

Life Perilous for Former 'Hit' Man

By Jack Anderson
and Les Whitten

Once you become a triggerman for the Mafia, it's dangerous to change your ways.

This has been the experience of John Patrick Tully, an admitted "hit" man for the Campisi Family of the New Jersey underworld.

The repentant Tully became a witness for the state. Now he is locked in solitary confinement for his own protection. There has already been an attempt upon his life.

Meanwhile, the men he helped put behind bars got off with lighter sentences than he did. And another government informer, whose testimony was less crucial, has been provided a new identity and turned loose to seek a new life.

We were caught up in the Tully case a year ago. He called us and asked us to help arrange his peaceful surrender. He read to us from his wanted poster and told of his flight to Venezuela in 1971 to avoid a multiple mob murder charge.

The FBI reached Tully's hide-out a couple hours ahead of our associate, Jack Cloherty. Since Tully has been in custody, we have kept in continuing contact with him.

We encouraged him to cooperate with the prosecutors. Within a week after his decision to testify, all nine of the Campisi mob-

sters pleaded guilty in return for reduced sentences.

The cooperative Tully was promised a sentence lighter than those given to the mobsters he helped to convict. Yet he was sentenced to 15 years, while two of the Campisis got off with three-year terms.

Another informant, Ira Pecznick, a three-time killer, walked away from the courthouse a free man. Pecznick was the first to sing for the state. But it was Tully who gave the charges credibility and, therefore, is credited with breaking the case.

Pecznick is described by federal prosecutors as "a dangerous psychotic." Yet he is out on the street, complete with a new identity arranged by the Justice Department, in return for his testimony.

In contrast, Tully has been described by federal probation officials as "a new man" who has undergone "a complete metamorphosis."

We have held wide-ranging discussions with Tully during the past year, and we have noticed a dramatic change in him. In his first call, he was a hard-bitten tough. But slowly, he began to change.

Now he speaks convincingly of serving his time and starting a new life. This former gunman, once regarded as the most brutal of the Campisi mob, wept

openly when a federal judge gave him a sentence that allows for immediate parole.

The judge acted upon the report of parole officials. But it won't help Tully unless his state sentence is reduced.

Meanwhile, the only safe place for him is in solitary. He is marked as a "stool pigeon," and the mob is out to get him.

There is no way to wipe out Tully's past. He murdered for hire. For this, he owes a debt to society. But in light of the treatment of Pecznick and the Campisis, the state is demanding a curiously high price from John Patrick Tully.

Cancer Controversy—The Chicago chemical company Velsicol is conducting an undercover campaign to discredit Environmental Protection Agency chief Russell Train. His offense: he banned two of the firm's pesticides, heptachlor and chlordane, as cancer agents. The company insists its pesticides don't cause cancer. Meanwhile, letters have gone out from Velsicol to 120,000 corn farmers urging them to deluge Congress with letters and telegrams attacking Train.

Kidnap Plot—Supporters of the Greek junta scoffed at our story last April that the military dictatorship plotted to kidnap a prominent Greek exile, Elias Demetracopolous, and return him to Greece to be killed. We

now have a copy of a confidential government memo, dated Oct. 24, 1973, describing how Greek information official Demetrios Petrounakos was supposed to "undertake a special mission of extermination of the reactionary, Elias Demetracopolous, active in the USA." According to another startling memo, the junta expected "the cooperation of the various agencies of the U.S. government" to help kidnap the exile.

Congressional Computers—For years, tradition has held out against technology on Capitol Hill. But now the Senate is installing computers to provide instant data on legislative matters. Personalized computer terminals are available to each senator, providing direct contact with the computers, for a monthly \$262 fee. Perhaps because the taxpayers pay the fee, 73 senators already have signed up.

Fluoridation Report—The National Cancer Institute, in response to questions raised by Rep. James Delaney (D-N.Y.), is doing a broad statistical study of cancer and fluoridation. Though it is still confidential, we have learned its tentative conclusion: no link. The study pokes holes in the allegations of a dissident medical group, the National Health Foundation.