

Crime Commission Spotlight Moves to Jersey City

NEW YORK (AP)—Waterfront crime probes moved their spotlight down the Hudson River to Jersey City today after registering displeasure with testimony given by Mayor Fred M. DeSapio of Hoboken, N. J.

DeSapio, who said he was the choice of reform elements when he became mayor, was described yesterday in testimony before the New York State Crime Commission as a power on the Hoboken pier.

Witnesses testified that Hoboken's mile-long waterfront was a stamping ground for extortion artists, loan sharks, thugs and racketeers.

In the testimony, both DeSapio and his police and fire commissioner, Michael Borelli, were linked to Edward Florio, convicted hood-lar and president of a New Jersey local of the AFL International Longshoremen's Association (ILA).

DeSapio, a Democrat, took the witness stand and squirmed through an hour of questioning. Many of his answers were considered contradictory by the commission, and commission members rebuked him.

Jersey City, Hoboken's neighbor, was scheduled for commission scrutiny today.

Last night, Jersey City police said the headquarters there of ILA Local 1847 had been broken into. Alfred Bell, secretary-treasurer of the local, said complete union records for the past year were missing. The local controls all Jersey City dockers.

The New York State commission is in its second round of public hearings on waterfront racketeers which milk the Port of New York's seven billion dollars shipping industry of an estimated 350 millions annually.

Although the crime commission is a New York State body, it has been empowered to investigate the New Jersey piers, which are included in the Port of New York.

Witnesses yesterday said Mayor DeSapio and Commissioner Borelli paid off political cronies with jobs on the Hoboken waterfront.

One witness, Anthony (Tony Mike) de Vincenzo, a longshoreman, said, "You can't get a job until you see Borelli and he sends you to Florio."

Another witness, former Public Works Commissioner George J. Fitzpatrick of Hoboken, said DeSapio or Borelli first had to give approval before a man could get a waterfront job.

DeVincenzo said he lost his New Jersey dock job in 1950 because he bucked Florio and Borelli on an alleged payroll taking racket. Fitzpatrick said he was police and fire commissioner, but was eased into the public works job in 1949 to make way for Borelli.

Commission counsel Theodore Kiendl said the body had taken testimony that Florio was in DeSapio's office "dozens and dozens of times."

DeSapio, in his witness stand appearance, denied any wrongdoing and insisted Florio had been in his office no more than "half a dozen times." The mayor said he was not intimate with Florio.

However, most of DeSapio's other answers to committee questions were "I don't remember" or "I can't recall, directly." Occasionally he put in a "not to my direct knowledge."

Finally the commission chairman, Joseph M. Proskauer, shorted in disgust, "and you're the mayor of Hoboken."

Proskauer also told the witness he was being vague concerning sworn testimony he should be able to deny or confirm.

"Let's get ourselves straight," DeSapio barked abruptly as a point. "I didn't come here to be ridiculed by the chairman or anyone else."

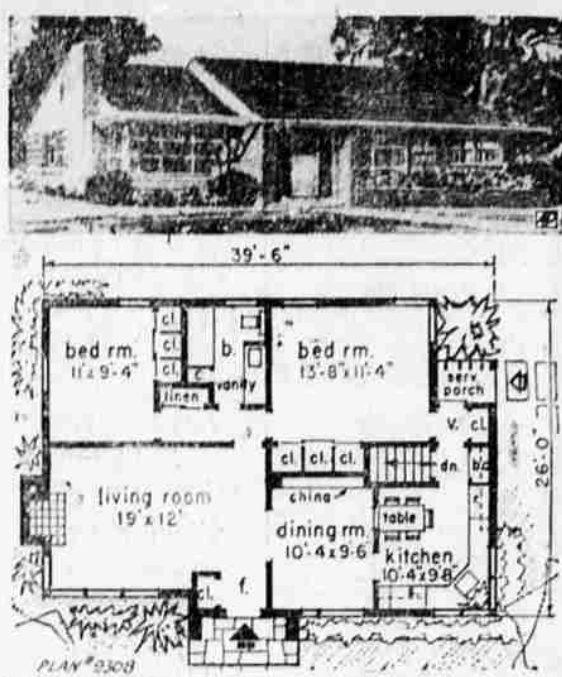
Commissioner Ignatius Wilkinson then reprimanded the Jersey mayor, telling him:

"Let's answer the questions, not make speeches."

Borelli said last night he will file a \$250,000 libel suit against DeVincenzo. The commission did not say when the suit would be filed.

In announcing plans for the suit, Borelli said DeVincenzo was an "irresponsible relative of mine who is entirely unable to hold a job." The two men are cousins.

'MEANEST THIEF' CANDIDATE
OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Another candidate for the "meanest thief" title is the burglar who broke into a general store recently and stole about \$1,000 worth of groceries and merchandise. The thief also took \$25 in change from a jar containing contributions for flowers for a funeral.



A TWO-BEDROOM HOUSE for a small family that does not have to worry about expansion space, this plan provides a lot of comfort and glamorous details in a minimum of space, economical to build. This is Plan 9308 by Rudolph A. Mattern, architect, 90-04 161st St., Jamaica 2, N. Y. Although the house covers only 966 square feet, it has 10 closets and a broom closet. Entrance to basement, kitchen or master bedroom from the rear entrance is a feature.

(Further information and plans available from architect)

Business In For Expansion

WASHINGTON, (AP)—Two government agencies estimate business will spend a record amount of its earnings for expansion and improvement during the last quarter of 1952 and the first quarter of 1953.

The Department of Commerce's office of business economics and the Securities and Exchange Commission, in a combined report yesterday, said:

U. S. business will invest 7 1/2 billion dollars in new plant and equipment in the October-December period of 1952, 6 1/2 billions in the January-March period of 1953.

Joan Leslie Enjoys Role As Barroom 'Butterfly'

By ERSKINE JOHNSON

HOLLYWOOD — (NEA)—Gays and Dolls: Joan Leslie has stuck a black-sequin beauty mark on her chin and shifted into a Mae West-ish walk for the year's most eye-popping escape from goody-goody-girl roles.

The perennial sweet-faced ingenue ever since her film debut at Warner Bros., Joan's playing a barroom butterfly with Brian Donlevy and Audrey Totter in Republic's "The Woman They Almost Lynched" and loving it.

"Imagine," she beamed, "I'm the woman in the title and I've got dialog like: 'The drinks are good and the games are square—step up and enjoy yourselves.' That's Leslie! I can hardly believe it. It's the best character part I've ever played."

There's also a hair-pulling fight between Joan and Audrey and one of those clear-the-streets gunfights between the two gals. Cal Perry, who taught them how to handle their six-shooters, is still amazed at Joan's trigger-pulling close-up. "She looks like chilled steel."

Bob Hope's contract with Paramount has two more years to run and he's mixing rumors that he's about to bolt the lot. Dressed in a gaudy maharajah costume for

"Here Come The Girls," Bob explained the rumors with:

"It's true that I had an argument with the studio. It was about the publicity and advertising budget on 'Son of Paleface.' The picture is doing a \$6,000,000 gross but only \$150,000 was spent on putting it

over. My group felt that the studio should have gone the full route with the picture. That was the beef."

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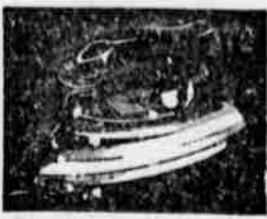
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