

Study Finds Mafia Sentences Tougher

By Jack Anderson

As evidence perhaps of the cynicism about corruption in high places, we are frequently asked whether the Mafia is really manipulating the government from behind the scenes.

We have responded that the Mafia has no influence in Washington, that the Justice Department's task forces have been cracking down on organized crime. Now we have seen evidence in a secret General Accounting Office report that the courts, too, have been harsh on Mafia mobsters.

The roster of crime lords, who have wound up in federal prisons, should lay to rest any idea that Mafia membership pays. More than 800, including some prominent "godfathers," have drawn prison sentences since 1969.

To cite a couple of examples, a kingpin of the "French connection," Auguste Ricord, is sitting out his life in a federal penitentiary. Another top Mafioso, Aniello Dellacroce, just finished an income-tax sentence in the Atlanta pen. A few days before his release, another Mafioso leader, Frank Valenti, was locked behind federal bars.

The GAO study shows that, despite high-priced lawyers and highly placed friends, a crime syndicate figure can count on

going to jail after conviction 54 per cent of the time, compared with 49 per cent for ordinary criminals.

Not surprisingly, the syndicate mobsters come before federal judges for sentencing most often on charges of extortion, racketeering, threats, gambling, embezzlement and fraud. For these crimes, Cosa Nostra criminals get longer sentences than do garden variety hoods.

For non-Mafia criminals, an average sentence for embezzlement and fraud is 18 months. But for a Mafia man it is 28 months. For the other crimes, a common hoodlum averages 35 months, the syndicate criminal 41 months.

On narcotics convictions, the syndicate pushers get an average of eight years compared to six for non-Mafia peddlers. Theft and immigration charges also bring longer sentences for organized criminals.

Nowhere in the federal crime spectrum, with the possible exception of assaults, do Mafia mobsters get a better break than common criminals.

Footnote: Rep. Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.), who requested the GAO study, had feared that federal sentences for the Mafia

might be light, as appears to be the case in some state courts. A few state judges, particularly in New York, seem lenient on crime syndicate figures. But in contrast, the federal courts in New York have been even tougher on the crime lords than the national average. On narcotics, for example, Brooklyn federal judges are the roughest in the land.

WASHINGTON WHIRL: Sources who have listened to the White House tapes say they were shocked at President Nixon's gutter language and vicious cracks. His profanity had the flavor, they say, of the dialogue in the ribald movie, "The Last Detail." He assailed those who displeased him with ugly invective. In a telephone conversation with former Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst, for example, the President called antitrust chief Richard McLaren a nasty name but later appointed him a federal judge...

Secretary of State Henry Kissinger has told confidants that he received a scorching from Kremlin leader Leonid Brezhnev at their last Moscow meeting. In the strongest language Kissinger has heard from him, Brezhnev castigated United States moves in the Middle East. Kissinger predicted in advance

that the Soviets would encourage Syrian shooting on the Golan Heights. Kissinger has done his best, meanwhile, to appease the Kremlin... Sources close to the investigation of ex-Treasury Secretary John Connally can't understand why he would pocket \$10,000 in milk money, as alleged, since he is a millionaire. Of course, Connally has vigorously denied that he took the money. But at the time of the alleged bribe, White House sources have reported, Connally was complaining that he had to borrow money to avoid selling off investments. His low government salary wasn't enough, he grumped, to keep up with his high living expenses... The Federal Energy Office has become afflicted with the secrecy mania although it doesn't deal with security matters. Until FEO can buy its own super-shredders, burners and what not, its employes have been instructed to deposit their secret trash in a central vault. An internal memo directs them to deliver the trash in "burn bags" which "must be sealed and marked to identify the specific element from which it comes... Items such as cans, bottles, lunch bags and other routine trash must not be put in the burn bag."

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