

Colombo Is Accused Of Contempt on L.I.

By ROY R. SILVER

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MINEOLA, L. I., June 30—

Joseph Colombo, the reputed Mafia leader who helped organize yesterday's protest in New York against linking Italians with criminality, was arrested today on a charge of refusing to answer questions about organized crime.

Mr. Colombo was one of 25 persons reported to be associated with organized crime who were named in indictments announced here today.

He and 12 of the others were charged with criminal contempt for having refused to answer or being evasive when a Nassau County grand jury

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Colombo, Leader of Protest Against Linking Italians and Crime, Is Arrested

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questioned them about gambling and the infiltration of organized crime into legitimate businesses, District Attorney William Cahn said. All had been granted immunity from prosecution for any information they gave the jury.

Mr. Cahn, who announced the indictments, said the 12 other persons cited by the grand jury were charged with usury, possession of gambling records, criminal solicitation, making false statements or violation of court orders. He said they included very figures in organized crime.

Another shout, "Cahn is a Gestapo," and still another yelled, "Cahn is anti-Italian." Mr. Colombo received a tumultuous welcome from the marchers, who included his sons, Joseph Jr. and Anthony. The crowd of supporters followed him into the courthouse and overflown the courtroom while Mr. Colombo was processed in the District Attorney's office.

When Mr. Colombo, who lives at 1161 83d Street in the Bensonhurst section of Brooklyn, appeared in the courtroom accompanied by two detectives and with his right hand in a handcuff, the crowd became silent.

He said that he had appeared for questioning willingly despite the courthouse until Mr. Colombo

being ill and that he had told the jury that "if there's anything we can do to help Mr. Cahn fight crime, we want to do it." He added that "it's a big lie that I didn't answer questions."

When told that Mr. Cahn had described him as the head of a crime "family," Mr. Colombo denied this and said, "Mr. Cahn has to prove that."

Just before he left in an automobile, the 47-year-old Mr. Im bad, let them come and get

Most of the defendants were arrested early today at their homes or places of business by members of the District Attorney's rackets bureau, the Nassau County Police Department and the New York City Police Department's criminal identification bureau.

Mr. Cahn described the arrests as "a vital blow against organized crime." He added that after Sept. 1, when the penalty for criminal contempt is increased to up to four years in jail, "it will loosen some

"I never use a phrase or word that would lend credence that crime is controlled by any ethnic group. I will continue to make every effort to make arrests of persons of any ethnic groups who have committed crimes."

Mr. Cahn said there had been many attempts to establish organized crime in Nassau County. He added that organized crime has been able to flourish because of "disinterest and apathy" on the part of the public.

The defendants were arraigned in Nassau County Court, where bail was set by Judge Paul Kelly ranging from \$500 to \$100,000.

In addition to Mr. Colombo, those arrested on charges of criminal contempt were:

- Philip Rasetelli, 51, of 97-20 57th Avenue, Corona, Queens.
- James Falta, 51, of 257 Evergreen Avenue, Staten Island, business agent of the Association of Trade Waste Removers of Greater New York.
- Michael Sabella, 59, of 84 Boyd Street, Long Beach, L. I.
- John Morale, 58, of 39-30 Glenwood Street, Little Neck, Queens.
- Rafael Espinoza, 55, Elm Avenue, Farmingdale.
- Nicholas Maranello, of 2515 Strathman Avenue, the Bronx.
- Armand Polastrino, 55, of 5 South 16th

Avenue, Mount Vernon, N. Y.

Police Vizzari, 50, of 132 Dozes Promenade, Lindenhurst, L. I.

Nicholas Bastoni, L. I., of 1 Bloomington Road, New Rochelle, N. Y.

The others arrested and the charges were:

- Silney Fordey, 198 Park Street, Atlantic Beach, L. I., usury.
- Henry Hill, 32, of 15 Sanmore Road, Island Park, L. I., possession of gambling records.
- Raymond Montemurro, 33, of 27 Harris Drive, Oceanside, L. I., criminal possession of forged instruments, stolen property, usury and conspiracy, criminal solicitation and possession of gambling records.
- Louis D'Assumpo, 42, of 4050 Massachusetts Avenue, Island Park, usury and conspiracy.

The names of those still being sought were not given.

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