

Disappearance of Hoods Hints at Gang Warfare

By Tom Renner

Brooklyn—The once-stable Joseph Colombo crime family may be on the edge of an internal conflict that could turn into a Brooklyn battle paralleling the Gallo-Profaci and Bonanno gang wars.

Police sources said yesterday that two Colombo soldiers are missing and are believed murdered; that others may have been killed, and that the life of a powerful Colombo crime captain has been threatened. The suspected slaying of the two soldiers apparently stems from their maverick loan shark activities and unauthorized murders allegedly directed by them.

No bodies have been found yet and both men are believed to have disappeared in a customary mob operation—the car press. The car press is a metal salvage technique that uses a giant hydraulic vise to compress a wrecked car into metal cubes. The bodies of mob victims are left in the cars that are to be compressed, leaving no trace of the victim.

The two missing men were identified by police sources as Salvatore (Sally D) D'Ambrosio, a 43-year-old loan shark-aide of crime captain Carmine (The Snake) Persico, and Fred (No Nose) DeLucia, 39, a soldier underling of captain John (Sonny) Franzese. Both men have been missing for six weeks. D'Ambrosio's disappearance was reported to police early last month, two weeks before an anonymous caller told Newsday that "Sally D and eight others" were eliminated in an unidentified car lot. The tip was reported to police. Last week, federal authorities requested that the \$150,000 bail on Franzese be revoked because of a report that he was a target for murder and was preparing to leave the country. He was continued free in bail.

The internal strife of the Colombo family surfaced earlier this week when a Kings County grand jury began an investigation of a social club where a mob loan shark, Joseph Tumolo, 25, was beaten last December. Tumolo was killed last Wednesday in an attempted bar holdup. The social club had been raided by the FBI on Jan. 13 as a result of a tip that a murder had occurred. A blood-spattered shirt was found, and blood stains were found on the wall and floor. But police said no evidence of a murder was discovered. The grand jury became interested when it was learned that a police officer had told the FBI that "I know who runs this place" and then had sent real estate broker Joseph Cantalupo to the scene. Cantalupo employs Colombo as a salesman.

A police source said a report that D'Ambrosio was murdered in the club three weeks ago "just isn't true. There's nothing to support that. D'Ambrosio's been missing for six weeks, and there was nothing to indicate a murder took place there. We don't know where or if a murder took place."

D'Ambrosio has for years been an aide and soldier for Persico. In 1961, he had helped Persico in an attempt to garrote Lawrence Gallo, leader of the

rebellious Gallo mob, in the Sahara Lounge. He then served a seven-year jail term for attempting to bribe a police officer in connection with the case.

But D'Ambrosio also was ambitious. Early last year he began operating a loan shark racket without Persico's approval. Police sources said that there were also mob suspicions that he had participated in at least one gangland slaying, and possibly two, without authority from Persico, a major violation of the rules of the Cosa Nostra.

DeLucia was last seen alive shortly after Nov. 13 when he was served with a subpoena by members of the Nassau County Rackets Squad. DeLucia was to be questioned by a grand jury about alleged business infiltration in Nassau by Colombo family members. "He was a real bad, real tough guy . . . one of the most dangerous guys on the street," a police source said. "He'd do anything they wanted him to." The source said that DeLucia had been associated with Franzese since childhood and had a record of 18 arrests and convictions for, among other things, counterfeiting, assault, burglary and petty larceny.

Another police source said that DeLucia ran into trouble in September, 1969, when he was suspected of arranging the murder of Alfred Saracco, manager of the Dark Lagoon bar in Brooklyn and a friend of Colombo family members. Saracco was found Sept. 4 with 10 bullets in his body at Dumont Street and Lincoln Avenue in Brooklyn. He had met earlier with DeLucia. The source said that Saracco's murder was not authorized by Colombo or Franzese and that D'Ambrosio may have also been involved.

Police and federal sources said that because of the unauthorized operations of both men, the Colombo family hierarchy reportedly had a meeting that may have resulted in a decision to kill both men. Others may have also been ordered slain, as reported by the tipster who called Newsday, but police have not come up with evidence of anyone else missing.

Police sources said that if the two men were murdered as suspected, Persico may have been ordered to carry out the "hit contract" (murder order) since he controls a large enforcer faction. It was Persico who directed the war against the Gallos between 1961 and 1963, which resulted in 11 known slayings. Persico has been sought by both the grand jury and a joint legislative committee probing business infiltration by the mob. Police have not been able to find him either at his 50th Street apartment or his usual haunts.

The Brooklyn gang war was between 1966 and 1968 when Joseph Bonanno attempted to regain control of his family from Paul Sciacca. Five men were killed before the Cosa Nostra Commission (ruling body) halted that fight. Last September, two Sciacca executives, Frank Mari of Searingtown and Michael Adamo of North Massapequa, disappeared and were believed murdered after they tried to seize control of the Sciacca family against commission orders.

BEHIND THE NEWS

Here are the special sections—and their highlights, features and insights—in the pages of Newsday today.

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IN THE SWIM. Although it's cold outside, swimsuit designers are unveiling the latest styles in warm-weather fashions.

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POSSIBLE DREAM. Film-maker Walter Gutman expresses his fantasy life in terms of avant garde movies.

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PRAISING DISSENT. Nick Thimmesch takes a look at Nixon's praise of the youthful Ripon Society.

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THE WEATHER

Partly sunny today; high in teens. Fair tonight; low about zero. Sunny tomorrow; high in teens. Precipitation probability near zero through tomorrow. Sun sets 5 PM today, rises 7:14 AM tomorrow. (Weather map on Page 27; tide tables in Sports Section.)

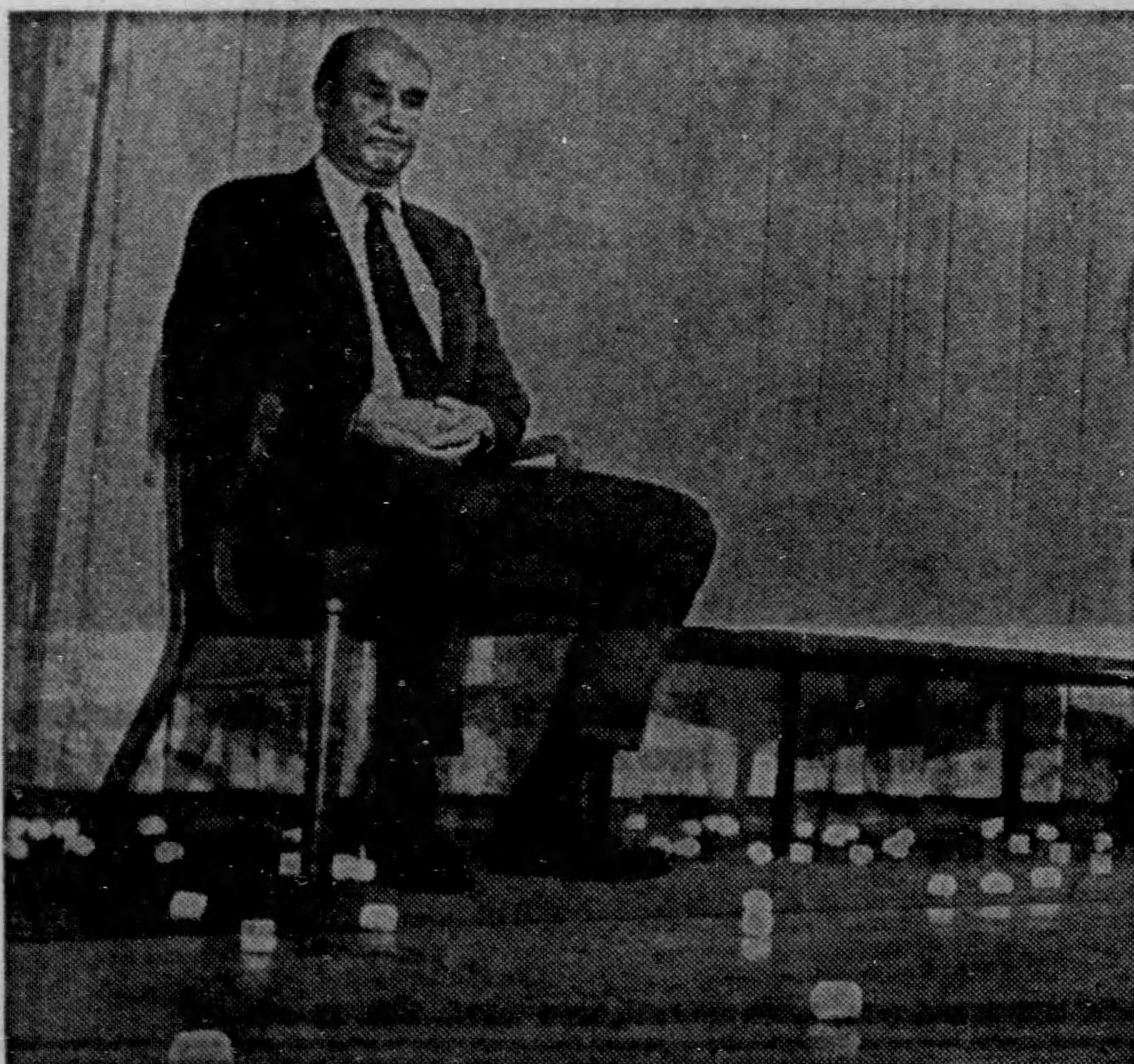
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Getting Soft Treatment

The floor around Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.) is strewn with marshmallows thrown by heckling students after he spoke yesterday at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh. Thurmond, who had been invited by the university's activities board, was interrupted by hecklers several times during his speech on government. The senator again was pelted with marshmallows as he rose to answer the first of a series of questions put to him after the talk. He completed his answers without further interruption. Campus police were not called, and the meeting ended without further incident.



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