

## NEW YORK REPORT

### 3 cleared

A Manhattan Federal Court jury yesterday acquitted three people of charges growing out of the probe of Co-op City maintenance contracts.

Richard Farrell, owner of Kew Gardens Plumbing and Heating Corp., Richmond Hill, Queens, and Thomas Maniuszko, the company general manager, were found not guilty of conspiracy and evading corporate income taxes. Farrell also was cleared of evading personal income taxes. Donna Brzoza, the company's head bookkeeper, was acquitted of charges of lying to a grand jury.

### Yonkers warned

Yonkers City Manager Nicholas DeSantis said yesterday the city council would be playing "Russian roulette with five bullets in the chamber" if it continued to defy Federal Judge Leonard Sand's desegregation order.

Fines threatened by Sand would pass \$400 million after three weeks, surpassing the city's entire annual budget, DeSantis said. Sand, frustrated by more than a year of haggling with the city of 190,000 over implementing a plan to integrate housing, said that if the council failed to pass resolutions concerning the construction of low-income housing by next Thursday, he would find the city in contempt and impose a \$100-a-day fine that would double daily.

### Library hours

The New York Public Library will use budget increases to extend the hours of 18 of its branches, meaning that all 81 branches will be open at least five days a week for the first time since 1976.

### 2 indicted

Two men associated with convicted mobster Michael Franzese were indicted yesterday in Brooklyn on federal charges they laundered \$11.4 million cash through a Long Island bank in 1982.

George Ruggiero, 45, of Coram, L.I., and Vincent Aspromonti, 41, of Smithtown, were accused of conspiracy and three counts of failing to file currency transaction reports for deposits of more than \$10,000 cash. They face up to five years in prison on each charge. Laura Brevetti, attorney in charge of the Brooklyn Organized Crime Strike Force, said the money came from a gas tax evasion scheme.

From Daily News bureau and wire service reports

## 34 CITY TOTS STRANDED AT PLAYLAND

# 'Unsafe' bus seized by W'chester police

By LARRY COLE  
and ELLEN TUMPOSKY

An uninspected, unregistered school bus lacking required safety equipment and operated by a suspended company transported 34 city tots to a suburban amusement park, where the bus was impounded by Westchester police.

"It's like a nightmare," said the director of the city-regulated Morningside Day Care Center in upper Manhattan, who waited anxiously until 8:30 Wednesday night, when the 3 and 4-year-olds were taxied back to the center. The director, who would not give her name, said all the kids were fine but added: "Never again."

Sgt. R.C. Autorino of the Westchester County police force said he inspected the bus while the children were touring Rye Playland on Wednesday after noticing that it had no inspection sticker. A computer check revealed its registration had been revoked. He said the bus had two bald tires and was not carrying a fire extinguisher, first-aid kit or reflectors—all required safety equipment.

"The bus never should have been here," said Autorino, who added that Big Apple Transit Co., which operated the bus, is "one of my major violators here in Playland."

Evelyn Knight, whose 3-year-old son, Supreme, traveled on the impounded bus, said all the parents were very



**RELIEVED PARENTS** Janet Hayes (l.) with daughter, Janelle, 4, and Evelyn Knight with son, Supreme, 3, were among anxious parents when bus was seized by police, leaving youngsters stranded at Rye Playland.

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worried Wednesday night when they learned their kids were still in Westchester. "It was raining, getting dark and cold."

She said that when she learned yesterday about the safety hazard, "my stomach sunk. Imagine them coming back with bald tires in the rain."

Department of Transportation records show that Big Apple's operating permit was revoked last July for using uninspected and unregistered buses. On June 11, the state denied a request to reconsider the revocation. In his ruling, Administrative Law Judge Gerald Duckor noted that no one had been

injured in a company bus, but "the potential for serious accidents is obvious."

The Department of Motor Vehicles suspended the registrations on Big Apple buses on June 24.

A call to Big Apple was answered by a girl who said she was 13 years old and that no one was there to comment.

# Rikers guard is indicted

## He's charged with beating inmate

By SUSAN MILLIGAN

Daily News Staff Writer

A Rikers Island guard beat up an inmate and then lied about it to a grand jury investigating a series of violent incidents on Rikers last October, federal officials said yesterday in announcing the guard's indictment.

It was the first indictment to result from federal probes into a week of violence at Rikers, where inmates reportedly were forced to run through a gantlet of baton-wielding correction officers.

About 20 inmates and several guards were injured dur-

ing the fights, which included inmate barricades and many allegations of attacks by both inmates and officers.

U.S. Attorney Rudolph Giuliani said yesterday that more indictments are likely. "No aspect of this investigation has yet been closed.... We expect there will be further developments."

The indictment charges correction officer Stephen Knutsen with violating the civil rights of an inmate and with perjury.

The indictment said Knutsen used "unnecessary and excessive... force" while escorting an inmate down a hallway in the Anna M. Kross Center on Rikers last Oct. 17.

The civil rights count, a misdemeanor, is the only federal charge which may be brought against an officer who attacks an inmate. Separate assault charges can only be brought by the state, U.S. Attorney Rudolph Giuliani said.

Giuliani refused to name the inmate. However, a report by the state Commission of Correction, which investigated the October melees, specifically accused Knutsen of attacking two inmates, Luis Herrera and Angel Verroa.

Both Herrera and Verroa suffered serious injuries as a result of attacks by Knutsen and others, the commission

report said.

### An 'aberration'

"This is an aberration," said Department of Correction Commissioner Richard Koehler. "Hopefully, this will not happen again." Koehler has suspended Knutsen without pay.

A spokesman for the Correction Officers Benevolent Association, Jim Grossman, said the union's legal counsel would defend Knutsen. "We expect that when all the facts are heard, he will be exonerated," Grossman said.

Knutsen, who faces 11 years in jail if convicted, could not be reached for comment.

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