

Widow of accused mobster sues gov't

THE GOVERNMENT accused her husband of killing many people. Now, Rose Gaggi is making a pretty strong case in Federal Court that government negligence killed him when he was in Manhattan's Metropolitan Correctional Center.

She claims that while her husband, Anthony (Nino) Gaggi, was having a heart attack, prison guards forced him to walk up and down a flight of steps and change into a regulation prison jumpsuit before he could be treated.

The government concedes the basic facts in the widow's lawsuit, but denies that negligence contributed to Gaggi's death.

Gaggi, a 62-year-old Gambino capo who suffered from hypertension and angina, had a lower bunk, was taking medication and was on a special diet because of his heart disease. He died of a heart attack at 2 a.m. on April 17, 1988, as he was being prepared for an electrocardiogram at the prison hospital, according to court records.

At the time, he was on trial for racketeering, charged with supervising a mob crew that the FBI says killed about 75 people, many of whose bodies were dismembered, carted to a dump and never recovered. At trial, six co-defendants were convicted of racketeering, involving 11 murders.

According to the suit, Gaggi suffered "physical distress and trauma" the morning before he died but was not allowed to see a doctor all day. About 11:30 that night, cellmate and co-defendant Ronald Ustica, other prisoners and a prison employe alert-

ed the guards that Gaggi was having chest pains. Four guards visited the cell before a physician's assistant examined him.

When the assistant determined that Gaggi needed treatment, the guards led him, "bent over with pain," down a flight of steps to an elevator bank. But one of the guards, Levirteen May,



GANG LAND
JERRY CAPECCI

"ordered Mr. Gaggi to climb the flight of stairs he had just descended, return to his cell and change into a prison jumpsuit," the suit said.

In court papers, Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard Goldstein did not dispute any facts cited by Gaggi's widow, but denied that negligence by the government or the guards led to his death.

Two guards, including May, have since resigned. An investigation by prison officials found no wrongdoing by any guards, said a spokesman, who added that regulation jumpsuits are required when inmates leave their cells.

Gaggi's widow, who is seeking \$6 million in damages, declined to speak to Gang Land. Her lawyer, Thomas Battistoni, said the government has "stonewalled us at every turn" since the lawsuit was filed last year.

The first status conference on the

case is set for later this month in Brooklyn Federal Court.

If there was any doubt that former Colombo capo Michael **Franzese** was telling the feds everything he knew, it ended last week when he gave up a janitor.

Ornge T. Tutt has been charged with leaking information to **Franzese** five years ago that a Brooklyn federal grand jury was investigating him and was about to indict him on racketeering charges.

Tutt, whose "girlfriend-fiance" at the time was on the grand jury that indicted **Franzese**, allegedly earned about \$1,000 for the details he supplied about the probe and witnesses who testified before the panel.

Franzese couldn't block the indictment, but he intimidated witnesses and used Tutt's information to "insulate" some of his assets, according to a two-count indictment against Tutt.

Franzese associate Frank (Frankie

Camp) Campione, and John (Johnny AMC) Vanasco, who employed Tutt as a porter at a automobile dealership on Long Island, were charged with conspiracy to obstruct justice in a separate case.

Five years ago, when Jamaican posse leader Delroy (Uzi) Edwards wanted to buy a new house to cook cocaine into crack, he took \$150,000 in small bills and walked around the corner from his Brooklyn headquarters and hired Oswald Silvera, a Harvard Law School graduate who had put out his shingle.

LAST WEEK, Silvera pleaded guilty to cooking up a phony \$125,000 mortgage from a company he controlled to conceal the assets from the IRS. Silvera faces five years when he is sentenced. Edwards, convicted of racketeering and six murders, is serving seven consecutive life sentences plus 15 years.

Gorby meeting with 3 Baltic presidents

MOSCOW — President Mikhail Gorbachev has agreed to meet today with the presidents of the three breakaway Baltic republics for the first time since calling their independence moves unconstitutional, spokesmen said yesterday.

The scheduled meeting comes amid other new contacts between the Kremlin and Lithuania.

In Washington, a White House spokesman said: "We welcome dialogue of any kind..."

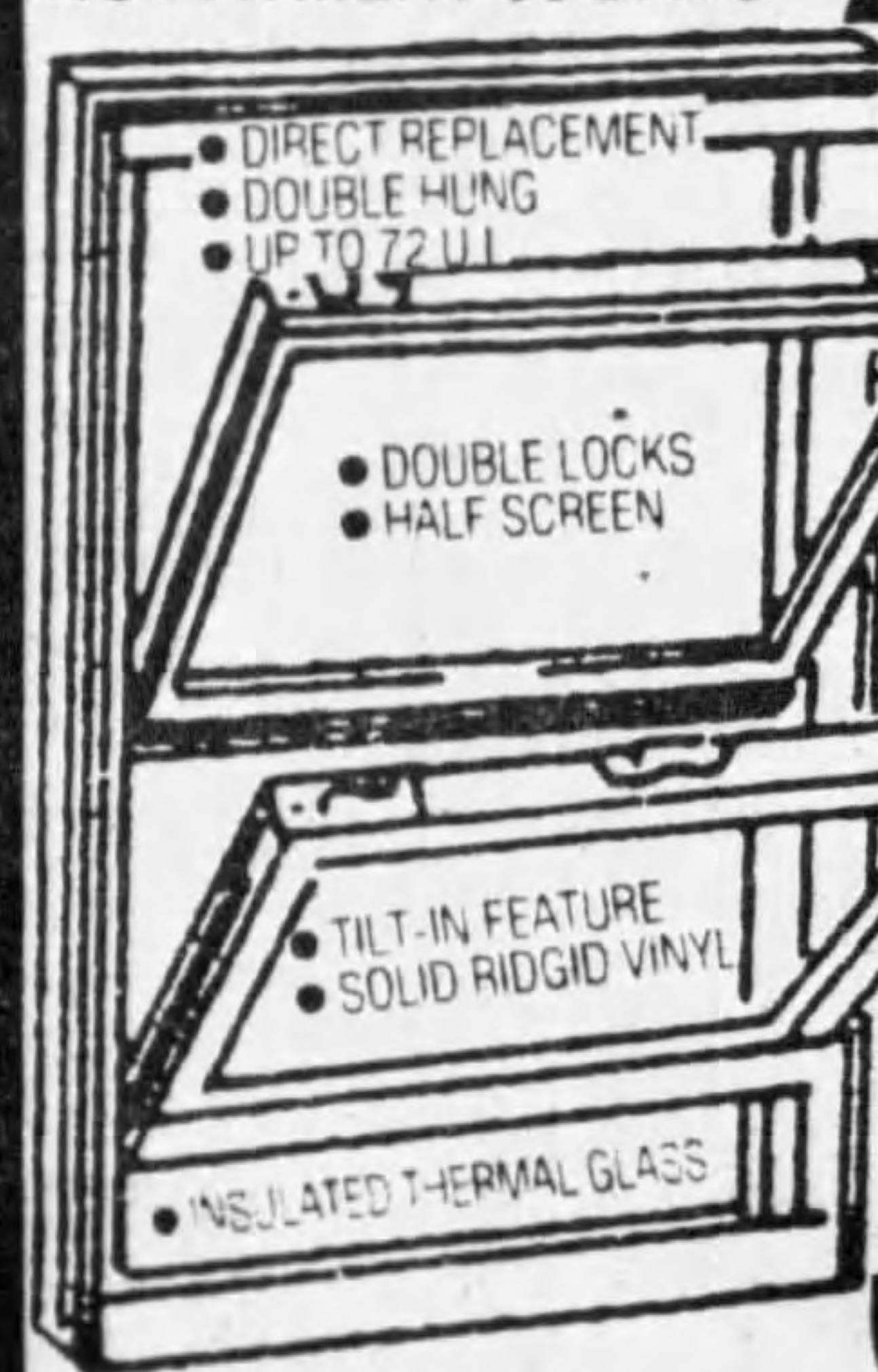
The meeting comes a week after Gorbachev returned from the U.S., where congressional leaders made clear they would hold up approval of a U.S.-Soviet trade deal that Gorbachev wants until the embargo on Lithuania is lifted.

The Baltic leaders are Presidents Vytautas Landsbergis of Lithuania, Arnold Ruutel of Estonia and Anatoly Gorbunov of Latvia.

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4. ENTRY DEADLINES: In order to be eligible for the games scheduled to be played as indicated on entry form below, your entry must be received by at least two days prior to each game being played.
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