-Hiller Corp., has been using the field as a general aviation facility. Fairchild-Hiller is the parent company of Republic Aviation Corp. Kenneth Weiss, airport manager for Flight Safety Inc., said he knows of no plans for opening the airport to commercial carriers.

Babylon Town went to court last December, seeking to have the field converted back to its previous, private status. The issue is expected to reach State Supreme Court next summer.

Quintyne said Suffolk CORE would also seek better hiring and promotion programs for Negroes at Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corp. Henry Bockrath, public relations director for Grumman, said the company annually submits a report on Negro employment to the federal

government under the 1964 Civil Rights Act. "We've received a favorable report the past two years and expect to again this year," Bockrath said. Grumman employs approximately 27,000 persons at its Bethpage plant and about 3,300 at Calverton.

Maybe a Tin Can, String...

Riverhead—Suffolk County Executive Dennison has struck on a plan to eliminate the county's \$25,000 annual telephone bill: eliminate the telephones.

Dennison, who is expected to confront the county board of supervisors with his idea in the near future, wants to install a countywide microwave system that would operate over high-frequency radio channels with the radio signals picked up by towers. So what does the microwave system cost to install? A paltry \$2,000,000. Where did Dennison get the idea? Through a survey which cost \$30,000. And who conducted the survey? A former New York Telephone Co. employe.

Dennison said that the seven-month study by the former telephone company employe, Paul F. Clark of North Bellmore, isn't completed yet. But the county executive already favors the microwave system. "I like the

idea," he said. "I think it would cut down on costs and would be more efficient."

Oddly enough, while Dennison figures the microwave system would cut down on costs, Clark said he did not know, at least not yet, whether such a system would be cheaper than the present telephone service. Clark agreed with Dennison, however, that the system would be more efficient. He said overhead and underground telephone cables could be eliminated, thereby eliminating the possibility of interrupted service because of a broken telephone cable. But there were other experts who said that power failures and storm damage to antennas would be as serious as a break in the telephone cables.

And what did the telephone company say to all this? A spokesman sounded downright confident. He said the company would "cooperate to the fullest."

Navy to End Orders for LI Firm's Copter

Special to Newsday

Washington—The Navy has disclosed that it has decided to phase out procurement of the drone anti-submarine helicopter, a move that will mean the layoff of 100 employes at the Gyrodyne Co. of St. James, L.I.

A Gyrodyne spokesman said that the 100 workers, who will be laid off in a few months, are primarily clerical personnel and that no engineering or production workers are involved. The current work force is 650. The spokesman said contracts already signed will keep current production of the helicopter, also known by its initials, "DASH," going until mid-1968. Additional contracts for supplying spare parts, field service personnel and other equipment would continue for at least three or four more years even though the contracts would probably be worth less than at present.

The drone helicopter, which now accounts for almost 95 per cent of Gyrodyne's production, has brought the company about \$20,000,000 annually for the past five years. Launched from a destroyer, the pilotless helicopter is capable of destroying a submarine with a homing torpedo up to 30 miles from its mother ship.

The Navy statement Feb. 6 said only that no funds for the helicopter had been requested in the fiscal 1968 budget, which goes into effect July 1. Rep. Otis Pike (D-Riverhead) later explained that this was a phase-out in which the procurement of the weapons system will be dropped, but work for spare parts and backup systems was still required.

The Gyrodyne spokesman said spare parts and current production probably would be sufficient to keep the remainder of the work force on the job after the initial 100 employes are dropped.

Defense Secretary McNamara, in his annual briefing Jan. 9 to the Senate and House Armed Services and Appropriations Committees, said a review of the drone helicopter by the Pentagon had resulted in a decision to cut back by one-third on deployment of the weapon. This was done, he said, because the helicopter "was encountering higher than expected peacetime attrition and lower than expected performance." The reduction, he said, would permit cancellation of funds for the project originally earmarked for this year and fiscal 1968.

Ller Gets Lottery Role

Newsday Albany Bureau

Albany—A State Tax Commission member, Walter M. Conlon of Islip, learned yesterday that he will serve in a liaison role between State Tax Commissioner Joseph H. Murphy and the proposed State Lottery Commission that will operate the new lottery.

Conlon, after a meeting with Murphy, said he would not be able to give the details of his assignment until the Legislature passes the bipartisan bill establishing the lottery machinery. Passage is expected shortly. Conlon, a former Islip Town attorney, said that one of the problems facing the operation of the lottery is that it will be different from any lottery currently in operation. Under the proposed lottery bill, Murphy would be given the power to decide how, when and where the lottery is to be held. The lottery commission will serve as an advisory body to the tax commissioner.