

MARCELLO LEAVES PRISON

By CHARLES ZEWE
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SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — Carlos Marcello is a free man today but his legal troubles seem far from ended.

The 61-year-old Metairie rackets figure was released from the Federal Medical Center here about 6:15 a. m. after serving a six-month sentence, with time off for good behavior, for attempting to punch an FBI agent at New Orleans International Airport.

Marcello was met by his son, Joseph Marcello, and a brother, Pascal.

THEY ENTERED a black and white Cadillac bearing Louisiana licenses at the rear gate of the prison. When a photographer took his picture, the driver of the car speeded up and swerved away. The occupants of the car ducked down, trying not to be identified.

The car headed south on U.S. 60, apparently en route to New Orleans, but there was no immediate indication when Marcello would arrive home.

Dr. P. J. Ciccone, medical center director, quoted Marcello as saying he was "treated very well during my stay here."

DR. CICCONE said it was not unusual to release prisoners at such an early hour and added that permission to let Marcello go was received by the prison late yesterday.

The director had placed a lid of secrecy on Marcello's release and barred newsmen from the prison grounds.

He did say that even though Marcello was reputed to be a millionaire, he would receive a new suit of clothes and traveling money just like any other prisoner.

WHEN MARCELLO walked out of the medical center he thrust himself back into the middle of what has become a life of court tussles with the government.

Included in Marcello's latest court confrontations is an attempt to block the government from booting him out of the country and another attempt to knock down increased property taxes on his Jefferson Parish holdings.

MARCELLO WAS CONFINED to the sprawling prison-hospital Oct. 14 after the Supreme Court refused for a second time to overturn his conviction on charges of intimidating an FBI agent.

His jailing ended a four-year legal fight by Marcello attorneys to keep the rackets figure out of jail and marked only the third time Marcello, who was once called one of the worst criminals in the country, was locked behind bars.

Under federal prison rules, Marcello was credited with five days a month "good time" and is being released today, a month ahead of schedule.

Most of his five months behind bars was spent in a 7-by-10-foot "private" room in the medical center. Ciccone said Marcello received no special treatment, but did undergo extensive medical tests.

LATEST GOVERNMENT MOVES against Marcello are centered on efforts to deport him to Italy.

The efforts were intensified last month by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service after a little noticed Italian court decision was turned up which held Marcello to be an Italian citizen.

Charles Gordon, chief legal counsel for the Immigration Service, said today there has been "no progress" in getting the Italian government to issue a passport to Marcello as a prelude to his deportation.

"Normally this is a short process," he said. "I can't understand why this case is taking so long."

THE IMMIGRATION SERVICE is attempting to deport Marcello under

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two deportation orders—one issued in 1953 and the other in 1961. Marcello applied for suspension of the 1961 order, but the Immigration Service appeals board turned him down and told him to try again once he got out of prison.

Marcello has appealed to the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals for a review of the decision. The court has taken no action thus far.

The government's continuing efforts to deport Marcello have been frustrated by his legal maneuvers here and in Italy and by the fact no country will accept him.

Marcello was born Calogero Minacori in Tunis, North Africa, then a French protectorate and now Tunisia. Both France and Italy have refused to accept him.

WHEN THE COURT DECISION holding him an Italian national was turned up last month, the Italian embassy in Washington issued a statement saying that even if travel papers

were issued, Marcello could not be forced to return to Italy.

Deportation efforts are based on a 1938 narcotics conviction. He was actually deported in 1961 when he was whisked off to Guatemala, but he reentered the country several months later.

Marcello is also embroiled in a court dispute with the Louisiana Tax Commission over assessments on his 4,000 acre Churchill Farms property which were raised two years ago from \$8,800 to more than \$200,000.

HE IS SEEKING TO either have the assessments knocked down or force equalization of assessments among similarly-classed property in the parish.

The case is pending before the State Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal.

U.S. Attorney Gerald Gallinghouse says he has "nothing new" in the way of court action planned for Marcello when he gets home, but he said his office is continuing its "open ended" investigation into rights of way for the proposed Dixie Freeway which will cut through Marcello's Churchill Farms, according to highway plans.



Carlos Marcello

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