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677 Named In Huge N.Y. Crime Probe

NEW YORK, Oct. 16 (UPI)

—The year-long surveillance of a "summit headquarters" of organized crime hidden in a junkyard has resulted in subpoenas against 677 persons in a massive probe of mob dealings in narcotics, prostitution and extortion, Brooklyn District Attorney Eugene Gold said today.

Each of the subpoenas, served by a small army of 1,200 policemen in all of New York City's five boroughs and three surrounding counties, were related in "a meaningful way" to the underworld, Gold said.

Gold refused to release the names on the subpoenas, but termed the action "bigger than Apalachin"—the arrests of top Mafia figures gathered at the Apalachin, N.Y. estate of reputed mobster Joseph Barbera in 1957.

Gold did say the "headquarters," located in a 40-by-15-foot trailer parked in the junkyard across the street from a parochial high school, was the scene of the "comings and goings of prominent members of the five organized crime families of New York city and other people."

"This proves that each one of these 'families' are interlocked and this headquarters is where they met," Gold said.

At a news conference at the junkyard, Gold, standing in the trailer, ripped a plywood ceiling plank out to show where his agents had installed a "bug," a microphone and transmitter.

In addition, he said, police agents, with court approval,

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tapped three telephones in the trailer.

During the investigation, which was assisted by the FBI, the district attorney said, 36,000 feet of motion pictures were shot, 54,000 still photography were taken, and 21,600 feet of tape was recorded from the wiretaps and bug.

He said the electronic surveillance disclosed—in addition to narcotics—prostitution and extortion, dealings in loan sharking, bookmaking, robbery-burglary, counterfeiting, truck hijacking, forgery, labor racketeering, stolen cars, untaxed cigarettes, insurance frauds, and violations of the state liquor laws.

The evidence, Gold said, would be presented to a Kings County grand jury, along with the appearances of the 677 persons issued subpoenas. Gold also said it was possible that "in excess of 1,000 persons" would be called to testify.

He said the trailer was guarded at night by a watchman and two police dogs and kept under a spotlight to keep out intruders. It also was surrounded by a 14-foot-high fence of chain link and corrugated iron and topped with barbed wire.

The junkyard, in a quiet residential area of the Canarsie section of Brooklyn, was filled with wrecked cars "Stacked so neatly men in business suits could walk freely without soiling their clothes."

"The investigation should come not so much as a revelation but as a confirmation of organized crime's contempt for law," Gold said.

One of those issued a subpoena was Nat Laudicino, 52, who sells hot dogs from a truck he parks near the school. Laudicino said he walked out of his house in the Sheepshead Bay area this morning and, "a guy called out my name, 'Hey, Nat,' and handed me the subpoena."

Questioned about the importance of testimony from a hot dog vendor, Gold said each of the 677 subpoenas "deal with organized crime in a meaningful way."

Today's action started before dawn when 1,200 policemen took up positions outside homes in eight counties, from crowded Brooklyn and Manhattan apartment blocks to stately suburban homes in Westchester County to the north of the city. The other five counties involved were Kings, Bronx, Queens, Staten Island and Rockland. As alarm clocks clanged and lights went on, police moved in to serve the subpoena notices.

Gold said that "for the past year, my office has conducted a sweeping and intensive investigation into organized crime, penetrating its innermost workings and stripping away the insulation that has hidden and protected many of the most important people in organized crime."

He said this is the most massive investigation of organized crime in the history of the country.