

Arrest of 6 by FBI Cracks Million Dollar Brink's Robbery

(Story also on page one.)
BOSTON (AP)—The FBI cracked a Brink's million dollar robbery here Thursday and announced rest of six men charged with participating in it.
 The FBI announcement said 11 men were involved in the robbery of \$1,218,211.29—the largest cash robbery on record—in the United States.
 In addition, more than a million dollars in checks and money orders and other securities was taken.
 The FBI said in addition to the six men under arrest, two others are in prison in other cases, one is dead and two others are being sought.
 All but one of the 11 men were questioned by a federal grand jury which investigated the robbery between November 1952 and January, 1953.
 The robbery took place on the night of Jan. 17, 1950.
Continual Investigation
 U. S. Atty. Anthony Julian said the investigation never ceased. About six days ago, he said, it was intensified after receipt of "hot information."
 What that information was he declined to say.
 Julian disclosed that \$98,000 of the loot was brand new federal reserve notes, known in the underworld as "trouble money."
 The U. S. attorney said \$4,700 of the funds was Veterans Administration money en route to the U. S. fiscal agent.
 He added those arrested would be arraigned at 4 p. m. (EST) on charges of conspiracy to rob and conspiracy to conceal.
 Announcement of the break in the case came first from the FBI in Washington and soon afterwards from its Boston office.
Six Years of Work
 The announcement followed six years of perhaps the most intense

investigation the FBI has ever concentrated on a single case.
 Hoover identified the six arrested persons as:
 Vince James Costa, 41.
 Michael Vincent Geagan, 47.
 Adolph Maffie, 44.
 James F. McGinnis, 52.
 Anthony Pilo, 48.
 Henry Baker, 49.
 All live in the Boston area.
 Hoover said the two gangsters now in prison, who were associated with the spectacular raid on the Brink's transfer office in Boston Jan. 17, 1950, are:
 Stanley Albert Gusciora, 36, confined in the Western State Penitentiary at Pittsburgh, Pa., and Joseph James O'Keefe, 47, held in the Hampden County Jail at Springfield, Mass.
 Hoover identified the dead participant in the robbery as Joseph Sylvester Banfield.
Still Being Sought
 Hoover said two others—James Ignatius Faherty and Thomas Francis Richardson—are still being sought in the case.
 The men arrested have been charged with bank robbery and theft of government property.
 The Brink's loot, carried away by a large group of Halloween-masked men, included \$1,218,211.29 in cash and \$1,557,183.83 in checks, money orders and other securities.
 The loot included some government cash and money orders.
 None of the cash, checks, money orders and securities—which set a record for a hold-up haul, has been recovered.
Mystery Deaths
 A series of unexplained deaths among underworld figures in the eastern part of the country followed the robbery, leading to speculation that criminals were making as intensive a hunt for the loot as was the FBI.
 Some officials expressed belief that the robbery gang fell into dispute over the split, with resulting killings.
 All of the men named in the case by Hoover, except Faherty, were among the long string of witnesses who appeared before a Boston federal grand jury which investigated the Brink's robbery between Nov. 25, 1952 and Jan. 9, 1953.
 The FBI released this report on its six-year investigation:
 "The Brink's robbery was a product of the combined thought and

criminal experience of men who had known each other for many years. The gang spent more than a year in planning the robbery and they started a systematic study of the Brink's organization after it moved to its present location on Prince St. in Boston.

"Before the robbery was carried out, all the participants were well acquainted with the Brink's premises. Each of them had surreptitiously entered the building on several occasions after the Brink's employees had left for the day and they made a study of

Brink's schedules and shipments. "The planning for the robbery included several 'trial runs' in which the gang members practiced their approach to the building in a truck and their flight over the 'get away' route. The gang abandoned plans to carry out the robbery several times when conditions were not favorable.

"During these occasions one gang member was stationed on the roof of a building on Prince St. overlooking Brink's. He signaled the others with a flashlight. The last of these 'false' approaches took place on the evening before the robbery.
Estered Truck
 "During the early evening of Jan. 17, 1950, members of the gang met in the Roxbury section of Boston and entered the rear of the Ford stake-body truck which had been stolen in Boston in November, 1949, to be used in the robbery.
 "Including the driver, this truck carried nine members of the gang to the scene of the robbery. During the trip from Roxbury seven of the men donned navy type pea coats and chauffeur's caps which were in the truck. Each of the seven also was given a pistol and Halloween-type mask. Each had gloves and wore either crepe-soles shoes or rubbers so their footsteps would be muffled.
Bought Signal
 "As the men approached the Brink's building, they looked for a signal from the 'lookout' on the roof of a Prince St. building. The 'lookout' previously had arrived in a stolen Ford sedan.
 "After receiving the 'go ahead' signal, seven members of the gang left the truck and walked through a playground which led to the Prince St. entrance to Brink's. Using the side door key they had previously obtained, the men quickly entered, and donned the masks.
 "Other keys in their possession enabled them to proceed to the second floor where they took five Brink's employes by surprise. The seven robbers ordered the employes to lie face down on the floor, tied their hands behind them, and placed adhesive tape over their mouths. Before fleeing with the loot, the seven armed men attempted to open a metal box containing the payroll of the General

Electric Co., but they had brought no tools and were unsuccessful.
Loaded Loot
 "Immediately upon leaving, the gang loaded the loot into the stolen truck. As the truck sped away with nine members of the gang, the 'lookout' departed in the stolen Ford sedan. The truck was unloaded at the home of one of the participants in Roxbury that same evening. Some members of the gang made a preliminary effort to count the loot, but they quickly dispersed to establish alibis for themselves.
 "On the night of the robbery, approximately \$300,000 of the loot was removed from the house in Roxbury for security reasons. Additionally, the equipment used in the robbery was taken by a gang member for disposal. On Jan. 18, 1950, another gang member took the remainder of the loot from the house; and several weeks later it was divided among the 11 then.

Four Pistols
 "In addition to the cash and securities, the robbers took four pistols from Brink's. One of these was recovered by a Somerville, Mass., police officer on Feb. 5, 1950. It had been found by a group of boys near the Mystic River in Somerville.
Descriptions of the truck used in the robbery were obtained from persons in the vicinity of the crime scene. Pieces of an identical truck were found at a dump in Stoughton, Mass., on March 14, 1950. This truck had been cut up with an acetylene torch.
 "During the FBI's six-year investigation thousands of possible suspects were eliminated. Thousands of other persons, possible witnesses and individuals who could furnish background information concerning matters arising in various phases of the investigation were interviewed. Circulars concerning a \$100,000 reward offered by Brink's were distributed to all parts of the country and no tip was overlooked.
To Continue Investigation
 "Results of the investigation and all facts in the FBI's possession have been presented to Dist. Atty. Garrett Byrne, Suffolk County, Boston, and the question of ultimate prosecution is a matter to be worked out between U.S. Atty. Anthony Julian of Boston and Dist. Atty. Byrne. The FBI will continue to make its investigative facilities available to assist to the fullest extent the prosecutive officials."
 The Justice Department said arrangements were made for prompt arraignment of the men under arrest before U. S. Commissioner Francis H. Farrell at Boston.

U. S. Attorney Tells Newsmen of Arrests



BOSTON—U. S. Attorney Anthony Julian tells newsmen Thursday of the arrest of six men charged with participating in the \$1,218,211.29 Brink's robbery of Jan. 17, 1950. The FBI in Washington said 11 men participated in the big haul, largest cash robbery on record in this country. Associated Press reporter Joseph B. Kelley is just behind Julian in center. (AP Wirephoto)

Public Fury Against Jet Noise Feared

WASHINGTON (AP)—Jet airliners, the dream of flight-minded travelers, may make so much outside noise the public won't accept them, operators of the nation's airports said Wednesday.
 They urged builders of the huge transports to bear down on the problem after hearing spokesmen for those builders declare that, despite all efforts, the mighty passenger planes of tomorrow are likely to be louder than piston-driven airliners of the present.
 The men who run the airports said they saw another possible shadow in the glowing prospects for the future of commercial aviation: the towering cost of fields and runways to handle the big planes.
 U. S. airlines hope to get jet craft into service by late 1958. What the approach of a new age in transportation means to the aviation industry brought together 250 experts Wednesday at a conference called by Civil Aeronautics Administrator Charles J. Lowen.
 Declaring "this may come as a blow to airport operators," a representative of Douglas Aircraft Co. said jet planes, "to have the power to go the distances and the speeds asked of them, will have a noise level higher than that of today's airplanes."
 Warren Dickinson said Douglas, builder of the jet DC3 transport, has wrestled with the problem to the tune of more than \$200,000. Progress has been made, he added but "if you muzzle the noise you won't have the thrust."
 It's the outside din that has the engineers working overtime. Inside, the giant jets are quiet as a library. They fly so fast the noise is left behind.

TRAINING CRUISE
OTTAWA (AP)—The Canadian Navy's cruiser Ontario and the destroyer Sioux will sail from Esquimaut, B.C., Jan. 27 for a two-month training cruise to San Francisco, Pearl Harbor and the Far East.

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Protests Against Lawyer Referral Plan Voted Down

PORTLAND (AP)—The Multnomah County Bar Assn. overrode objections by some members who feared "socialized law" and approved a lawyer referral service.
 The plan, adopted at the association's meeting here Tuesday night, calls for attorneys to register with the service and pay a small membership fee. Then needy persons requiring legal aid would be referred to one of these member attorneys.
 The new service is not to be confused with the Legal Aid Society, which gives legal advice to destitute persons.
 The group which said the referral service was the first step toward "socialized law" was outvoted 2-1.

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