

DECARLO OF MAFIA DEAD OF CANCER

Mobster Chieftain Was 71—
Got Clemency From Nixon

By MURRAY ILLSON

Angelo DeCarlo, a one-time powerful Mafia leader who was granted executive clemency by President Nixon last Christmas because he was suffering from terminal cancer, died Saturday at his home in Mountainside, N. J. He was 71 years old.

DeCarlo, who had once headed widespread loan-sharking and gambling operations in northern New Jersey and on Staten Island, was pronounced dead at 6:40 A.M. by Dr. Joseph Faraldo of the Westfield (N.J.) Medical Group, where DeCarlo had been a patient. Death was attributed to cancer.

DeCarlo, who had been fined \$20,000 when he was sentenced to a Federal penitentiary in 1970 for extortion, was freed after having served only 33 months of a 12-year sentence.

Last July, Senator Henry M. Jackson, Democrat of Washington, charged that Richard G. Kleindienst, the former United States Attorney General, and John W. Dean 3d, former White House counsel and a leading witness at the Senate hearings on the Watergate scandal, had "bypassed normal procedures and safeguards" in arranging executive clemency for DeCarlo.

Impropriety Denied

Senator Jackson's allegations were denied by Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson, who said in a statement that a personal review of DeCarlo's release had "shown that normal procedures were not bypassed," and that the case had been handled "in accordance with longstanding departmental policy toward terminal-illness cases."

Subsequently, the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported that a two-month investigation by its agents had failed to turn up "one iota" of evidence suggesting official impropriety in DeCarlo's release from prison.

Federal officials also confirmed at the time that the F.B.I. had been unable to substantiate allegations that the Presidential pardon had been brought about through the intervention of Frank Sinatra, the singer, with the office of former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew. Mr. Sinatra reportedly was a close friend of DeCarlo's.



United Press International
Angelo DeCarlo

One official was quoted last July as having said that "not a shred of evidence" had been uncovered to support the allegations that Mr. Sinatra had contributed \$150,000 in cash to President Nixon's re-election in return for freeing DeCarlo, or that Peter J. Malatesta, a former aide to Mr. Agnew, had arranged for the commutation with Dean, the dismissed White House counsel.

Last Aug. 17, United States marshals arrested DeCarlo in the master bedroom of his Mountainside estate after he had ignored a court order to pay the \$20,000 fine.

Clad in pajamas and a robe, he was taken by ambulance to Federal Court in Newark, 13 miles from his home. Propped up on a stretcher, he told the court in effect that he thought the commutation of the prison sentence had applied also to the fine. He was advised, however, that if he failed to pay the fine he would be re-committed to prison. His wife had asserted that he did not have the money to pay the fine.

Nevertheless, Mrs. DeCarlo appeared in Federal Court on Aug. 23 and presented a check for \$2,000 as the first installment of the \$20,000 fine. The balance, under the court order,

was to have been paid by next Thursday.

The DeCarlo home in Mountainside is a two-and-a-half-story white colonial building on four acres on Route 22. It was assessed by municipal officials at more than \$110,000. At the rear of the home is a large swimming pool and a small lake. The property was registered in Mrs. DeCarlo's maiden name, Frances Ryan.

After his release from prison, DeCarlo had spent most of his time at home, occasionally seeing some of his old acquaintances, usually fellow mobsters.

DeCarlo had been portrayed by the F.B.I. as a methodical gangland executioner and a captain in the Mafia "family" of the late Vito Genovese.

His extortion-conspiracy trial in January, 1970, prompted the Federal Government to make public the sensational "DeCarlo Tapes," which detailed gangland murders and payoffs to public officials for rackets protection and influence in dealings ranging from public-works contracts to criminal cases.

DeCarlo and another man were found guilty on Jan. 28, 1970, of conspiring to extort \$150,000 from Louis B. Saperstein, a Newark insurance broker and labor racketeer, who died of arsenic poisoning in November, 1968.

Sentenced to 12 years in prison, DeCarlo was confined at the United States Medical Center in Springfield, Mo., from March, 1970, until President Nixon granted him a full commutation last Christmas.