

Carlos Marcello Fights U.S. Deportation Attempt

Jefferson Parish rackets figure Carlos Marcello today refused to sign an Italian passport application as his attorney sought to block his deportation through the United States 5th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Attorney Jack Wasserman asked the court to review an order of the Immigration and Naturalization Service directing Marcello to sign the passport application.

After a 30-minute session with immigration officials at the Federal Building, Marcello had no comment but

Wasserman said it would be "premature" for his client to sign the application while the petition with the Fifth Circuit is pending.

MARCELLO'S attorney also asked the court to review the refusal of the Board of Immigration Appeal to reopen deportation proceedings.

The Fifth Circuit held last October that Marcello is entitled to have his deportation order reviewed by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Wasserman said it is his understand-

ing the Italian government has not said definitely whether it will accept Marcello. Italy previously had refused to issue Marcello a passport.

Anton Eriksen, acting district director of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, said the request for Marcello to sign the passport application was a "moot point" in view of the pending litigation. He said Wasserman took the application under advisement.

MARCELLO was deported to Guatemala in 1961 but returned to the United States and has been fighting deportation ever since.

The rackets figure served five months of a six-month term in 1970 and 1971 for striking an FBI agent at New Orleans International Airport.

Marcello, 61, was born in what is now Tunisia, which was then under Italian rule, and came to the United States as a child. The government therefore contends he is technically an Italian alien.

The deportation rider is based on a 1938 conviction for possession of marijuana and subsequent designation of Marcello as an "undesirable alien."



—States-Item photo.

Carlos Marcello

Marcello No Literary Critic

When It Comes to 'Godfather'

Mario Puzo's best-selling novel "The Godfather," dealing with the Mafia, can boast legions of readers, but none more interesting than the one who pulled into the Federal Building parking lot on Loyola Avenue this morning.

Two well-dressed men emerged from the luxury sedan and strode into the building while reporters followed them

with cameras and note pads.

One newsman wandered back to the car and spied a dog-eared paperback copy of the novel in the back seat.

As the well-dressed man emerged from the building with his lawyer, the reporter asked Carlos Marcello if he had read and enjoyed the book.

"No comment," he said, stony-faced.