

Hoffa's Body Sought in Jersey; 3 Teamsters Aides Implicated

By Tom Renner

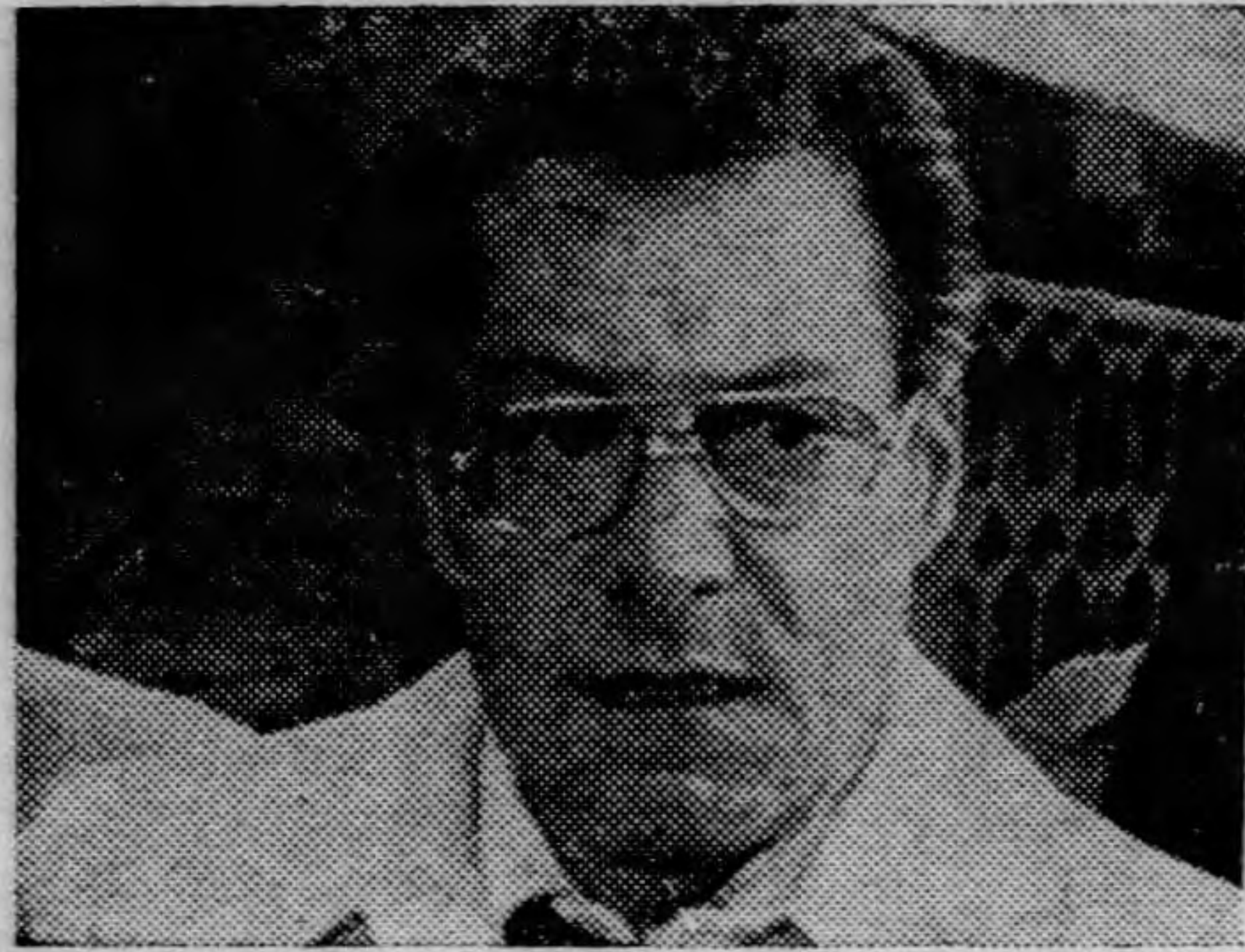
The bodies of former Teamsters president James R. Hoffa and one of his reported assassins were being sought yesterday in a Jersey City dump. In an apparent effort to disguise the search, federal authorities claimed they were hunting the body of a New Jersey loanshark who has been missing since 1972.

The search, reportedly underway last night under the Pulaski Skyway, was going on yesterday as a federal judge in Detroit ordered three New Jersey Teamsters union officials, identified by a government informant as having participated in Hoffa's abduction-murder, to appear in a lineup tomorrow.

The three ordered to appear by Judge James Churchill were Salvatore (Sally Bugs) Briguglio, 47 of Paramus, N.J.; his brother, Gabriel, a member of Local 560, of East Rutherford N.J., and Thomas Andretta 38, of Hasbrouck Heights, N.J., a reputed mob enforcer for jailed crime captain Joseph (Bayonne Joe) Zicarelli, who was described by his lawyer as a representative "at the local."

All three are connected to Teamsters Local 560 in Union City, N.J., and were described by law-enforcement sources as being close to Anthony (Tony Pro) Provenzano and former vice president of the international union. Provenzano, 58, has also been described as a captain in the Vito Genovese crime family.

Another witness, who claims to have



Salvatore Briguglio



Gabriel Briguglio



Thomas Andretta

witnessed the Hoffa abduction but does not know the names of the persons he saw, is to view the lineup, which will take place in Oakland County, Mich., the Detroit suburb from which Hoffa disappeared. The three Teamsters officials appeared yesterday before the federal grand jury in Detroit probing the Hoffa case but refused a request to appear in the lineup voluntarily.

The bizarre hunt for Hoffa's body, sources close to the investigation said yesterday, began Tuesday in Newark, when a smokescreen for the Hoffa hunt went up in the form of three search warrants—two issued for the filing cabinets of Briguglio, Local 560's business agent, and one issued for a search for the body of Jersey City loanshark Armand (Cookie) Faugno, 61, who disappeared from his Englewood Cliffs, N.J., home Dec. 9, 1972. Briguglio's cabinets are believed to contain documents that could be helpful to the case

and two .38-cal. revolvers with silencers, authorities said. Faugno was also a close associate of Provenzano's, and the four-acre tract where the search is taking place is owned by Philip (Brother) Muscatto, of North Caldwell, N.J., who is another Provenzano crony, police sources said.

"He owes a lot to Provenzano who got him out of some hot water several years ago," a police source said of Muscatto. "He'd do what he was told."

Back in Detroit, Robert Ozer, head of a federal organized crime strike force who asked Churchill to require the men to face the lineup, did not identify the witnesses who created the flurry of activity after a lull of several weeks in the Hoffa case.

"It came as a surprise to me," said Hoffa's only son, James P. Hoffa. "I think this is only the first of several revelations to come."

A source close to the investigation

said that at least seven men were actually involved in the abduction and murder of Hoffa last summer. The source said that Hoffa's murder was ordered by "the highest echelons of organized crime" and directed by Provenzano, who wanted to return to power in the Teamsters.

The source said Hoffa was driven by "someone he trusted" from a restaurant in the Detroit suburb to an unidentified location to meet with representatives of Provenzano, including Briguglio, who were reportedly bearing "peace offerings" to end the bitter animosity between Provenzano and Hoffa that had started in the late 1960s when they were together in prison. Police sources said the driver who took Hoffa adopted son, Charles (Chuckie) O'Brien, who has denied such a role.

O'Brien has, however, admitted his

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Newsday Photo
Franzese

New Hearing for Franzese

By Manny Topol

Reputed organized crime figure John (Sonny) Franzese, who has served five years of a 50-year sentence in a federal prison for conspiracy to rob banks, will get a hearing next week to determine whether he should be given a new trial. In an affidavit, one of the four key government witnesses against Franzese said he is prepared to testify that he and the others lied at Franzese's 1967 trial in a scheme to get leniency in their own bank robbery cases.

The hearing, scheduled for Dec. 12, was ordered by U.S. District Court Judge Jacob Mishler, who presided at the 1967 trial and imposed the 50-year term.

The recanting witness, Charles Zaher, is the second figure close to the case to raise the possibility of perjury at the trial in which Franzese and four others were convicted. Last November, Eleanor Cordero, the wife of John Cordero, one of the other key witnesses in the case, said her husband, Zaher and the other two admitted bank robbers had lied to obtain leniency from the government. She said that the four witnesses had also lied to agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation who had investigated the case. She added that none of them had ever seen Franzese before testifying.

Zaher and the other witnesses—Cordero, Richard Parks and James Smith—later also implicated Franzese in the robbery of a home in Oceanside and in the 1964 murder of underworld figure Ernest (The Hawk) Rupolo. Mrs. Cordero said the witnesses lied in those two cases as well. Franzese was acquitted of the robbery and the murder charge.

In March, Franzese's motion for a new trial on the conspiracy charge, based on Mrs. Cordero's affidavit, was turned down

by Mishler, and his decision was upheld in the U.S. Court of Appeals.

Zaher's affidavit is supported by a letter that he wrote to a friend in April or May, 1966, while in federal prison in Danbury, Conn., waiting to testify against Franzese on the conspiracy charge. In the letter to Thomas Matteo of Central Islip, Zaher mentioned a "frame" of Franzese. A copy of the letter was filed with the court.

In the letter, Zaher, referring to the Rupolo murder with which Matteo and Franzese eventually were charged, wrote, "Richie [Parks] is going to testify against you and they want me to . . . I have to go along with the guys to frame this guy Sonny . . . for these ——— bank robberies. I should have stayed robbing cars with you at least there was more money in it . . . Tom, they really have me squeezed in I tried [sic] to bug out but I didn't make it. I don't mind testifying against guys I don't know but you are a different story . . ."

Matteo, now serving a 10-year sentence on a federal narcotics charge, and Franzese were acquitted on the murder charge.

Zaher has submitted an affidavit to Franzese's new attorney, Michael Pollack of Manhattan, Zaher said in the affidavit, "Ten years of living a lie is long enough." He said he had sought leniency in exchange for his testimony because he "was a weak person, strung out on narcotics."

The letter, apparently lost among Zaher's possessions, was discovered recently by his wife, who turned it over to her attorney, Joseph Votto of Queens. Votto then told Pollack of its existence.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas Pattison, who urged Mishler Nov. 7 to deny Franzese's request for a hearing, confirmed that the hearing is scheduled for next Fri-

day but refused to discuss any specifics of the case.

Franzese, of 47 Shrub Hollow Rd., Roslyn, and four others were arrested in April, 1966, because of the testimony of Zaher, Parks, Smith and Cordero before a federal grand jury. The four said that he masterminded the bank robberies.

In his affidavit, Zaher said that an FBI agent first suggested the name of Franzese to him and the other bank robbers. He said the agent said that the late FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover was anxious to arrest Franzese. Zaher said that comment spurred him and the others to conspire to implicate Franzese falsely.

At the time, law enforcement authorities had labeled Franzese as a fast-rising figure in organized crime.

Zaher, Cordero, Parks and Smith had pleaded guilty to charges of bank robbery and could have received maximum sentences of 50 years. Smith, Parks and Cordero were sentenced to five years. Zaher received a suspended sentence with five years' probation.

The testimony of Zaher, and the others was the key to the government's case against Franzese. The jury deliberated for three days before returning its verdict of guilty. Franzese was convicted of conspiring during the summer of 1965 to rob banks in Oceanside, Kew Gardens and Salt Lake City. Of the other defendants in the case, Nicholas Potere and Joseph Florio—who has since died—were also convicted of conspiring to rob banks and were sentenced to 15 years each. John Matera and William Crabbe, convicted of receiving stolen bank funds, were sentenced to five years each.

Franzese, now 56, was sentenced to a total of 50 years in federal prison and fined \$20,000.