

*File 6723175*  
**Killing took place during 'lull'**

OAK PARK, Ill. (AP) — Federal investigators said Sunday that crime figure Sam "Momo" Giancana was slain during a 20-minute lull in surveillance of his home.

They also continued to speculate that the killing was gangland-ordered to ensure that he would not spill underworld information to federal prosecutors.

Giancana, 65, one-time boss of the Chicago syndicate's day-today operations, was shot seven times late Thursday night in the basement of his heavily-secured suburban Oak Park bungalow.

A two-man intelligence surveillance unit from the Chicago police department had been watching the home during the evening.

According to federal investigators, the police observed the house until about 10:10 p.m., the Chicago Sun-Times reported Sunday. They drove away from near the house to follow another car noticed departing the area, and returned

at approximately 10:30 p.m., the newspaper quoted unnamed investigators as saying.

It said the two agents heard a "popping" noise like that of a carbonated beverage can being opened as they approached the house, but didn't think it to be gunshots.

The police left about an hour later, the newspaper said, still unaware that by then Giancana had been pumped with .22-caliber bullets in the mouth and neck. An armored door in the basement was found ajar, and Oak Park and Chicago police said the killer may have escaped through it into the darkness.

Federal and local authorities would neither confirm nor deny the Sun-Times report.

Giancana had returned secretly earlier in the week from Houston, where he had undergone corrective surgery for a gall bladder operation, and several syndicate friends as well as members of his family paid him a welcome-home visit on Thursday afternoon and eve-

ning, authorities said.

The Chicago police who watched the house in two twoman shifts during the afternoon and night apparently were noting who entered and obtaining license plate numbers.

Investigators theorize that Giancana may have been ordered killed by syndicate leaders as a precautionary measure to ensure that he would not relate information sought by federal prosecutors in a scheduled appearance soon before a federal grand jury.

Giancana, a former wheelman for Al Capone who scaled the eriminal success ladder, was in danger of being indicted for perjury in connection with previous appearances before a federal grand jury, and, investigators reason, may have been ripe for pumping information to avoid another possible prison term. He had been imprisoned in the 1960s for refusing to testify before another federal panel, and had lived in self-imposed exile in Mexico for several years before returning to Oak Park last year.