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Gagliano Here from N.Y.

U.S. Jury Quizzes Ex-Rackets Figure

Giussppe (Joseph) Gagliano, 69, former New Orleans rackets figure, was questioned by a federal grand jury here for about 20 minutes today.

Gagliano, who was deported from the United States to Italy in 1955 on an old narcotics conviction, then slipped back into the country, was subpoenaed for the grand jury when he arrived here Saturday at New Orleans International Airport from New York where he now lives.

HE WAS ORDERED out of the country in 1961, but pleaded he was sick and wanted to remain in this country with his American family.

He reportedly has serious stomach disorders.

There was no comment from U.S. Attorney Louis LaCour on why Gagliano was subpoenaed by the grand jury.

There was some speculation that the Justice Department wanted to demonstrate that Gagliano, if well enough to travel to New Orleans, is well enough to be deported.

HE WAS PRECEDED this morning by FBI special agent Patrick J. Collins, who remained with the jury for about 20 minutes. Collins was in the news just over a year ago when Carlos Marcello struck him and was charged with assault.

Gagliano came out of the

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grand jury room shortly before 11 o'clock. Reporters waiting to interview him asked a number of questions outside the grand jury room, which is located on the fourth floor in the Wildlife and Fisheries Building.

He did not say a word until he got downstairs to the first floor. Asked why he came to New Orleans, Gagliano said, "I came here to see my family." He said it was a Christmas visit.

Asked if he thought the grand jury wanted to ask whether he was well enough to travel abroad, Gagliano said, "I don't know. I guess so."

Questioned about his health, Gagliano said, "I'm very sick." Asked about allegations of organized crime in New Orleans area and Louisiana, he said, "I don't know anything about that."



—States-Item Photo.
GIUSEPPE GAGLIANO

U.S. Indictment Returned in La. Mob-Link Quiz

A sealed indictment has been returned by a federal grand jury at New Orleans in what is believed to be a continuing investigation of Cosa Nostra activities in Louisiana.

The indictment was delivered after the jury listened to 10 minutes of testimony by a reputed one time Louisiana syndicate chieftain, 64-year-old Giuseppe (Joe) Gagliano.

Gagliano, who was deported to his native Sicily in 1955 because of a narcotics conviction, was once a six-day bicycle racing champion in New York.

He slipped back into the United States after his deportation and was arrested in New York in 1961. Since then he has been fighting a second ouster, largely with the excuse that he is too ill to travel.

Gagliano refused to answer

reporters' questions as he left the Wild Life and Fisheries Building where the federal courts are housed.

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