

# 9 Suspects Seized in Bookie Operation

Mineola—Nassau County police reported breaking a \$1,000,000-a-year mob-linked bookmaking operation with the arrest yesterday of nine alleged members of a ring that operated in Nassau, Suffolk, Queens and Westchester Counties. The arrests culminated a three-month investigation by the Nassau police vice squad and the Nassau district attorney's office.

The nine who were arrested are part of a group of 11 persons for whom arrest warrants were issued Thursday. Capt. Andrew Mulrain of the Nassau vice squad said that he expected the two other arrests to follow shortly.

Deputy Chief Inspector Charles Spahr, commander of the department's organized crime units, said that those controlling the bookmaking operation were associated with the Joseph Colombo crime family as well as with jailed Cosa Nostra "lieutenant" John (Sonny) Franzese.

The names, ages, and addresses of those arrested and the charges against them were: Stephen R. McLaughlin, 29, of 82-38 268th St., Floral Park, promoting gambling; Donald Mauro, 27, of 171 Blueberry Lane, Hicksville, conspiracy to commit bookmaking; Marilyn Baker, 33, of 1729 Asharoken Blvd., Bay Shore, conspiracy to commit bookmaking; Laurene Distefano, 22, of 64-06 224th St., Bayside, promoting gambling and conspiracy to commit bookmaking; Michael Distefano, 28, of 64-06 224th St., Bayside, promoting gambling and conspiracy to commit bookmaking; Charles Cotugno, 58, of 11 Parkhill Ave., Massapequa, promoting gambling, possession of loan shark records and conspiracy to commit bookmaking; Harvey Saperstein, 38, of 202-08 Parkhill Rd., Bayside, promoting gambling, conspiracy to commit gambling; Jerome J. Giangrosso, 30, of 144-31 78th Rd., Flushing, conspiracy to commit bookmaking; and Robert E. Gendron, 29, of 123 Oceanview Rd., Lynbrook, conspiracy to commit bookmaking.

All but Giangrosso and Gendron were released in bail by District Court Judge Henderson W. Morrison for arraignment today in First District Court, Mineola.

## Peace Symbol Appeal

New York—The state will appeal the recent Federal Court ruling that Nassau County District Attorney Cahn could not prosecute persons who display buttons or decals that combine peace symbols with the U.S. flag.

The appeal will be filed by the staff of State Attorney General Louis J. Lefkowitz, who said that he was acting at Cahn's request. The appeal will contest the June 22 decision of a three-judge U.S. District Court panel, which ruled 2-1 that the 1905 state law cited by Cahn "cannot constitutionally be invoked to make criminal the wearing and distribution of these symbols."

The judges did not rule the law unconstitutional. Their decision involved only the interpretation of a section that would seem to ban such combinations. "The district attorney's broad reading of the subsection would make criminal the possession of all those reproductions of the face of President Kennedy superimposed on a picture of the American flag, which hang on the wall of shops, homes and offices all over this country," the decision said. They also cited the proliferation of flag buttons around election time and concluded by saying, "It was not the intent of the New York Legislature to turn its citizens into criminals merely because they chose to express their political preferences by wearing such buttons on their lapels."

Meanwhile, Lefkowitz also announced that his staff would appear Monday in U.S. District Court, Brooklyn, in support of a position taken by State Education Commissioner Ewald B. Nyquist that high school students do not have the right to remain seated during class recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

## Kings Pt. Housing

Kings Point—Two of five village board trustees are opposed to a plan to build low-income housing in this wealthy community, and a third trustee appears to be leaning toward that stand.

The housing proposal, made by North Hempstead Supervisor Robert C. Meade, calls for the construction of 45 units of low-income housing on a 3.5 acre site here, part of a larger tract owned by the Great Neck School District. The board held a hearing on whether to rezone the land.

The five trustees were interviewed by telephone

yesterday. Trustee Ford Bartlett said that he was leaning toward voting against the proposal. "I feel the sentiment of the public meeting (Thursday) was against multiple dwellings in Kings Point Village," Bartlett said. "Once you cast the die for one area, the rest breaks down." Dr. Edward Shapiro, another trustee, said: "Unless some significant new data was presented, I had said I would probably vote against it. I don't see that any new data was presented (at the hearing), other than the report of Dr. (William) Leonard."

Leonard, former Nassau County Planning Commission chairman, was recommended by Bartlett to serve as the village's consultant on the housing proposal. Leonard's report at Thursday's hearing criticized Meade's proposal as "not wholesome" for the village. Bartlett, Shapiro and Trustee J. Donald Rawlings said that they were impressed with Leonard's report and his contention that 45 units of public housing would, if approved, set a precedent for further zone changes for apartments in the exclusive North Shore village, presently zoned for single-family homes on minimum one-acre parcels.

Rawlings said "I have made no commitment" to vote one way or the other. He said, "Once you get multiple housing, history has proven it's like a set of dominoes or a sea of locusts." Village Mayor Benjamin Kalnick and Trustee Harry Leslie said that they would not discuss their opinions. Kalnick said, "There is no question that the majority of village residents were opposed." He said that the village clerk had received 1,800 letters and telegrams opposed to the proposal as compared with 200 in favor, out of a total of about 2,500 registered voters in the village. Meade said that he would not comment until the village board takes formal action, probably next week.

## Beach Stand Untested

Long Beach—The group of merchants stood defiantly on the beach here yesterday and looked in vain for the police who would arrest them. One thing went wrong, however, in the merchants' plan to test the city ordinance banning nonresidents from the oceanfront. It rained.

And because it rained, city officials explained later, the opening of Long Beach beach for the 1970 season was delayed. Therefore, they said, the sand scuffed by the merchants was merely soggy and not restricted. The controversy began when the nonresident members of the 15-man Boardwalk Association, a group of businessmen who fear that the embargo on nonresidents will cut into their business of games and goodies, decided to test the law themselves. A spokesman for the group said that they would try again Monday. The beach was to open today.

The association has already gone to court and won an injunction against enforcement of the ordinance. It

then lost a round when the city got an order to enjoin the merchants' injunction. The next round is Monday, when the city must show why the original injunction against the law should not be renewed. Whatever happens, the city has said it would appeal.

The ordinance, approved April 7, calls for a \$10 season ticket for residents, with a \$25 maximum for families. Residents with tickets are allowed up to three guests a day at \$1.50 each. "If we are enjoined from enforcing this ordinance," corporation counsel Peter McCormack said, "we will have to enact a new ordinance fixing general admission rates for the public." City council president Isaac Dubow took a tougher line. "Let's put it this way," he said. "We'll have a restricted beach one way or the other, regardless of what the court does."

## State U Gets 503Gs

Stony Brook—The National Science Foundation has announced a grant of \$503,100 to the State University here for research into Long Island's social, economic and political problems. It is the largest single grant ever received by Stony Brook.

The money will allow expansion of the university's new urban science and engineering program. Robert Nathans, a physics professor and director of the program, said: "This will allow us to bring in 10 more students—some who are now field engineers—on grants and to bring in more faculty, probably six full-time. Also, we can go from one to three fulltime research associates." The graduate program has 20 students and four fulltime faculty members.

The program lets municipalities bring in their governmental problems for consultation. It involves the departments of engineering, economics, and political, marine and health sciences. Public agencies, local politicians and lawyers all may consult on problems ranging from waste disposal to health care in mental hospitals. "This is very practically oriented, to deal with real problems on the island," Nathans said.

## Hood Gets 30 Days

Mineola—Felice (Philly) Vizzari, a Suffolk County loan shark, was sentenced to 30 days in jail yesterday for refusing to testify before a special Nassau County grand jury investigating mob infiltration into legitimate businesses.

Vizzari, a member of the Joseph Colombo crime family, refused to testify at a session of the jury last Friday and told Nassau County Judge Paul Kelly yesterday in court that he also would not testify at other sessions of the panel.

Kelly then sentenced Vizzari, of 132 Dodges Promenade, Copiague, to 30 days in Nassau County Jail for contempt of the grand jury.



Newsday Photo by Jim Nightingale  
**FOUR OF A KIND.** Four of the candidates on the state Democratic ticket for the November election answer questions at a press conference yesterday at the headquarters of Arthur Goldberg, candidate for governor, in the Hotel Lancaster, Manhattan. From left are Adam Walinsky, candidate for attorney general; Arthur Levitt, for controller; Goldberg and Basil Paterson, candidate for lieutenant governor.