

Ex-Con Says FDR's Son In Death Plot

Washington

A convicted securities racketeer told a Senate subcommittee yesterday that Elliott Roosevelt and an underworld figure offered him \$100,000 to assassinate Lynden O. Pindling, prime minister of the Bahamas.

Louis P. Mastriana, 51, who was convicted in 1970 for trafficking in stolen securities, told the permanent investigations subcommittee that "they came to me and offered me a \$100,000 contract to whack Pindling."

Subcommittee investigators said the offer was made in 1968 shortly after Pindling was elected prime minister.

Asked by Senator Charles Percy (Rep-Ill.), who "they" were, Mastriana identified them as Roosevelt, son of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and a resident of Portugal, and Mike McLaney, a close ally of underworld figure Meyer Lan-

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AP Wirephoto

LOUIS MASTRIANA
Racketeer



UPI Telephoto

ELLIOTT ROOSEVELT
President's son



UPI Telephoto

LYNDEN PINDLING
Prime minister

FDR'S SON AND PLOT

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sky and an associate of Roosevelt. The plot hinged on gambling interest in the Bahamas, he said.

(Roosevelt, in a telephone interview with radio station WGBS in Miami from his ranch near Lisbon, said: "It is an utter and complete fabrication and outright lie made by a man who is a known con artist, who has been convicted, who has been put in jail, who has been adjudged by the courts of New Jersey as a mental incompetent, and who conned me and my associates out of \$10,000 in Miami.")

Testifying under immunity from prosecution, Mastriana said that McLaney, who was involved in underworld gambling in the Bahamas, contributed at least \$1 million to Pindling's 1968 campaign for prime minister in hopes of getting a gambling license when he was elected.

The assassination plot was hatched, he said, when McLaney failed to get the license.

He said he turned down the assassination offer "because I couldn't have gotten off the island" after the assassination.

CHECK

Subcommittee investigators produced a copy of a

check which apparently was involved in the contract offer and a photograph of Roosevelt given to Mastriana and signed "To my friend and associate Louis Mastriana . . . Elliott Roosevelt."

Mastriana, who has been in and out of jail during most of his adult life and who began working as a labor consultant for Roosevelt in Miami in 1968, testified that he received a \$2500 check payable to Roosevelt which had been signed over to him for partial payment on the contract. The check which investigators produced was written by McLaney to Roosevelt and signed over and endorsed by Mastriana.

McLaney, according to subcommittee investigators, was recently found guilty in a New York district court on various securities fraud violations.

REBOZO

Mastriana also told the subcommittee that President Nixon's friend, C. G. (Bebe) Rebozo, personally cleared a \$115,000 check paid by a Miami brokerage firm for stolen securities, but he said Rebozo had no knowledge of his criminal past.

Mastriana was arrested in 1969 for the transaction involving Rebozo and sent-

enced to four years in prison.

His prepared testimony gave the names of 34 persons he has dealt with in various criminal activities.

One of the names on the list, according to Mastriana, was Frank Petrucci, a Coral Gables, Fla., automobile dealer who put him in touch with Rebozo, president and chairman of the Key Biscayne Bank.

CASH

Mastriana said he had sold some stolen securities to a Miami brokerage firm for \$115,000 and wanted to cash the check in Rebozo's bank.

Rebozo cleared the check, Mastriana said, and he received the sum in three payments from Rebozo's bank. Petrucci received "\$10,000 for his introduction," he said.

Mastriana also detailed how he worked with organized crime figures to sell the stolen or phony blue chip stocks to major brokerage firms and deposit "paper" checks for thousands of dollars in banks from Miami to Dallas.

"It ran into the millions of dollars," he said. "I blew it all on the crap table. Between the broads and the gambling, I went broke."

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