

EA41!MH

COPPOLINO NL

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NAPLES, FLA., APRIL 18 (AP

)--A NEW JERSEY MEDICAL LABORATORY DIRECTOR TESTIFIED TUESDAY HE SHIPPED A SUPPLY OF A PARALYZING DRUG TO DR. CARL COPPOLINO IN 1965, ABOUT SEVEN WEEKS BEFORE THE SUDDEN DEATH OF THE DOCTOR'S WIFE, CARMELA.

DR. EDMUND WEBB, OF THE SQUIBB PHARMACEUTICAL LABORATORY AT FORDS, N.J., SAID COPPOLINO TOLD HIM HE WANTED TO DETERMINE IF THE DRUG "WAS DETECTIBLE IN THE BODY OF A CAT AFTER DEATH."

WEBB TESTIFIED AT COPPOLINO'S FIRST MURDER TRIAL IN NEW JERSEY THAT HE SENT COPPOLINO AN EARLIER SHIPMENT OF THE DRUG, SUCCINYLCHOLINE CHLORIDE, SHORTLY BEFORE THE DEATH OF COL. WILLIAM E. FARBER.

WEBB SAID THAT CAL AND CARMELA HAD BEEN CLOSE FRIENDS OF HIS SINCE HE MET THEM WHILE THEY WERE BOTH MEDICAL INTERNS.

A DEFENSE MOTION THAT COULD HAVE TORPEDOED THE STATE'S MURDER CASE AGAINST COPPOLINO WAS DENIED THURSDAY AND THE PROSPECT AROSE THAT THE TRIAL WOULD DRAG ON AT LEAST THREE MORE WEEKS.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY F. LEE BAILEY TOLD THE COURT THAT "IN THIS BATTLE OF MEDICAL EXPERTS," HE WOULD KEEP BRINGING IN WITNESSES UNTIL "I BURY THE NOTION THAT A GUILTY VERDICT COULD BE REACHED IN THIS CASE."

BAILEY HAD MOVED MONDAY TO STRIKE THE TESTIMONY OF DR. MILTON HELPERN AND DR. CHARLES J. UMBERGER, TWO NEW YORK CITY MEDICAL SLEUTHS WHO REPORTED THAT COPPOLINO'S WIFE, CARMELA, WAS KILLED WITH A DRUG INJECTION.

IF GRANTED, THE MOTION WOULD HAVE REMOVED FROM THE RECORD THE ONLY EVIDENCE OF A CAUSE OF DEATH AND OPENED THE WAY FOR A DIRECTED VERDICT, BUT CIRCUIT JUDGE LYNN SILVERTOOTH DENIED IT AFTER OVERNIGHT CONSIDERATION.

THE TRIAL IS IN ITS THIRD WEEK AND STATE ATTY. FRANK SCHAUB SAID THE PROSECUTION DOES NOT EXPECT TO REST ITS CASE BEFORE NEXT WEEK.

HELPERN, NEW YORK CITY'S CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER, TESTIFIED THAT IN A FIVE-HOUR AUTOPSY HE FOUND NO POSSIBLE NATURAL CAUSE OF DEATH FOR CARMELA EXCEPT A NEEDLE PUNCTURE IN THE LEFT BUTTOCK.

HELPERN THEN ASSIGNED UMBERGER, HIS CHIEF TOXICOLOGIST, TO TEST FOR POISONS. UMBERGER SAID HE FOUND LARGE AMOUNTS OF A PARALYZING DRUG, SUCCINYLCHOLINE, IN THE BRAIN OF THE 32-YEAR-OLD WOMAN.

LATER, DR. BURT LA DU, CHAIRMAN OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACOLOGY OF NEW YORK UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER, SAID HE SEARCHED FOR THE DRUG AND FOUND IT IN THE TISSUE AROUND THE NEEDLE TRACK.

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STILL ANOTHER STATE MEDICAL EXPERT, DR. VALENTINO MAZZIA, TESTIFIED TUESDAY THAT IF CARMELA WAS INJECTED, SKILL IN HANDLING THE NEEDLE WOULD HAVE BEEN "VERY IMPORTANT WITH AN UNWILLING SUBJECT."

DR. MAZZIA, PROFESSOR OF ANESTHESIOLOGY AT NYU, ONCE INJECTED THE DRUG INTO HIS OWN VEINS TO EXPERIENCE AND RECORD HIS REACTION. HE SAID HE WAS PARALYZED IN SECONDS AND WOULD HAVE DIED IF FELLOW DOCTORS HAD NOT KEPT HIM BREATHING ARTIFICIALLY.

THE BEST WAY, HE SAID, TO ADMINISTER THE DRUG TO "AN UNCOOPERATIVE SUBJECT" WOULD BE IN THE BUTTOCKS, THE UPPER ARM OR THE THIGH.

A SHOT INTO A VEIN WOULD ACT MUCH MORE RAPIDLY, HE EXPLAINED, BUT IF THE VICTIM ST

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A SHOT INTO A VEIN WOULD ACT MUCH MORE RAPIDLY, HE EXPLAINED, BUT IF THE VICTIM STRUGGLED IT WOULD BE HARD TO GET THE NEEDLE INTO A VEIN AND KEEP IT THERE.

MAZZIA SAID THAT WHEN HE INJECTED HIMSELF THE FIRST PAIN WHICH HE FELT ALMOST INSTANTLY AFTER RECEIVING THE DRUG WAS "A SEVERE CHARLEY HORSE."

THIS RECALLED TESTIMONY FROM COPPOLINO'S EARLIER TRIAL IN NEW JERSEY WHERE HE WAS ACQUITTED ON A CHARGE OF KILLING RETIRED ARMY COL. FARBER, A NEIGHBOR AND HUSBAND OF HIS MISTRESS, MARJORIE.

MARJORIE TESTIFIED THAT COPPOLINO GAVE HER A NEEDLE AND SHE TRIED TO INJECT HER HUSBAND WITH THE DRUG BUT LOST HER NERVE AND ONLY A LITTLE OF IT GOT UNDER HIS SKIN. SHE SAID HE JUMPED UP AND CRIED, "I HAVE A CHARLEY HORSE."

MARJORIE SAID COPPOLINO HYPNOTIZED HER AND SHE LATER WATCHED AS HE SMOTHERED HER HUSBAND WITH A PILLOW.

IN QUESTIONING MAZZIA, SCHAUB ASKED HIM ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A PILLOW BEING USED ON CARMELA. THE JUDGE SUSTAINED A DEFENSE OBJECTION BUT DENIED A MOTION FOR A MISTRIAL.

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