



Pace to Testify in Mob Probe

By Mike Quinn

Brooklyn—Two men from Islip, including the town's Republican leader, are scheduled to testify before grand jury here today. The two are the first public officials to testify as part of an organized crime investigation.

Anthony Pace, the Islip GOP leader and an assistant county attorney, and Justin McCarthy, Islip Town's deputy director of marine affairs, are among at least a dozen Suffolk residents expected to appear before the Brooklyn grand jury. According to law enforcement sources the two officials were subpoenaed because their names were mentioned by organized crime figures in conversations taped by investigators from Brooklyn District Attorney Eugene Gold's office.

Pace, who has said in the past that he would waive immunity from prosecution and testify before the grand jury, repeated that stand yesterday. He said that he does not know why he is being called and he has not hired a lawyer to represent him. "I haven't been able to find out what they want," he said. McCarthy also said he would testify without immunity.

The grand jury investigation comes after a lengthy surveillance of an auto junkyard on Avenue D in the Canarsie section of Brooklyn where, Gold said, organized crime figures met many times. The district attorney's office had a listening device in a trailer in the junkyard, tapped the phones and filmed persons coming and going from the junkyard, he said. The grand jury began taking testimony last week.

After they received subpoenas, Pace and McCarthy held a press conference at Suffolk GOP headquarters. They both said that they were surprised to receive the subpoenas and that neither knew why he was being called. Gold has said that he anticipates having more than 1,000 witnesses appear before the grand jury to testify. Gold has said the investigation is aimed at showing how more than 200 businesses in the metropolitan area have been infiltrated by organized crime.

Law enforcement sources have said that at least 12 more Suffolk residents either have been given or will be given subpoenas to appear before the grand jury. Gold has declined to name the persons, but the sources said that two of the persons were organized crime figures, Michael LaBarbara, a convicted loanshark and Colombo crime family figure, and Salvatore (Sonny Black) Montella, described as a former associate of John (Sonny) Franzese.

Tomorrow's Town Budget Day

Residents of Nassau County's three towns will have their chance to scrutinize the proposed Hempstead, Oyster Bay and North Hempstead budgets, all of which provide for tax increases, at public hearings to be held tomorrow.

North Hempstead will hold hearings at town hall at 10:30 AM and 8 PM. Oyster Bay residents may appear before the town board at 10 AM and 8 PM. Hempstead Town will hold one hearing on its budget, at 2:30 PM.

The Hempstead budget for 1973 contains general-fund costs totaling \$24,709,321, an increase of \$3,154,767 over the 1972 figure. The general-fund tax, paid by most residents of incorporated villages in the town, will increase by \$6.24. The total tax bill for residents of unincorporated areas, who pay additional town and special district taxes, will rise by an estimated \$45 to \$50.

Oyster Bay's proposed budget shows an increase of \$1,643,411 over last year, for proposed 1973 general-fund costs of \$13,916,754. The average Oyster Bay homeowner will pay a general-fund tax increase of \$5.60 a year, and residents of unincorporated areas will be charged an additional \$1.60, exclusive of special-district costs, town officials said.

The proposed \$9,123,000 budget for North Hempstead represents an \$800,000 increase over last year. The general-fund tax is expected to increase about \$4.88 per year, town officials said. Additional tax for residents in unincorporated areas could not be learned.

Woman Held in Fatal Stabbing

Mineola—A 31-year-old New Cassell woman was arraigned in District Court here yesterday on a charge of first-degree manslaughter in the fatal stabbing of Frank Roberts, 36, of 148 Garden St., New Cassell.

According to Nassau County Police, Raether Mae Bell, who also lives at the Garden Street address, stabbed Roberts during an argument outside 173 New York Ave., New Cassell, early Saturday morning. She is being held without bail in Nassau County Jail pending a District Court hearing Wednesday.

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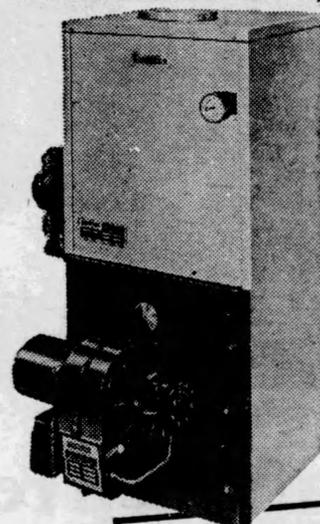
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