

15 Indicted in Labor Racketeering

By Richard Esposito and Gerald McKelvey

In the third major indictment to stem from the federal government's probe of the construction industry in New York City, the reputed boss of the Genovese Cosa Nostra family and 14 alleged associates were indicted yesterday on counts of rigging bids for concrete jobs and of labor racketeering, including fixing the election of a former Teamsters president.

All but one of the defendants were charged with two counts of violating the Racketeer-Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act in the indictment unsealed by U.S. Attorney Rudolph W. Giuliani.

The Genovese family, one of five Cosa Nostra families in the metropolitan area, was named as a "racketeering enterprise."

The indictment charges that in addition to rigging the 1981 election of Roy L. Williams to head the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and exerting corrupt control of the concrete industry, the family also engineered the murder of John Simone in 1980.

According to law enforcement sources, Simone was slain in retaliation for his part in the murder of Philadelphia mob boss Angelo Bruno, who was shot to death March 21, 1980.

The indictment charges that Anthony Salerno, 74, who is identified as the Genovese boss, along with a alleged Genovese capo Vincent Cafaro, 53, and two alleged associates of the Cosa Nostra family in Cleveland, Milton Rockman, 73, and John Tronolone, 75, rigged Williams' election as part of scheme by several families to control the union leadership.

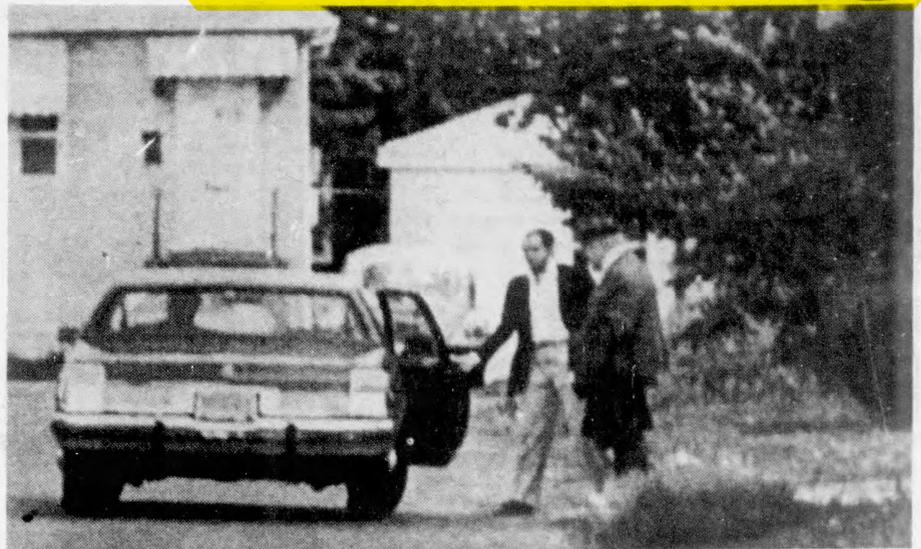
Salerno used his influence with union leaders to assure that Williams was elected, the indictment says. Rockman, the only defendant not charged under the RICO act, was convicted earlier this year at a mob trial in Kansas City in which the underboss of the Cleveland family, Angelo Lonardo, now a government witness, detailed Salerno's influence with the Teamsters.

Lonardo is expected to testify at Salerno's trial, and Williams, serving 10 years on a federal bribery conviction, is reportedly cooperating with the government, although Giuliani declined to comment on that.

The indictment says the bid-rigging scheme in the New York concrete industry largely depended on hidden interests in S & A Concrete Co. held by Salerno and Vincent DiNapoli, 49, a reputed Genovese capo. Nicholas Auletta, 53, was S & A's president but was aware that the company received most of the large contracts for concrete through mob control, the indictment said. DiNapoli and Auletta also are charged in the indictment.

According to testimony at another mob trial now under way, seven mob-controlled companies held the right to all concrete contracts valued in excess of \$2 million, while S & A alone held the right to all contracts worth more

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Carmine Della Cava holds car door for Anthony Salerno in this surveillance photo. Alphonse Mpsca is identified as the driver.

Franzese Admits Racketeering

By Robert E. Kessler

Michael Franzese, who has described himself as a movie producer, pleaded guilty in federal court yesterday to charges he headed multimillion-dollar criminal schemes and agreed to give the government at least \$14.75 million and accept a 10-year prison sentence.

Under terms of the complex plea agreement, Franzese, 34, of Brookville, L.I., will have to serve five years and nine months in federal prison before he is eligible for parole, and will have to turn over to the government the proceeds of his criminal activity — at least \$14.75 million, including his financial interest as coproducer in the currently popular movie, "Knights of the City."

"I'm very pleased with the disposition," said Ed McDonald, head of the Brooklyn Organized Crime Strike Force. "We've convicted a major orga-

nized-crime figure and forced him to make a significant restitution."

Law enforcement authorities have long alleged that Franzese is involved in organized crime, a charge Franzese has denied. "He has not admitted any involvement in any organized-crime activity," said Franzese's attorney, John Jacobs. "He was facing years of trials and investigations and he just wants to get it all behind him."

The plea by Franzese, who is the son of reputed organized-crime captain John Franzese, and four of his associates, was entered in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn in response to a December indictment. He will be sentenced on June 27.

The group, allegedly headed by Michael Franzese, was said to have been involved in a score of sophisticated illegal schemes that defrauded corporations such as Mobil Oil, Citicorp, General Motors and Mazda of at least

\$5 million, and to have also bilked the pension and welfare funds of the nation's largest union of security guards, the Allied International Union. Franzese is alleged to have controlled the union from behind the scenes.

In return for Franzese's plea to charges of racketeering and failure to file a 1984 income-tax return, prosecutors agreed to drop another prosecution pending against Franzese in Florida and to forgo bringing any charges against Franzese that might grow out of an investigation into an alleged scheme to steal up to a quarter of a billion dollars a year in state and federal sales taxes on gasoline.

Pleading guilty to similar charges were Louis Fenza, 34, of Jericho, L.I.; Frank Castagnaro, 40, of Amityville, L.I.; Frank Cestaro, 46, of North Bellmore, L.I., and Walter Doner, 53, of Ronkonkoma, L.I. They are to receive lesser sentences.



Photo by Carl Glassman

Protesting South Africa Ties

Dartmouth College students protest yesterday outside the Park Avenue headquarters of Phelps Dodge Corp. Students were trying to pressure Phelps to end its business ties in South Africa. They were also demanding the college divest itself of holding in companies doing business in South Africa.

Sindona Declared Clinically Dead

Voghera, Italy (UPI) — Michele Sindona, a former Vatican financial adviser and convicted swindler, was declared clinically dead yesterday as investigators tried to determine whether he was murdered or committed suicide.

Doctors at Voghera hospital, where the 65-year-old financier was taken Thursday after collapsing in his prison cell, said Sindona was in an irreversible coma. Electroencephalogram monitors registered no brain activity during the night, meaning Sindona was "clinically dead," they said.

The doctors initially believed that Sindona — who was behind the biggest U.S. bank failure in history — suffered a stroke. But later tests showed he had ingested poison — probably potassium cyanide.

"There is nothing to indicate whether it is a case of suicide or murder," Francesco De Socio, the Voghera public prosecutor told reporters.

News reports said Sindona — convicted two days before his collapse of ordering a murder — apparently absorbed a dose of cyanide placed in the plastic cup of coffee he drank with his



Sindona

breakfast. Investigators said the report could not be confirmed until a forensic examination is conducted.

The inquiry was focusing on the question of how the poison reached Sindona's cell. He was guarded around the clock and his meals were delivered in sealed containers.

In 1980, a New York court sentenced Sindona to 25 years in prison for his conviction on fraud charges stemming from the collapse of the Franklin National Bank, which Sindona took over in 1972. Extradited to Italy, he was sentenced Tuesday to life imprisonment by a Milan court after it found him guilty of paying American gangster William Arico \$50,000 to assassinate lawyer Giorgio Ambrosoli outside his Milan home in 1978.