

A Mobster in Search of a Kingdom

By Tom Renner

Carmine (Lillo) Galente, the wiry, cigar-chewing ex-underboss of the Joseph Bonanno crime family, was freed from Atlanta Federal Prison yesterday, setting in motion what police and federal agents believe may be a violent, new struggle for power in the New York-New Jersey Cosa Nostra.

Galente, 62, once the most powerful and feared underboss of New York's mobs, was viewed immediately by police and underworld sources as a potential threat to the absolute rule of the aging and ill Cosa Nostra commission chairman, Carlo Gambino of Massapequa.

Police and federal sources said they believed that Galente's first move will be to seize control of the Bonanno family. The Bonanno family, Newsday has

learned exclusively, less than a month ago confirmed Philip (Rusty) Rastelli, 56, of Queens as the new crime boss following a series of meetings by crime figures in New York, upstate and in Canada. Rastelli is appealing a four-year sentence for loansharking in Suffolk. The crime leaders, it was learned, also confirmed Nicholas (Nicky Glasses) Marangelo, 62, of the Bronx as Rastelli's underboss. Marangelo, who has prior convictions for attempted robbery and civil contempt of a grand jury, is awaiting trial for grand jury contempt in Nassau after withdrawing a plea of guilty to the charge.

Significantly, police sources said, the bosses also confirmed a newcomer as the Bonanno family consigliere, or adviser. The newcomer was identified as Joseph Buccellato who police believe may be an illegal Sicilian Mafia alien, one of hundreds of Sicilian aliens brought to this country to strengthen the ranks

of the American Cosa Nostra. The sources said that Buccellato was seen at several major mob meetings in New York since November.

Police believed Buccellato was deported in 1972 after he was convicted for illegal gun possession in New Jersey and was fined \$1,000. They noted that he was born in Castelmare del Golfo, Sicily, the home of Joseph Bonanno and other major Cosa Nostra elder statesmen. He was identified by Italian police as a convicted felon who has been ordered by Italian police to live in a Mafia compound in Capodimonte, an isolated village, under conditions of curfew and restricted travel. He entered the U.S. illegally in 1969, apparently as part of the mob alien recruitment program.

The reappearance of Galente on the New York scene yesterday caught police and federal authorities

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Franzese Stepson, Friend Arrested

By Bill Van Haintze and James W. Sullivan

West Hempstead—Michael Franzese, stepson of imprisoned crime figure John (Sonny) Franzese, was arrested with six others yesterday on extortion charges. One of the six was Jerome Zimmerman, who recently charged that a federal agent offered him evidence which could clear the elder Franzese of the bank robbery conspiracy charge for which he is serving 50 years.

The alleged victim of extortion is Anthony Morano, 32, Michael Franzese's partner in the MBE Auto Leasing Co. at 140 Cherry Valley Ave. here.

Lt. Lewis Hughes, head of the Nassau police Criminal Intelligence Bureau, said detectives had been watching the agency for more than a week, because of rumored trouble in the partnership, and moved in yesterday afternoon when they saw the men shoving and punching Morano.

Hughes said it was not clear what the dispute was about, but Franzese apparently was demanding that Morano pay him \$1,600 from car payment collections, which Morano told police he had not received. According to Hughes, Franzese also apparently was trying to force Morano out of the business, for which Morano had provided about \$10,000 worth of equipment.

Franzese and Zimmerman were released on \$5,000 bail by Judge Charles Marchese. The others were held overnight for arraignment in First District Court, Mineola, today. The other five arrested were John R. Verrastro, 34, of Bellerose, Queens; his brother, Robert P. Verrastro, 29, of Queens Village, Queens; Peter M. Frappolo, 45, of 350 Ocean Ave., Massapequa, an employee of MBE; Albert F. Strauss, 30, of 57 Spruce Ave., Floral Park; and Oscar L. Teitelbaum, 29, of Ozone Park, Queens, who had recently been released from prison.

Franzese, 22, of 47 Shrub Hollow Rd., Roslyn, gave his occupation as part owner of the company, and Zimmerman, 41, of 275 Clear Meadow Dr., East Meadow, said he was an auto wholesaler.

Franzese and Morano were indicted last month on



Newsday Photos by Dick Morseman

Jerome Zimmerman, at left, and Michael Franzese, center above, leave police van at headquarters after the arrest.

charges of conspiracy to commit third-degree grand larceny and third-degree grand larceny, stemming from a charge that they had seized a man's auto and told him that either he would pay \$1,000 for a missing fur coat which had belonged to Franzese or they would keep the car. The indictments still are pending.

Last November, Zimmerman claimed that an Internal Revenue Service agent had promised him that

the government would produce documents that could help free Sonny Franzese if he would give perjured testimony against Supreme Court Justice Dominic Rinaldi, then under investigation and subsequently indicted on three charges of perjury. Zimmerman had a tape which he said contained a record of a conversation about the deal between the IRS agent and himself. A federal grand jury is investigating his charges.

PEOPLE

Advice from Ike

The day before John F. Kennedy's inauguration, President Dwight D. Eisenhower told him that the U.S. might have to intervene in Laos to prevent a Communist takeover. But little, if anything, was said about Vietnam, according to presidential papers made public yesterday by the John F. Kennedy Library. Among the documents from Kennedy's office files is a memorandum of a meeting between Kennedy and Eisenhower on Jan. 19, 1961. The memo, written by Clark Clifford, said Eisenhower told Kennedy that if Laos fell into Communist hands, Thailand, Cambodia and South Vietnam also might fall. A few months later, according to library documents, Senate Majority Leader

Mike Mansfield advised Kennedy that the U.S. was "too far out on too many costly and shaky limbs" in Southeast Asia and ought to "get down from them in a dignified and responsible fashion before Communist intrigue compels us either to descend in embarrassment and disorder or to climb still further out. "As I see it," Mansfield wrote in May, 1961, "the only way to do it is this: to concentrate our efforts in a place like Vietnam where there is some hope for the future . . ." Clifford, who served as an adviser to Kennedy during the change of administrations and later became secretary of state, said in his memo on the pre-inaugural meeting: "President Eisenhower stated that he considered Laos of such importance that if it reached the stage where we

could not persuade others to act with us, then he would be willing 'as a last desperate hope to intervene unilaterally.'" The Clifford and Mansfield memos, reflecting concern in Washington about situations that eventually led to heavy U.S. military involvement in both Vietnam and Laos, are among 110,000 documents in the Kennedy library. They are being kept temporarily at a federal records center in Waltham, Mass. The permanent library will be in Cambridge.

Resigned and rejected

Random House just wasn't interested in the novel about an American vice president programmed for disaster by the Chinese Communists, even though it was written by a former

vice president who's been through a disaster of his own. Robert L. Bernstein, president of the publishing firm, confirmed yesterday that his editors had rejected the proposed novel by Spiro T. Agnew after reading an outline of the plot, one chapter and some character sketches of people Agnew hoped to include in the book. Society columnist Maxine Cheshire, who first broke the story that Agnew was negotiating with an unnamed publisher, quoted the anonymous publisher as saying the novel was turned down "on its merits. The only reason to publish it would have been for its curiosity value." Bernstein stated it more stiffly: It "was rejected because the Random House editors believed it was not suitable for the Random House list."

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