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U.S. DIGEST

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

October 15, 2003 Wednesday Five Star Edition

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Section: NEWS; U.S. Digest Column; Pg. A6

Length: 638 words

Byline: From News Services

Body

WASHINGTON

Bush's campaign takes in \$83.9 million

President George W. Bush has raised at least \$83.9 million since starting his re-election campaign last spring, according to the latest figures released by his campaign Tuesday.

Bush began this month with \$70 million on hand, far more than any of his Democratic rivals had.

An updated list Tuesday shows the president is getting help from at least 100 "Rangers," a new campaign group whose members raise at least \$200,000 each. A group of 185 people have attained "Pioneer" status by raising at least \$100,000.

Bush began his re-election campaign in mid-May and already is halfway to his goal of raising \$150 million to \$170 million for next year's primaries. He faces no Republican challenger, as nine Democrats compete for their party's nomination.

LAS VEGAS

Tiger that hurt illusionist is freed from quarantine

A 600-pound tiger that nearly killed Roy Horn of "Siegfried and Roy" has been released from quarantine, Clark County officials said Tuesday.

The 7-year-old white tiger named Montecore was isolated for 10 days to ensure it didn't have rabies, county spokeswoman Stacey Welling said. The animal had been held inside The Mirage hotel-casino since the Oct. 3 attack. The 59-year-old illusionist remained in critical condition Tuesday at a Las Vegas hospital.

MGM Mirage spokesman Alan Feldman said Monday that the animal will continue to live at the Secret Garden, an animal habitat at The Mirage. Immediately after the bloody attack, Horn reportedly said: "Don't harm the cat."

BOSTON

U.S. DIGEST

Mob informer enters plea to avoid death penalty

Mob informer Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi pleaded guilty to racketeering charges Tuesday to avoid the death penalty under a deal in which he accused his former FBI handler of helping to set up a murder.

Flemmi appeared in U.S. District Court to change his plea to guilty on a federal indictment that charges him in connection with 10 murders. The plea deal calls for him to serve life in prison.

Earlier this month, Flemmi, 69, cut a deal with prosecutors in which he accused the man who recruited him to become an FBI informer in the 1960s, a law enforcement source said. Flemmi told investigators that former FBI Agent **H. Paul Rico** helped him and others set up the killing of Tulsa, Okla., businessman Roger Wheeler in 1981.

WASHINGTON

Fugitive drug suspect is arrested in Israel

One of the U.S. Marshals Service's 15 Most Wanted, fugitive Sidney Marvin Lewis, has been arrested after 13 years at large.

Lewis was arrested Thursday by Israeli National Police at a dive shop he operated in Eilat, Israel, a resort town on the Gulf of Aqaba, the U.S. Marshals Service announced.

Lewis was named in a three-count indictment in October 1989 on charges of conspiracy to import with intent to distribute more than 2,200 pounds of hashish.

Lewis was arrested near Columbia City, Ore., in September 1989 after federal and Oregon authorities seized the hashish. He was held in Portland but was granted a holiday furlough to his home in Massachusetts a couple of months later.

A court reversed the furlough release and set a new detention hearing for January 1990. Lewis didn't show up and remained a fugitive until his capture.

TUCSON, Ariz.

Interior chief is ordered to comply on owl habitat

A federal judge has ordered Interior Secretary Gale Norton to comply immediately with an earlier order to redesignate critical habitat for the threatened Mexican spotted owl.

U.S. District Judge David Bury dismissed Interior Department arguments that it should not be required to make such a designation - required under the Endangered Species Act - until Congress appropriates enough money.

In his order issued last Friday, Bury cited an appellate court ruling that found "the United States may not evade the law simply by failing to appropriate enough money to comply with it."

Load-Date: October 15, 2003

U.S. judge orders government to pay \$102M for wrongful conviction in mob murder



[U.S. judge orders government to pay \\$102M for wrongful conviction in mob murder](#)

The Canadian Press(CP)

July 26, 2007 Thursday

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Section: FOREIGN GENERAL NEWS

Length: 882 words

Byline: DENISE LAVOIE, AP

Body

BOSTON (AP) _ In a stinging rebuke of the FBI, a federal judge on Thursday ordered the government to pay a record judgment of nearly \$102US million because agents withheld evidence that would have kept four men from spending decades in prison for a mob murder they did not commit.

Judge Nancy Gertner told a packed courtroom that agents were trying to protect informants when they encouraged a witness to lie, then withheld evidence they knew could prove the four men were not involved in the 1965 murder of Edward (Teddy) Deegan, a small-time thug shot in an alley.

Gertner said Boston FBI agents knew mob hitman Joseph (The Animal) Barboza lied when he named Joseph Salvati, Peter Limone, Henry Tameleo and Louis Greco as Deegan's killers. She said the FBI considered the four "collateral damage" in its war against the Mafia, the bureau's top priority in the 1960s.

Tameleo and Greco died behind bars, and Salvati and Limone spent three decades in prison before they were exonerated in 2001. Salvati, Limone and the families of the other men sued the federal government for malicious prosecution.

"Do I want the money? Yes, I want my children, my grandchildren to have things I didn't have, but nothing can compensate for what they've done," said Salvati, 75.

"It's been a long time coming," said Limone, 73. "What I've been through _ I hope it never happens to anyone else."

The case is only the latest to highlight the cozy relationship Boston mobsters enjoyed with FBI agents for decades. Former Boston agent John Connolly was sentenced in 2002 to 10 years in prison for his role in protecting two organized crime kingpins, including one who remains a fugitive.

Gertner said FBI agents Dennis Condon and **H. Paul Rico** not only withheld evidence of Barboza's lie, but told state prosecutors who were handling the Deegan murder investigation that they had checked out Barboza's story and it was true.

"The FBI's misconduct was clearly the sole cause of this conviction," the judge said.

U.S. judge orders government to pay \$102M for wrongful conviction in mob murder

The government had argued federal authorities had no duty to share information with state officials who prosecuted the men. Federal authorities cannot be held responsible for the results of a state prosecution, a Justice Department lawyer said.

Gertner rejected that argument.

"The government's position is, in a word, absurd," she said.

A Boston FBI spokeswoman referred calls to the Department of Justice. Charles Miller, a spokesman for the Justice Department, said officials would have no immediate comment.

Peter Neufeld, co-founder of the Innocence Project, a New York-based legal advocacy group that specializes in overturning wrongful convictions, said the \$101.75 million award is the largest ever in a wrongful-conviction case.

Gertner awarded \$26 million to Limone, \$29 million to Salvati, \$13 million to Tameleo's estate and \$28 million to Greco's estate. The wives of Limone and Salvati and the estate of Tameleo's deceased wife each received slightly more than \$1 million. The men's 10 children were each awarded \$250,000.

Limone and Salvati stared straight ahead as the judge announced her ruling, but a gasp was heard from the area where their friends and family were sitting when Gertner said how much the government would be forced to pay.

At the time of Deegan's slaying, Tameleo and Limone were reputed leaders of the New England mob, while Greco and Salvati had minor criminal records.

Deegan's murder had gone unsolved until the FBI recruited Barboza to testify against several organized crime figures. Barboza wanted to protect a fellow FBI informant, Vincent (Jimmy) Flemmi, who was involved in the Deegan slaying, and agreed to testify for state prosecutors in the case, plaintiff's lawyers said.

Tameleo died in prison in 1985 after serving 18 years. Greco died in prison in 1995 after serving 28 years.

Salvati was sentenced to life in prison as an accessory to murder. He was released from prison when his sentence was commuted in 1997, after serving a little more than 29 years. Limone served 33 years in prison before being freed in 2001.

Salvati and Limone were exonerated in 2001 after FBI memos dating back to the Deegan case surfaced during probes into the Boston FBI's relationship with gangsters and FBI informants Stephen (The Rifleman) Flemmi, Vincent's brother, and James (Whitey) Bulger, who has been on the FBI's "10 Most Wanted" list for years.

Republican Representative Dan Burton of Indiana, who chaired the House Government Reform Committee when it conducted an investigation of the FBI and its use of criminal informants, said he was gratified by the judge's ruling.

"This was one of the biggest injustices that I have ever seen," Burton said.

One of the agents blamed in the case, Rico, was arrested in 2003 on murder and conspiracy charges in the 1981 killing of a Tulsa, Okla., businessman. Rico died in state custody in 2004 while awaiting trial.

Lawyers for Condon did not immediately return phone messages seeking comment Thursday.

During testimony before Burton's committee in 2001, Rico denied he and his partner helped frame an innocent man for Deegan's death, but acknowledged that Salvati wrongly spent 30 years in prison for the crime.

Rico was unrepentant when asked how he felt about Salvati's wrongful imprisonment.

"What do you want, tears?" he said.

U.S. judge orders government to pay \$102M for wrongful conviction in mob murder

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U.S. PAYS FOR FBI MISCONDUCT; FOUR IMPRISONED UNJUSTLY RESULTS IN \$102 MILLION AWARD

South Florida Sun-Sentinel

July 27, 2007 Friday

Broward Metro Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 3A

Length: 469 words

Byline: DENISE LAVOIE The Associated Press

Dateline: BOSTON

Body

In a stinging rebuke of the FBI, a federal judge on Thursday ordered the government to pay a record judgment of almost \$102 million because agents withheld evidence that would have kept four men from spending decades in prison for a mob murder they did not commit.

Judge Nancy Gertner told a packed courtroom that agents were trying to protect informants when they encouraged a witness to lie and then withheld evidence they knew could prove the four men were not involved in the 1965 murder of Edward "Teddy" Deegan, a small-time thug shot in an alley.

Gertner said Boston FBI agents knew mob hitman Joseph "The Animal" Barboza lied when he named Joseph Salvati, Peter Limone, Henry Tameleo and Louis Greco as Deegan's killers. She said the FBI considered the four "collateral damage" in its war against the Mafia, the bureau's top priority in the 1960s.

Tameleo and Greco died behind bars, and Salvati and Limone spent three decades in prison before they were exonerated in 2001. Salvati, Limone and the families of the other men sued the federal government for malicious prosecution.

Greco always maintained he was in Florida on March 12, 1965, when Edward Deegan was gunned down in an alley. He was 78 when he died in a prison hospital of colon cancer and heart disease.

"Do I want the money? Yes, I want my children, my grandchildren to have things I didn't have, but nothing can compensate for what they've done," said Salvati, 75.

"It's been a long time coming," said Limone, 73. "What I've been through - I hope it never happens to anyone else."

The case is only the latest to highlight the cozy relationship Boston mobsters enjoyed with FBI agents for decades. Former Boston agent John Connolly was sentenced in 2002 to 10 years in prison for his role in protecting two organized crime kingpins, including one who remains a fugitive.

U.S. PAYS FOR FBI MISCONDUCT; FOUR IMPRISONED UNJUSTLY RESULTS IN \$102 MILLION AWARD

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"The FBI's misconduct was clearly the sole cause of this conviction," the judge said.

The government had argued federal authorities had no duty to share information with state officials who prosecuted the men. Peter Neufeld, co-founder of the Innocence Project, a New York-based legal advocacy group that specializes in overturning wrongful convictions, said the \$101.75 million award is the largest ever in a wrongful-conviction case.

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Load-Date: July 27, 2007



US prosecutor's tenacity is rewarded

The Boston Globe
January 7, 2008 Monday
THIRD EDITION

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Section: METRO; Pg. B1

Length: 903 words

Byline: Shelley Murphy Globe Staff

Body

On a cold December night in 2000, federal prosecutor John Durham showed up at a Medford lawyer's office with secret FBI documents he had uncovered that indicated four men had been framed for murder and wrongly imprisoned.

"He found out the truth that was hidden for so many decades, and he was honest enough to bring it forward so that innocent men could leave prison as free men," said the Medford lawyer, Victor Garo, recently recounting how the documents convinced a judge days later to toss out the 1968 murder convictions of his client, Joseph Salvati, and an alleged accomplice, Peter J. Limone. Last year, those documents helped Salvati, Limone, and the families of two other men - who died in prison - win a \$101.7 million civil judgment against the government.

He has detractors, but lawyers and law enforcement officials say Durham's combination of honesty and tenacity help explain why Attorney General Michael Mukasey tapped the deputy US attorney from Connecticut last week to lead a Justice Department probe into the 2005 destruction of CIA videos of officers interrogating two Al Qaeda suspects.

Durham's former colleagues say he is driven by facts and will not be swayed by politics.

"He is one of those people who always does the right thing," said Warren T. Bamford, the special agent in charge of the FBI's Boston office, who has known Durham since they teamed up in 1992 on a task force that targeted gangs in Hartford. "He kind of has blinders on in the sense that he doesn't worry about the politics and all the other stuff that might be swirling around, and I think that's really what makes him so successful."

During 30 years as a prosecutor, Durham, who spent most of his career building and supervising cases out of the US attorney's office in Connecticut, made an impact in Boston.

Amid allegations that longtime informants James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi had corrupted their FBI handlers while working as informants against the Mafia, US Attorney General Janet C. Reno named Durham special prosecutor in 1999 to oversee a task force of out-of-town FBI agents brought in to investigate the Boston office's handling of informants.

US prosecutor's tenacity is rewarded

In 2002, Durham helped secure a conviction on federal racketeering charges against retired FBI agent John J. Connolly Jr., who was sentenced to 10 years in prison for protecting Bulger and Flemmi from prosecution and warning Bulger to flee just before the gangster's 1995 indictment.

That case and the accompanying investigation earned him a reputation as a tough and honest prosecutor, former colleagues said.

"I think that he proved that he wasn't there simply to whitewash the FBI misconduct," said Boston criminal defense lawyer Anthony M. Cardinale. "If it's the right call, he's going to make it no matter who it hurts or helps."

While assigned to Boston, Durham worked extremely hard between commutes back and forth from his home in Connecticut, said Assistant US Attorney Brian T. Kelly, a member of the team that built the case against Bulger and Flemmi.

"It was obviously a very important case," said Kelly, referring to the prosecution of Connolly. "He handled it professionally and did an excellent job under very difficult circumstances."

During his career, Durham also led a series of high-profile prosecutions in Connecticut against the hierarchy of the New England Mafia and a number of corrupt politicians, including the state's former governor John G. Rowland.

He is also known for his avoidance of the media, and seldom comments publicly on cases.

In a rare appearance at a press conference, on the day he secured Connolly's conviction, Durham told reporters, "Nobody in this country is above the law, an FBI agent or otherwise, and ultimately the ends do not justify the means."

In addition to Connolly, Durham prosecuted Richard Schneiderhan, a retired Massachusetts State Police lieutenant, who was sentenced in 2003 to 18 months in prison for conspiracy and obstruction of justice.

Durham's task force also gathered evidence against another retired FBI agent, **H. Paul Rico**, who was indicted in Oklahoma on state charges that he helped Bulger and Flemmi kill a Tulsa businessman in 1981. Rico died in 2004 before the case went to trial.

Although evidence was introduced at Connolly's 2002 federal trial that other FBI agents and as many as 20 Boston police officers routinely accepted payoffs or gifts from Bulger's gang, federal officials said it was too late to prosecute them because the statute of limitations had run out.

Retired State Police Colonel Thomas J. Foley said Durham's investigation did not go far enough and that if it was too late for indictments against other suspects, Durham should have issued a report detailing all of his findings.

"He came in here with good intentions, I just think more could have been accomplished there and hasn't been," Foley said.

Durham, 57, declined to comment, according to a spokesman for the US attorney's office in Connecticut.

But during a 2002 press conference, Durham said that if he found cases that were outside the statute of limitations, then prosecutors would detail the alleged wrong-doing in a report to the Justice Department.

US Attorney Michael J. Sullivan would not say whether Durham had filed such a report. But he said Durham was extremely thorough, and followed every lead and shared information with his office.

"There was nothing that John left undone," Sullivan said.

Load-Date: April 9, 2008

US prosecutor's tenacity is rewarded

End of Document

US says Flemmi turned informant to torpedo rivals;Immunity disputed as hearings begin



***US says Flemmi turned informant to torpedo rivals;
Immunity disputed as hearings begin***

The Boston Globe

January 7, 1998, Wednesday, City Edition

Copyright 1998 Globe Newspaper Company

Section: METRO/REGION; Pg. B2

Length: 829 words

Byline: By Patricia Nealon, Globe Staff

Body

According to his defense lawyer, gangster Stephen J. "The Rifleman" Flemmi led a sporadic, 30-year career as an FBI informant for one reason only: his handlers said he would not be prosecuted for any crimes in exchange for information on the Mafia, his criminal rivals.

Flemmi's lawyer, Kenneth J. Fishman, told a federal judge yesterday that the FBI's promise was underscored to his client numerous times over the years when Flemmi escaped prosecution for gambling, murder, and loansharking.

"The focus here is on the promises made to my client, Stephen Flemmi, by the FBI," Fishman said.

Fishman's opening statement to US District Judge Mark L. Wolf came during the first day of hearings on whether extortion and racketeering charges brought against Flemmi and his rival criminals three years ago should stand.

"In exchange for his very unique and special cooperation, he would be protected, he would not be prosecuted," Fishman said.

But Assistant US Attorney Fred M. Wyshak Jr. offered another simple reason for Flemmi's career as a government informant: greed and power.

Flemmi and James J. "Whitey" Bulger, his criminal partner and fellow informant, chose to funnel information on rival Italian mobsters to the FBI "to put their competition out of business," Wyshak said.

And Flemmi's deal with the FBI held no guarantee that he would escape prosecution in connection with his own criminal enterprises, Wyshak said.

"Stephen Flemmi was just another informant, albeit an important one," said Wyshak. "But that does not equate with immunity, that does not equate with authorization" to commit crimes.

Whether Flemmi was promised immunity from prosecution is key to the hearings. Wolf must decide whether Flemmi had a formal "contract" with the FBI which guaranteed that he would not be charged with crimes while acting as an informant.

US says Flemmi turned informant to torpedo rivals;Immunity disputed as hearings begin

Flemmi claims he got a verbal promise from federal agents that he would not be prosecuted, and has asked Wolf to dismiss extortion and racketeering charges brought against him in January 1995.

Wolf will also determine whether the government acted improperly when it obtained permission for three sets of wiretaps and bugs used to collect evidence against Flemmi and other top gangsters.

The first witness set to testify today is Lawrence Sarhantt, who headed the FBI's Boston office from 1980 to 1982. One witness who apparently will not testify is retired FBI agent John Connolly, Bulger's longtime handler. Fishman told the court that Connolly plans to invoke his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination.

The hearings are critical to the landmark case brought against Flemmi, Bulger, New England Mafia boss Francis P. "Cadillac Frank" Salemme, and three associates. The case against them alleges a joint criminal enterprise between the local Mafia and the Irish mob headed by Flemmi and Bulger.

Bulger fled before his indictment and remains a fugitive.

To support his claim that Flemmi provided information only because he had been promised immunity, Fishman traced his client's on-again, off-again career as an FBI informant. Fishman noted several instances when Flemmi escaped arrest in exchange for valuable information on La Cosa Nostra.

Starting in the late 1960s, Fishman said, FBI agent H. Paul Rico assured Flemmi that, despite the "federal heat" he felt, he would not be targeted by a task force that included the Internal Revenue Service. He wasn't.

In 1974, after Flemmi had fled murder and attempted murder charges in connection with a bombing attempt on a lawyer - charges, he claimed, to which Rico alerted him - Flemmi said Rico persuaded him to return to Massachusetts and assured him the charges would be dropped. After Flemmi surrendered to two Boston police detectives, charges were dropped in Middlesex and Suffolk counties.

"The FBI kept its promise," Fishman said.

And although Bulger and Flemmi were targets of an investigation into horse race-fixing in the late 1970s, Fishman said, they were not charged when the indictments were returned - just named as unindicted co-conspirators.

Though the FBI says Bulger and Flemmi each were terminated as informants in December 1990, Fishman said they were never notified and continued to provide information.

Salemme's attorney, Anthony M. Cardinale, said Bulger and Flemmi became "part of the FBI family," aligning themselves with an agency committed to dismantling the local Mafia.

"They socialized together," said Cardinale, alluding to Flemmi's claims that he and Bulger frequently had parties with FBI agents. "They gave one another gifts. They lent money to one another and they waged war against a common enemy."

Still, there was no immunity agreement, Wyshak insisted, and defense lawyers will offer no proof of one, he said.

"There will be no evidence, other than vague assertions Mr. Flemmi made, of any kind of contractual agreement between Mr. Flemmi and the United States," Wyshak said.

Load-Date: January 7, 1998



[U.S. told to pay up for unjust verdicts](#)

The Star-Ledger (Newark, New Jersey)

July 27, 2007 Friday

FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 4

Length: 386 words

Byline: DENISE LAVOIE, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: BOSTON

Body

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Judge Nancy Gertner told a packed courtroom that agents were trying to protect informants when they encouraged a witness to lie, then withheld evidence they knew could prove the four men were not involved in the 1965 murder of Edward "Teddy" Deegan, a small-time thug shot in an alley.

Gertner said Boston FBI agents knew mob hitman Joseph "The Animal" Barboza lied when he named Joseph Salvati, Peter Limone, Henry Tameleo and Louis Greco as Deegan's killers. She said the FBI considered the four "collateral damage" in its campaign against the Mafia in the 1960s.

Tameleo and Greco died behind bars, and Salvati and Limone spent three decades in prison before they were exonerated in 2001. Salvati, Limone and the families of the other men sued the federal government for malicious prosecution.

"Do I want the money? Yes, I want my children, my grandchildren to have things I didn't have, but nothing can compensate for what they've done," said Salvati, 75.

"It's been a long time coming," said Limone, 73. "What I've been through - I hope it never happens to anyone else."

The case is only the latest to highlight the cozy relationship Boston mobsters enjoyed with FBI agents for decades. Former Boston agent John Connolly was sentenced in 2002 to 10 years in prison for his role in protecting two organized crime kingpins, including one, the infamous James "Whitey" Bulger, who remains a fugitive.

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"The FBI's misconduct was clearly the sole cause of this conviction," the judge said.

The government had argued that federal authorities had no duty to share information with state officials who prosecuted the men. Federal authorities cannot be held responsible for the results of a state prosecution, a Justice Department lawyer said.

Gertner rejected that argument.

"The government's position is, in a word, absurd," she said.

Graphic

1. Wrongly convicted ex-prisoner Joseph Salvati kisses his wife, Marie, in Boston yesterday after winning vindication and millions of dollars from the federal government.

Load-Date: July 27, 2007



[U.S. to pay \\$102M for wrongful conviction in mob case](#)

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

July 27, 2007 Friday

Final Edition

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Section: FRONT; Pg. A5

Length: 324 words

Byline: Associated Press

Dateline: BOSTON

Body

In a stinging rebuke of the FBI, a federal judge yesterday ordered the government to pay a record judgment of \$101.75 million US because agents withheld evidence that would have kept four men from spending decades in prison for a murder they did not commit.

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U.S. to pay \$102M for wrongful conviction in mob case

"The FBI's misconduct was clearly the sole cause of this conviction," the judge said.

Graphic

Photo: ASSOCIATED PRESS , Joseph "The Animal" Barboza raises his hand before testifying for a House crime committee hearing in May 1972.

Load-Date: July 27, 2007

End of Document

US URGES APPEALS COURT TO DISMISS SUIT OVER INFORMANTS

**US URGES APPEALS COURT TO DISMISS SUIT OVER INFORMANTS**

The Boston Globe

March 3, 2004, Wednesday

THIRD EDITION

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Section: METRO/REGION;**Length:** 697 words**Byline:** By Shelley Murphy, Globe Staff**Body**

The US Department of Justice urged a federal appeals court yesterday to dismiss lawsuits against the government filed by the families of two victims of James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen Flemmi, arguing that they should have known years earlier that the FBI was partly to blame for the slayings and that they waited too long to sue.

"This is a sympathetic case, I realize that," said Deputy Assistant Attorney General Jeffrey S. Bucholtz, acknowledging that Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler, who was gunned down in 1981, was an "innocent victim" of FBI informants Bulger and Flemmi and their former handler, retired FBI agent John J. Connolly Jr., who had protected them for years.

But he told the three-judge panel of the US Court of Appeals for the First Circuit in Boston that the Justice Department should not have to apologize for arguing that the suits filed by the families of Wheeler and another victim, John McIntyre, should be dismissed because they were filed too late.

However, two of the judges challenged the Justice Department's claim that the families should have known by the spring of 1998 that the FBI was partly to blame for the slayings, noting that the FBI had conducted an internal investigation in 1997 and concluded that there wasn't any evidence to support a prosecution of any of its agents for their handling of Bulger and Flemmi.

It wasn't until December 1999 that Connolly was indicted on racketeering and obstruction of justice charges for leaking information to Bulger and Flemmi. And only last October was retired FBI agent ***H. Paul Rico*** charged with helping the two gangsters kill Wheeler.

"Why wouldn't the [Wheeler] family be entitled to rely on the statements of the FBI?" asked Senior Circuit Judge Jeffrey R. Howard.

"The agency is busy denying there has been impropriety on the part of any of its agents," noted Circuit Judge Sandra L. Lynch.

US URGES APPEALS COURT TO DISMISS SUIT OVER INFORMANTS

While conceding that the FBI's denials proved "incorrect," Bucholtz argued that the standard is lower in civil cases than in criminal cases and that the victims' families didn't have to know to a certainty that they had been wronged by the government before filing their claims.

"No one here was lulled into not filing the suit," Bucholtz said.

But Howard responded, "That's what I'm suggesting."

Wheeler was gunned down outside a Tulsa country club in 1981 by a hit man under orders from Bulger and Flemmi, who had learned that Wheeler suspected their gang of skimming profits from his company, World Jai Alai, prosecutors say.

McIntyre, of Quincy, vanished in November 1984 after implicating Bulger and Flemmi in an unsuccessful plot to ship guns to the Irish Republican Army. But the government insisted that he was a fugitive until his remains were recovered from an unmarked Dorchester grave in January 2000.

Bulger and Flemmi were charged with killing Wheeler and McIntyre - as well as another 17 victims between them - in the fall of 2000.

Flemmi pleaded guilty last October to the 10 slayings in which he was charged, and was sentenced to life in prison. Bulger, charged in 19 killings, remains a fugitive. Rico died in January after pleading not guilty to Wheeler's murder.

The Federal Tort Claims Act requires plaintiffs to file claims against the federal government within two years of being injured, or two years after they knew or should have known that they had been injured.

Last March, US District Judge Reginald C. Lindsay dismissed the McIntyres' claim, which was filed against the FBI in May 2000, and the Wheelers' claim, which was filed in May 2001, ruling that they were brought too late. The families appealed.

New Hampshire attorney William E. Christie, who represents the McIntyres, said the case was about "gross misconduct" and argued that the FBI "as an institution had engaged in a cover-up."

Justice Department lawyer Richard A. Olderman argued that after it was alleged during federal court hearings in Boston in 1998 that Bulger killed another informant after Connolly warned him that he was cooperating, the McIntyres should have assumed that McIntyre had probably met the same fate.

"That was information that should have caused a light to go off in a reasonable person," Olderman said.

Load-Date: March 3, 2004



Victim's family wants death evidence

The Oklahoman (Oklahoma City, OK)
January 20, 2004 Tuesday CITY EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 3A

Length: 133 words

Byline: Julie E. Bisbee; Associated Press Writer

Body

An attorney for the family of a Tulsa businessman gunned down by members of organized crime says evidence from the criminal case against **H. Paul Rico** should become part of the family's wrongful death lawsuit against federal agents.

Frank Libby, a Boston attorney who represents members of Roger Wheeler's family, said evidence that helped to bring first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder charges against Rico should be public and he plans to subpoena it for a pending civil suit.

Rico, 78, died Friday in a Tulsa hospital. He was facing charges that he helped his former mob informants, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi and James "Whitey" Bulger, plan the murder of Wheeler, owner of World Jai Alai.

"All the families with civil suits pending should be entitled to that information," Libby said.

Load-Date: January 21, 2004



VICTIM'S KIN SUE GANGSTERS, AGENTS PRESS INVESTIGATORS ON BULGER SEARCH

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The Boston Globe

March 9, 2001, Friday

,THIRD EDITION

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Section: METRO/REGION;

Length: 370 words

Byline: By Shelley Murphy, Globe Staff

Body

The family of a Quincy man who was allegedly killed by FBI informants James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen Flemmi filed a \$50 million lawsuit yesterday against the gangsters and eight former FBI agents, and urged investigators to intensify their hunt for the fugitive Bulger.

"Whitey Bulger must be brought to justice," said Christopher McIntyre, who, with his mother, Emily, filed the 97-page federal lawsuit alleging that the FBI ignored overwhelming evidence that Bulger and Flemmi were killers.

"This guy has killed too many people to just let him fade off as an old man would," said McIntyre, referring to Bulger, who has been a fugitive since his January 1995 federal racketeering indictment. He is now on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted list. "He's a mass murderer," said McIntyre.

Last year, a new federal racketeering indictment charged Bulger with killing 19 people between 1973 and 1985, and Flemmi with killing 10 - including John McIntyre, who vanished in November 1984 after the FBI learned that he was cooperating with authorities and had implicated Bulger and Flemmi in a plot to ship guns to the Irish Republican Army. Flemmi remains jailed without bail awaiting trial.

The remains of McIntyre, 32, and two other victims were unearthed in January 2000 from a grave in Dorchester after one of Bulger's longtime associates, Kevin Weeks, began cooperating and led investigators to the burial site.

The McIntyres' suit alleges that FBI agents at the highest levels of the Boston office knew of Bulger and Flemmi's exploits but protected them from prosecution because they were informants against the Mafia.

Attorney Jeffrey Denner, who represents the McIntyres, said, "What you essentially have here is a culture of corruption that was handed down from one FBI agent and one FBI generation to another, that essentially led not only to the death of John McIntyre but to the deaths of 23 other people that we know about."

The FBI declined to comment.

VICTIM'S KIN SUE GANGSTERS, AGENTS PRESS INVESTIGATORS ON BULGER SEARCH

The suit names Bulger, Flem mi, and Weeks; ex-special agents in charge James Ahearn and James Greenleaf; former assistant special agent in charge Robert Fitzpatrick; former supervisors John Morris and James Ring; and agents John Connolly, **H. Paul Rico**, and Roderick Kennedy.

Load-Date: March 9, 2001

End of Document

Victim's son on hit man's release: 'I don't care'



Victim's son on hit man's release: 'I don't care'

The Patriot Ledger (Quincy, MA)

March 22, 2007 Thursday

City Edition

Copyright 2007 The Patriot Ledger

Section: News; pg. ONE10

Length: 512 words

Byline: JOHN P. KELLY, The Patriot Ledger

Body

Former mob hit man John Martorano, who murdered 20 people and informed against his underworld colleagues in the Winter Hill gang, was expected to be freed from prison today.

Martorano, 66, spent slightly more than 12 years in prison.

His brother, James Martorano of West Quincy, said in published reports this week that the former hit man declined an offer to go into witness protection and is not hesitant to return to the Boston area.

Martorano, who was arrested on federal racketeering charges in 1995, reached a deal with state and federal prosecutors in 2004 in exchange for his cooperation against mob bosses James "Whitey" Bulger, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi and corrupt FBI agents.

In 1999, the former Milton resident pleaded guilty to killing 10 people in Massachusetts during the 1970s.

One of the victims, Edward Connors, 42, was gunned down in a Dorchester phone booth in 1975.

Connors' son Timmy said in an interview yesterday that he pitied the families of Martorano's victims who might be fearful about Martorano returning to society.

"Personally, I don't really care," said Connors, 32, of Quincy, who was 6 months old when his father was gunned down. "If you have to live in fear, there's no sense in living at all."

As part of his plea agreement, Martorano admitted killing Boston financier John Callahan in Florida and Oklahoma businessman Roger Wheeler in 1981 on orders from Bulger and Flemmi. Although he also claimed responsibility for eight murders in the 1960s, he was never charged with those killings.

U.S. District Court Judge Mark Wolf sentenced Martorano to 14 years in prison and five years of post-release probation.

Victim's son on hit man's release: 'I don't care'

Martorano's cooperation with investigators also helped build cases against former FBI agents John Connolly Jr. and **H. Paul Rico**, as well as former Massachusetts State Police Lt. Richard Schneiderhan.

In arguing for a reduced prison sentence, prosecutors said Martorano's "uncanny" ability to recall decades-old crimes helped investigators assemble a long list of crimes, secure additional witnesses, and unearth the remains of people killed by the Winter Hill gang.

Martorano began to cooperate after it was revealed in 1997 that Bulger and Flemmi had been longtime FBI informants. Martorano was soon transferred from the Plymouth County Correctional Facility to an undisclosed federal prison.

Since then, Martorano has testified before several secret grand juries and spent hundreds of hours in interviews with state and federal investigators.

In arguing for Martorano's reduced prison sentence, U.S. attorneys pointed out the risky nature of Martorano turning government witness, even beyond the potential for gangland payback.

"Such a threat may come from any source who perceives Martorano negatively or seeks to enhance his own reputation through an attack on Martorano," prosecutors wrote in court motions.

Flemmi is serving a life sentence. Bulger, a fugitive since 1995, remains on the FBI's 10 Most Wanted list. There is a \$1 million reward for information leading to his capture.

John P. Kelly may be reached at jkelly@ledger.com.

Load-Date: March 30, 2007



Victim's son seeks justice; Says former fed agents betrayed father

The Boston Herald

December 6, 2002 Friday

ALL EDITIONS

Copyright 2002 Boston Herald Inc.

Section: NEWS;

Length: 503 words

Byline: By J. M. LAWRENCE

Body

Self-made millionaire Roger Wheeler, who was murdered by James "Whitey" Bulger's gang, thought hiring former FBI agents would insulate his gaming company from organized crime, his son told Congress yesterday.

"He had solid comfort, knowing that his executive staff was made up of former FBI agents, and they had told him his company was 'clean,' " David Wheeler said.

The terrible irony, David said, is he now believes former Boston G-men inside World Jai Alai had his father shot through the eyes in 1981 and covered up the killing for years.

"Where there was once trust, there is now fear. And that is a loss we cannot afford," he told the House Government Reform Committee during the first of two field hearings in Boston yesterday.

Often on the brink of tears at the memory of the father he lost when he was 29, David, a software engineer, described his father as "a man who didn't steal, who tried not to harm people."

Roger Wheeler grew up in Boston, joined the Navy, raised four children and built his fortune on hard work in oil and computers.

"This was a son of Boston the city can and should be proud of," David said.

Joining Wheeler was Tulsa homicide Detective Sgt. Michael Huff who has chased Roger Wheeler's killers for decades.

Huff told the panel he ran into roadblocks from Boston federal law enforcement from the beginning, describing a frustrating 1982 meeting in which federal prosecutors described Wheeler's trusted security head, former FBI agent **H. Paul Rico**, as a friend of Winter Hill gangsters.

Then-prosecutor Jeremiah O'Sullivan denigrated Brian Halloran, a gang associate who told authorities he knew that Bulger had Wheeler killed, Huff said.

Victim's son seeks justice; Says former fed agents betrayed father

"He said Halloran had become a (cocaine) freak," Huff testified.

"I had never been exposed to such a cesspool of dirt and corruption," Huff said.

Halloran was later murdered allegedly by Bulger after he was reportedly told of Halloran's cooperation with investigators.

The investigation of Wheeler's death sputtered until a team of Massachusetts State Police, the DEA and a new crop of federal prosecutors brought the 1995 racketeering indictment that eventually exposed Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi as top-echelon FBI informants, Huff noted.

Bulger and Flemmi were both tipped to the impending indictments and Bulger was able to flee.

Hunt asked Congress why the hunt for Bulger hasn't been assigned to the U.S. Marshal's Service, which he called "an objective agency."

Huff said he now looks back on the 1982 meeting with O'Sullivan and others in Boston as the "end of innocence in my law enforcement career."

Caption: INFORMANTS HEARING: U.S. Rep. John Tierney, left, U.S. Rep. Dan Burton, counsel James Wilson and U.S. Rep. Chris Shays listen to testimony during yesterday's field hearing on 'The Justice Department's Use of Informants in New England.' STAFF PHOTO BY MATTHEW WEST

Caption: R. WHEELER: Businessman murdered by Whitey's gang.

Caption: D. WHEELER: Testified before congressional panel.

Load-Date: December 7, 2002



[Washington hearings focus on New England mob](#)

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

February 10, 2002, Sunday, BC cycle

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Section: State and Regional

Length: 476 words

Dateline: TULSA, Okla.

Body

A federal investigation into FBI misconduct and the 1981 mob killing of a Tulsa businessman has hit a snag.

The House Committee on Government Reform in Washington is discussing the murder of Roger Wheeler as it investigates alleged misconduct among FBI agents who worked New England mob cases.

The investigation hit a hurdle last week when the Justice Department refused to turn over subpoenaed documents, including records of a 1982 meeting of Oklahoma, Florida, Connecticut and Massachusetts law officers in Tulsa. Justice Department officials cited executive privilege.

Rep. Dan Burton, R-Ind., who chairs the committee, said the group is trying to find answers in what he called "the greatest failing in federal law enforcement history."

James Wilson, chief counsel for the committee, told the Tulsa World the committee is investigating several decades of Boston FBI dealings with the mob.

"Probably the number one issue on our plate for investigation right now is what happened in New England during the '60s, '70s, '80s and '90s," Wilson said.

Wheeler's murder is crucial to the inquiry, Burton said.

The 55-year-old chairman of Tulsa-based Telex Corp. was shot in the head after playing a round of golf at Southern Hills Country Club on May 27, 1981.

Investigators believe the killing was ordered by Boston-area "Winter Hill" gangsters. They said the slaying was linked to Wheeler's purchase of the Florida-based World Jai Alai - a sport in which betting is involved - and his suspicion that money was being skimmed from the company.

The committee launched the inquiry into the FBI's handling of confidential informants and government witnesses last spring.

Authorities want to know if FBI agents blocked efforts to investigate unsolved murders, including Wheeler's, committed by reputed mobsters.

Washington hearings focus on New England mob

Meanwhile, Tulsa police are seeking additional charges in the murder.

The police department submitted an affidavit seeking charges against former FBI Agent **H. Paul Rico** and mobsters James "Whitey" Bulger, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi and John V. Martorano.

First-degree murder charges were filed against the mobsters, but Rico was not charged.

Police say new evidence has been uncovered and they plan to resubmit an affidavit this month.

Rico specialized in organized crime cases in Boston in the 1960s and 1970s and cultivated Flemmi as an informant in 1965. He worked as head of security at World Jai Alai at the time of the Wheeler slaying.

He now lives in Florida and has denied any involvement in Wheeler's death.

Bulger, who faces racketeering and murder charges, disappeared Jan. 5, 1995 and remains on the FBI's Most Wanted list.

Flemmi and Bulger helped run South Boston's Winter Hill Gang from the 1970s through the mid-1990s. Both men also worked as FBI informants for more than two decades.

Load-Date: February 11, 2002



[Washington hearings focus on Oklahoma mob killing](#)

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

February 10, 2002, Sunday, BC cycle

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Load-Date: February 11, 2002



[Washington hearings focus on Tulsa mob killing](#)

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

February 10, 2002, Sunday, BC cycle

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Section: State and Regional

Length: 429 words

Dateline: TULSA, Okla.

Body

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Load-Date: February 11, 2002

End of Document



WEEK IN REVIEW

Daily Oklahoman (Oklahoma City, OK)

October 12, 2003 Sunday CITY EDITION

Copyright 2003 The Sunday Oklahoman

Section: NEWS; WEEK IN REVIEW; Pg. 16-A

Length: 593 words

Body

SUNDAY ISRAEL BOMBS SYRIA: Israel bombed a target inside Syria that it claimed was an Islamic Jihad training base, striking deep inside its neighbor's territory Sunday for the first time in three decades and widening its pursuit of Palestinian militants. The air strike - a retaliation for a suicide bombing Saturday that killed 19 Israelis - alarmed the Arab world and deepened concerns that three years of Israeli-Palestinian violence could spread through the region. **MONDAY TEXAS BOUND:** Keck Construction intended to make sure all lanes of Interstate 35 were open for travelers on their way to the University of Oklahoma-University of Texas football game in Dallas. The company faced a "disincentive" amounting to 4,000 per lane per hour if all four lanes were not open. That's half a million dollars at stake during the weekend.

GROUP FIGHTS ID THEFT: A dozen federal, state, county and city agencies have teamed "to reinvigorate" the Oklahoma City Identity Crimes Task Force. A 50,000 federal grant to the U.S. Secret Service in Oklahoma is being used to combat identity theft, which is being called one of the fastest-growing crimes in the United States. **TUESDAY NICKLES TO RETIRE:** U.S. Sen. Don Nickles, a Ponca City Republican, announced Tuesday he would not run next year for a fifth term. Nickles said he would likely return to the private sector but remain active in state and national politics. **SCHWARZENEGGER WINS:** Californians banished Gov. Gray Davis just 11 months into his second term Tuesday and elected movie actor Arnold Schwarzenegger to replace him. Voters traded a career Democratic politician for a moderate Republican who had never before run for office. Davis became the first California governor pried from office and only the second nationwide to be recalled. **WEDNESDAY RX DEPOT HEARING BEGINS:** Prescription medications procured from Canadian pharmacies and shipped to U.S. consumers are as potent, as safe and considerably more affordable than those bought at any neighborhood drugstore in Oklahoma, an attorney representing Rx Depot said Wednesday. U.S. Food and Drug Administration representatives, though, said in Tulsa federal court that the legality, authenticity and safety of imported and reimported drugs constitute a serious health concern. Those are reasons enough, they said, why Rx Depot's 85 storefront operations in 26 states should be shut down. **THURSDAY EX-AGENT ARRESTED:** A former FBI agent was arrested and charged Thursday in the 1981 mob-related slaying of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler in the Tulsa Southern Hills Country Club parking lot. **H. Paul Rico**, 78, who handled high-profile mob informants in the Boston area, was arrested at his Florida home by two U.S. marshals and two officers on a warrant from Tulsa County, said Lupo Jimenez, a spokesman for the Miami-Dade Police Department. **CHENEY VISITS STATE:** Visiting Oklahoma City, Vice President Dick Cheney told Republicans gathered for a fund-raiser for the 2004 Bush-Cheney campaign that he expects a tough, hard-fought battle for the White House next year. Cheney also visited the Oklahoma City National Memorial. **FRIDAY WEST NILE CASES DOUBLE:** The state's reported cases of West

WEEK IN REVIEW

Nile virus have doubled in the past two weeks, and two of the more serious cases involved a pregnant woman with the virus and a young girl who suffered neurological damage. Recent rain, cooler weather and the reproductive habits of the culex mosquito have contributed to the virus still being viewed as a major medical threat, the state Health Department reported Friday.

Load-Date: October 14, 2003

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Weld listed as witness in probe of fed snitches

The Boston Herald

November 26, 1997 Wednesday

ALL EDITIONS

Copyright 1997 Boston Herald Inc.

Section: NEWS;

Length: 399 words

Byline: By RALPH RANALLI

Body

A proposed witness list filed yesterday for upcoming government misconduct hearings involving gangster-informants James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi contained a surprise addition - former Gov. William F. Weld.

Weld, now a lawyer in private practice, was the United States Attorney from 1981 to 1986, a time when the Justice Department has admitted that Bulger, the Winter Hill gang boss, and Flemmi were working as informants.

A secretary at Weld's law firm, McDermott Will & Emery, said the former governor was flying and could not be reached for comment yesterday.

However, Weld insisted this summer that he was "not aware" that Bulger and Flemmi were informants during his tenure.

"That never came to me. The bureau doesn't come over and say 'Here is an index of all our informants' to prosecutors," Weld told the Herald in June, shortly after the Justice Department admitted that Bulger, 67, of South Boston and Flemmi, 63, of Quincy, were longtime informants.

U.S. District Court Judge Mark L. Wolf has ordered hearings, set to begin Dec. 8, on alleged government misconduct in the handling of informants and wiretaps during Mafia prosecutions going back decades.

Lawyers for New England Mob boss Francis P. "Cadillac Frank" Salemme, 64, and four co-defendants have charged that the FBI and the Justice Department allowed Flemmi and Bulger to run amok in return for information that led to some of law enforcements greatest successes against the New England Mob.

Defense lawyers have been reluctant to talk about the case due to stern admonishments by Wolf.

But legal observers believe Weld may be called to find whether the FBI violated Justice Department guidelines that call for notification of the U.S. Attorney if any informant participates in "criminal activities involving a significant risk of violence, corrupt actions by high public officials or severe financial loss."

Weld listed as witness in probe of fed snitches

The proposed witness list for the hearings also names former federal prosecutors Gary Crossen and Jeremiah O'Sullivan, as well as former Boston FBI officials James Greenleaf, James Ahearn, Robert Fitzpatrick, Larry Potts, Dennis O'Callahan and John Morris.

Several former and current state police troopers, Drug Enforcement Administration agents and FBI agents are also named, including retired agents John Connolly and **H. Paul Rico**, who had close contact with Bulger.

Load-Date: November 26, 1997

End of Document



[Wheeler case](#)

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

October 18, 2003 Saturday Final Home Edition

Copyright 2003 The Tulsa World

Section: OPINION; Editorials; Pg. A20

Length: 334 words

Byline: World's Editorial Writers

Body

Investigation seemingly without end Sgt. Mike Huff never gave in to thoughts of quitting that must have been chanting in his head like a Greek chorus.

From rookie cop to middle-age detective, Huff bird-dogged the Roger Wheeler homicide case, seeking to connect the dots that had a way of disappearing or dying.

Years passed. During many of them, Huff must have wondered if anyone cared about the case other than the Wheeler family.

This month, former FBI agent **H. Paul Rico** was arrested in Florida and charged here for his alleged role in Wheeler's homicide 22 years ago.

Wheeler, the chairman of Tulsa-based Telex Corp., was shot at Southern Hills Country Club May 27, 1981. Investigators suspected it was ordered by the Boston-area Winter Hill mob and that the slaying was tied to Wheeler's suspicion that money was being skimmed from the Florida-based World Jai Alai, which he owned.

Rico, who retired from the FBI in 1975, was security chief for Wheeler's Florida company.

Huff has known for years that two prized FBI informants, James "Whitey" Bulger, a fugitive, and Stephen Flemmi, in custody, were responsible for the actual shooting.

Two years ago momentum in the case increased when Huff submitted an affidavit in Tulsa County District Court seeking charges against "all involved parties" in the case. Police later confirmed that Rico, Flemmi and Bulger and John V. Martorano were named as suspects in the court record.

In March 2001, District Attorney Tim Harris finally filed first-degree murder charges against Bulger, Flemmi, and Martorano, but he did not charge Rico. New evidence developed recently from a plea deal made with Flemmi. Flemmi provided evidence against Rico.

Huff said that he feels a sense of accomplishment with Rico's arrest but finds it disheartening when he reflects on how difficult it was to pursue justice in the case.

Wheeler case

Huff will continue investigating. He hopes someday to arrest Bulger. Huff should be commended for his tenacity. He did so much more than just his job in the case.

Load-Date: October 19, 2003

End of Document



Wheeler case goes to DA

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

January 3, 2001

Copyright 2001 The Tulsa World

Length: 990 words

Byline: NICOLE MARSHALL

Body

The case of the 1981 slaying of Tulsan Roger Wheeler is now in the hands of the Tulsa County district attorney, and investigators have asked that "all involved parties" be charged with his murder.

Wheeler's son, David Wheeler, said the phraseology of the request was particularly important to him because the investigative battle to reveal the scope of the apparent murder conspiracy has been particularly hard fought.

"The battle we have had to fight was against both the Irish Mafia and corruption in the FBI, and we have overcome all of it to get to this point," he said. "This is the result of a virtually 20-year struggle and hardship that has been at times overwhelmingly difficult for my family."

World staff writer Bill Braun and The Associated

Tulsa police officers transported thousands of pages of reports and evidentiary documents to the District Attorney's Office on Friday, said Sgt. Mike Huff, Homicide Unit supervisor.

It marks the first time an affidavit has been filed in Tulsa County District Court requesting charges in the shooting death, a slaying that authorities say links a Boston-based mob with the FBI.

"We have taken the case over to the District Attorney's Office requesting that charges be filed on all involved parties for conspiracy to commit murder and the murder itself of Roger Wheeler," Huff said.

Huff and District Attorney Tim Harris said they could not comment further about the suspects in the case or the specifics of the evidence against them.

Harris said prosecutors and police detectives will meet next week to confer about the case. After that conference, Harris said, he should have a better idea about a timetable for when any charges might be forthcoming.

The paperwork involved "is going to be voluminous -- probably more voluminous than any case we've ever had," he said.

While much paperwork is already in Tulsa, Harris said he also wants to make sure he has access to any Boston-generated documents or reports that could be important to his decision on charges.

"From a prosecutorial standpoint, we need to make sure we have everything we need," he said.

Wheeler case goes to DA

Wheeler, 55, was chairman of the Tulsa-headquartered Telex Corp. when he was shot in the head as he sat in his Cadillac after a round of golf at Southern Hills Country Club on May 27, 1981.

Investigators theorized that the killing was tied to Wheeler's purchase of World Jai Alai -- a sport in which betting is involved -- and his suspicion that organized crime had infiltrated his organization and was skimming money for the Boston-based Winter Hill gang.

Suspects had been under investigation for years when on Sept. 9, 1999, U.S. Attorney Donald K. Stern of Boston announced that a plea agreement had been reached with John V. Martorano, who was branded as the Wheeler triggerman and was linked to some 20 killings in three states.

As part of a deal to solve multiple murders, Martorano admitted his involvement in many crimes and agreed to testify against other defendants who are likely to be charged in those cases.

His deal in the Wheeler case called for Martorano to plead guilty to second-degree murder in exchange for a 15-year sentence, which would run concurrently with anticipated sentences in other jurisdictions and would allow him to serve his time in federal custody. Under that scenario, Martorano would be brought to Oklahoma when one or more co-defendants face charges here.

A Sept. 1, 1999, document signed by the Tulsa County district attorney said Martorano's plea agreement in the Wheeler case would allow him and other defendants to be charged with first-degree murder, which in Oklahoma carries a minimum sentence of life in prison and a maximum penalty of death.

A federal indictment that was unsealed in September of this year implicated Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi and James "Whitey" Bulger, the leaders of the Winter Hill gang, and their associates in 21 murders, including Wheeler's.

The 32-count racketeering indictment charges Bulger and Flemmi "for their roles in numerous murders" during their leadership of a crime organization "that controlled extortion, drug dealing, and other rackets" in south Boston and other Boston vicinities dating to the early 1970s, according to federal prosecutors.

At that time, Tulsa County Assistant District Attorney Larry Edwards said the federal action would not impair efforts to file murder charges in Oklahoma in the Wheeler case.

Bulger has been a fugitive from racketeering-related charges, while his co-defendant Flemmi has been jailed since 1995 and awaits trial.

In October, former FBI agent John Connolly was accused of protecting Bulger and Flemmi and was indicted in Boston on charges that he tipped them to witnesses and informants who were helping investigate Wheeler's death in Tulsa.

The witnesses and informants were killed by the mob.

Connolly and another former FBI agent, **H. Paul Rico**, served as Bulger and Flemmi's handlers. Rico specialized in organized crime cases in Boston in the 1960s and 1970s and cultivated Flemmi as an informant in 1965.

Investigators are particularly examining whether Connolly and Rico may be connected to four killings -- labeled as the "Jai Alai" murders, including Wheeler's -- that occurred during an 18-month span in the early 1980s, according to published reports from Boston. Wheeler had

hired Rico, a decorated former FBI agent, to oversee security. Rico has denied any role in Wheeler's slaying.

"The odds were against us, and here we are almost 20 years later. What has been achieved is monumental," David Wheeler said Tuesday. He expressed his appreciation to

all the law enforcement authorities who helped bring the case this far.

"But it is not over yet. My greatest fear is that all of this work would go into a black hole. We need these people to be brought to justice." Press contributed to this story.

Wheeler case goes to DA

Nicole Marshall, World staff writer, can be reached at 581-8459 or via e-mail at nicole.marshall@tulsaworld.com.

Graphic

COLOR PHOTO

Roger Wheeler

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Wheeler family anxiously awaits justice in 20-year-old Mafia hit

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

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Byline: NICOLE MARSHALL

Body

Months after Boston mobsters gunned down Roger Wheeler in a 1981 Mafia hit, his wife told a Tulsa newspaper that she truly believed that his killing would be solved.

"Maybe it is only intuition, but I personally feel it will be solved. My family and friends will be happier in future years if it is," Patricia Wheeler was quoted as saying.

Now, nearly 20 years later, Patricia Wheeler Langholz and her family anxiously wait for that prediction to come to fruition. They are closer to justice than ever but worry that the killers named by police won't be tried here for the slaying.

World Staff Writer

"It is my understanding that if charges are not filed soon there may be another delay of possibly many years," Langholz, who is remarried, said Friday in a rare interview.

"And we just want it over."

It has been three weeks since police submitted an affidavit to District Attorney Tim Harris requesting that charges be filed against Wheeler's killers.

The request is the culmination of a massive investigative effort that revealed mob underworld dealings, deception and FBI corruption.

Wheeler was shot in the head after a round of golf as he sat in his Cadillac at Southern Hills Country Club parking lot May 27, 1981. Police Chief Ron Palmer confirmed

publicized reports that Boston-based gangsters James "Whitey" Bulger, 71, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, 66, and former Boston FBI Agent **H. Paul Rico**, 73, were named in the affidavit as being behind the Wheeler killing.

Bulger

is a fugitive from racketeering-related charges; Flemmi has been jailed since 1995; and Rico is retired in Florida and has repeatedly denied involvement in the killing.

Wheeler family anxiously awaits justice in 20-year-old Mafia hit

"We have presented an affidavit that points to the individuals we believe should be tried in this case," Palmer said. "From our perspective, from a law enforcement perspective, we have presented all the information that would be needed to move forward with charges."

Wheeler's sons said Harris has been noncommittal to the family about possible charges.

"He knows that the age of the defendants is becoming an issue and that some of the defendants may soon have charges filed against them in other jurisdictions," David Wheeler said. "The bottom line is that charges will have to be filed quickly to even hope for justice. The Wheeler family is wondering if a decision will come in time."

Since the district attorney was presented with the affidavit, police and local prosecutors have met in Tulsa with Boston investigators and members of the Department of Justice task force assigned to probe corruption in the FBI.

Harris said on Thursday that he would like to have a decision as soon as possible.

"I get the feeling that the family and police think there is a feeling of reluctance on my part. There is no truth to that at all," Harris said. "This is probably one of the longest and most complex investigations that has been presented to this office. It has been pending going on 20 years, and I want to make sure we have all the evidence that is sufficient for prosecution."

Harris described the evidence presented to his office as voluminous. Still, Larry Wheeler wants to know why the head prosecutor is waiting.

"I understand they have thousands of documents that can occupy several rooms," Larry Wheeler said. "But most of them are old documents that have been around for several years."

Roger Wheeler, 55, was chairman of the Tulsa-headquartered Telex Corp. Investigators theorized that the killing was tied to Wheeler's purchase of World Jai Alai -- a sport in which betting is involved -- and his suspicion of profit-skimming from the company.

David Wheeler said police soon realized that organized crime came to Tulsa to deliver a message.

"They can kill with impunity, whomever they want, whenever they want, wherever they want. Their confidence was justified," David Wheeler said. "The killers had protection from the one group (my father) trusted more than any other -- the FBI."

The first real break in the case came in 1982, David Wheeler said, when Brian Halloran went to the FBI to report that the Boston Winter Hill gang, an Irish crime ring of which he was a member, had offered him money to kill Roger Wheeler.

Halloran also said that Bulger and Flemmi -- two prized FBI informants -- were responsible for Wheeler's murder. But Halloran was gunned down outside a Boston restaurant and the case went cold.

"Another break came in 1995 when Massachusetts authorities were able to arrest key members of the Winter Hill gang on bookmaking charges," David Wheeler said.

That's when Tulsa Police Sgt. Mike Huff delivered 60 pounds of documents to East Coast authorities relating to his investigation of the Wheeler case.

"The killers had thought the Wheeler investigation had vanished," David Wheeler said. "Huff had other ideas."

Huff has repeatedly declined comment on the case.

In 1999, authorities announced a plea agreement had been reached with John V. Martorano, who was branded as the Wheeler triggerman and was linked to some 20 killings in three states.

Wheeler family anxiously awaits justice in 20-year-old Mafia hit

As part of a deal to solve multiple murders, Martorano admitted his involvement in many crimes and agreed to testify against other defendants who are likely to be charged. His deal in the Wheeler case called for Martorano to plead guilty to second-degree murder in exchange for a 15-year sentence.

In October, former FBI agent John Connolly was accused of protecting Bulger and Flemmi and was indicted in Boston on charges that he tipped them to witnesses and informants who were helping investigate Wheeler's death in Tulsa.

"We have had to move mountains in the last 20 years and live through danger, occasionally life-threatening danger," David Wheeler said. "We are now talking about paperwork."

The support of family, friends and the Tulsa community has helped Langholz through the hard times, she said.

In words reminiscent of her feelings so long ago, Langholz again hoped for closure in the case, to bring her family much-needed peace. "I hope for the family's sake that we can bring it closure," Langholz said. "Finally, we need closure."

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Graphic

PHOTO

Roger Wheeler

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[Wheeler's son fears Tulsa DA will blink - Wants indictment of Rico](#)

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Byline: By J.M. Lawrence

Body

TULSA, Okla. - In a state where men still wear cowboy hats and justice is administered to killers twice weekly at the end of a poison needle, the 1981 murder of tycoon Roger Wheeler reminds some people here of a plot from an old TV western.

A hired gun comes to town and calmly shoots a prominent Presbyterian between the eyes before hightailing it back to Boston.

"The one they really had to worry about in those shows wasn't the gunslinger. It's the one who sent him," said Jerry Truster, a former Tulsa County prosecutor who worked on the Wheeler case.

In the Wheeler murder, the hired gun was Johnny Martorano, a Winter Hill gang hit man. He waited for Wheeler, 55, to finish his golf game and executed him while he sat in his Cadillac in the Southern Hills Country Club parking lot. The self-made millionaire from Reading, Mass., never had time to reach for the revolver he kept under his seat.

Tulsa investigators working with a special Justice Department Task Force investigating corruption in the Boston FBI now contend Martorano got his marching orders from an unholy alliance of gangsters and a lawman who gave up his white hat.

With the endorsement of special federal prosecutor John Durham, Tulsa police have asked fledgling Tulsa County Prosecutor Tim Harris to indict former Boston FBI agent **H. Paul Rico**, as well as his longtime informant Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi and fugitive crime boss James "Whitey" Bulger for murder.

Rico, who is now in his 70s and lives in Florida, denies involvement in the murder.

Wheeler was killed as part of a complicated crime web devoted to skimming millions from the executive's World Jai Alai, according to investigators.

The web resulted in two more murders, including the killing of a turncoat gangster who talked with the Boston FBI and implicated Rico in Wheeler's death. He was gunned down soon afterward.

Wheeler's son fears Tulsa DA will blink - Wants indictment of Rico

But fear is growing among some Wheeler family members that the DA might blink.

Harris might try to avoid an organized crime case in an office where the criminals are usually child abusers and wife killers, not gangsters, they said. Under Oklahoma law, the DA alone has the power to bring murder charges. The state has no grand jury system.

"Is Tulsa going to protect its own?" Wheeler's son Lawrence Wheeler said, echoing other family members' frustration after a 20-year wait for justice.

"Or is Tulsa going to let its business leaders get gunned down by an outside hit man?"

Elected in 1999, Harris declined to meet with a reporter last week. He received homicide squad affidavits calling for arrests in the Wheeler murder two weeks ago.

"I'm very concerned," said Larry Wheeler, who has met with the DA. "Tim Harris has never said anything of any substance or of a concrete nature that would commit him to acting one way or another."

If Tulsa doesn't move on the case, Florida crime fighters might tie up the World Jai Alai murders with their own prosecution.

Martorano, who confessed to the Wheeler murder as part of a deal with federal prosecutors in Boston, has also confessed to the 1982 Miami murder of Jerry Callahan, 45, a former president of World Jai Alai who was instrumental in bringing agent Rico into the legalized gambling organization as head of security.

Miami Detective Rom Nieberg last week said his office's investigation is making progress.

Wheeler, who purchased World Jai Alai with oil business profits made in Tulsa, had discovered his earnings mysteriously draining away from the racquetball style betting game and was investigating his staff when he was killed.

When he died, his family was forced to sell his Telex electronics empire to pay millions in inheritance taxes, according to Larry Wheeler. The new owners went bankrupt and thousands were put out of work.

"Tulsa lost 5,000 jobs because of his death," said Larry Wheeler, who owns a plastics company in Tulsa.

The Wheeler family and this Oklahoma city deserve justice, he said.

"Otherwise, what a great deal for America. You contract with a hit man and you don't have to worry about a thing if no one wants to listen to him," he said, sarcasm overtaking sadness.

Larry Wheeler wants justice but acknowledged that nothing can make up for losing a father to a hired gun's bullet.

"It can never be made right," he said. "It never will be made right."

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[Wheeler's son wants grand jury probe of ex-FBI agent](#)

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

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Byline: ZIVA BRANSTETTER World Projects Editor

Body

The son of slain Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler said he will ask a grand jury meeting next month to investigate whether a retired FBI agent had a role in his father's death.

David Wheeler said he was heartened by District Judge David Peterson's ruling last week ordering a second grand jury to convene Oct. 27. Though the primary purpose of the grand jury will be to investigate the death of 10-year-old Rachel Clayton of Jenks, grand juries can decide to investigate other cases, as well.

"I've lost so much and to have any hope at all is in a way almost scary, Wheeler said. "All we can do is trust that things somehow will work out."

Roger Wheeler, chairman of Telex Corp., was shot to death in 1981 outside Southern Hills Country Club. Authorities have long believed Wheeler's death was due to involvement by Boston gangsters in his Florida jai alai business.

Confessed hit man John V. Martorano told authorities [H. Paul Rico](#) -- a retired federal agent and head of World Jai Alai security -- gave him details on Wheeler's appearance, whereabouts and vehicle description, according to a police affidavit written May 28.

Tulsa District Attorney Tim Harris filed charges against Martorano, James Joseph "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi in 2001 but has not filed charges against Rico.

Rico, who lives in Florida, has denied involvement in Wheeler's death.

Martorano struck a plea agreement that allows him to serve no time in an Oklahoma prison in exchange for testifying against his codefendants. Flemmi is awaiting trial in a string of New England killings and has not appeared in a Tulsa courtroom; Bulger remains a fugitive.

David Wheeler said he is disappointed that Harris has not filed charges against Rico. He said he met with Harris several months ago to discuss his father's case.

Wheeler's son wants grand jury probe of ex-FBI agent

"He said he would pray on it, and I don't know how many months it has been, but obviously God is not talking to him."

A grand jury that met in June 2001 to review the Jenks girl's drowning death issued no indictments. Its report stated that the grand jury considered requests to investigate six other deaths, including the possible involvement of a former FBI agent in Wheeler's death.

The report states: "With regard to all suspicious or unresolved death cases we reviewed, the Grand Jury finds that the decision not to file by the Tulsa County District Attorney was warranted in each case."

Peterson's order states a new grand jury should be convened due to "irregularities in the impaneling of the grand jury in June 2001, as well as irregularities in presentation to the Grand Jury."

The Tulsa World reported last month that the forewoman of the 2001 grand jury, Irene Taliaferro, was under police investigation for her role in the suicide of her lover and former student. Taliaferro also authored the grand jury's report praising Harris.

Owasso police presented Taliaferro's case for possible charges to Harris' office five months after the grand jury issued its report. An assistant district attorney declined to file charges against her.

Harris has said he did not know Taliaferro was the forewoman of the grand jury and had no role in deciding her case.

Tulsa police Sgt. Mike Huff, who investigated the Wheeler case for more than two decades, said he does not believe the grand jury heard testimony regarding Wheeler's case.

"The police department is prepared to offer any evidence the grand jury wants to hear," Huff said. "I wasn't aware of any information offered last time and if it was, it had to be very brief. . . . There has been additional information developed over the last couple of years."

Jenks police Detective Don Selle, who investigated Rachel's death, said he also welcomes the chance to present evidence to the new grand jury. Rachel was found dead in the bathroom of her Jenks home Nov. 10, 1998.

While the medical examiner's office has listed the manner of death as undetermined, an FBI report obtained by the Tulsa World concludes that her drowning death was a homicide and that the scene of her death was staged.

Police have identified Rachel's mother, Cheryl McGuire, as a suspect, but McGuire denied any role in her daughter's death and no charges were filed.

Selle testified before the first grand jury but was reportedly unable to present key evidence because special prosecutor Dianne Barker Harrold frequently objected.

"We'll have a chance to present the facts and the evidence the way they should be done. . . . The little girl deserves her day."

Harris' office has been disqualified from leading the grand jury, since it will involve a case that he has declined to prosecute. Attorney General Drew Edmondson's office will select a special prosecutor to act as legal advisor.

Mark Collier, an attorney who filed a petition seeking a new grand jury, said he hopes that the new prosecutor "will present this case fairly." Collier's petition states that Barker Harrold tried to influence grand jurors who wanted to issue an indictment in 2001 and tried to limit testimony of witnesses.

"Given the history, I would think that we at least have a little better shot at getting a fair hearing," he said.

Wheeler's son wants grand jury probe of ex-FBI agent

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Wheeler suit points at Rico

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Body

The seeds of Roger Wheeler's death were sown decades before, when ***H. Paul Rico***, an ambitious FBI agent on Boston's organized crime squad, targeted Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi as a top-echelon informant, a lawsuit filed by Wheeler's family alleges.

While the two were on different sides of the law, Rico and Flemmi had a common enemy: the Boston branch of the Italian-run La Cosa Nostra. Rico and the rest of his squad had a mandate to bring down the organized Mafia. Flemmi's Irish-rooted Winter Hill Gang, a group of Boston killers and thugs, wanted to rid itself of the competition.

The story, as alleged in the lawsuit, ended in Wheeler's death in 1981 because Flemmi and his associates operated outside the law with help from Rico and others in the agency. Wheeler's path crossed theirs when he bought World Jai Alai. Rico, who retired from his FBI job in 1975, was chief of security at the Florida-based business when Wheeler discovered that its money was being skimmed.

In a Boston courtroom Tuesday, one of the last chapters of the story is expected to be written when Flemmi pleads guilty to federal racketeering charges for his role in 10 murders. He is also expected to plead guilty to Oklahoma charges involving Wheeler's murder and to Florida charges involving the murder of John Callahan, a former president of World Jai Alai who was murdered in 1982.

The deal will reportedly allow Flemmi to avoid the death penalty in Oklahoma and Florida. Documents related to the deal apparently were ordered sealed by Tulsa County Special Judge Clifford Smith, possibly at the request of District Attorney Tim Harris. Smith, who normally handles a domestic docket, used to work as an assistant district attorney under Harris.

In exchange for his guilty pleas, Flemmi is expected to testify that Rico, his former FBI handler, sought Flemmi's help in finding a hit man and provided information on Wheeler's description and whereabouts.

Rico was charged last week in Tulsa County District Court with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder in connection with Wheeler's death.

Wheeler suit points at Rico

Rico was arrested at his home in Miami Shores, Fla., a village bordered on the east by Biscayne Bay. The village is about 20 minutes from downtown Miami, and Rico's home is about a block from the Miami Shores Golf and Country Club.

Tulsa Police Sgt. Mike Huff, who has pursued the case for more than two decades, and Cpl. R.T. Jones, who has also had a long involvement with the case, were there when Flemmi was arrested.

In March 2001, Harris filed first-degree murder charges against Flemmi, as well as James "Whitey" Bulger -- another Winter Hill gangster -- and John Vincent Martorano. Martorano pleaded guilty to being the trigger man in Wheeler's death and is also expected to testify against Rico.

Rico's attorney, William Cagney III, has said Flemmi may also point the finger at other FBI agents and federal prosecutors. He did not return calls seeking comment Monday.

The Wheeler family's lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court in Boston last year, alleging that Rico and other members of the FBI's Boston office struck an unholy alliance with their informants, including Flemmi and Bulger.

"FBI-Boston . . . repeatedly cast aside or ignored many of the laws it had sworn to uphold and enforce. In essence, in the course of pursuing what it believed to be its primary law enforcement objective, the FBI itself became a 'violin of the law,' " the lawsuit states.

The claims are backed up by a report from the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Government Reform, which heard testimony from Rico and others in 2001.

The report concluded that the agency's use of informants in mob investigations is "one of the greatest failures in the history of federal law enforcement."

Earlier this year, a judge threw out the U.S. government as a defendant in the Wheelers' suit, but that ruling is being appealed. Frank Libby, an attorney for the Wheelers, said the remaining defendants are Rico, six former FBI officials, Bulger, Flemmi and Martorano. The lawsuit seeks \$860 million in damages.

The lawsuit states that Rico recruited Flemmi as an informant and designated him as a "top-echelon" informant on Feb. 8, 1967. Rico knew who he was dealing with, even writing that Flemmi had "been engaged in bookmaking, shylocking, robberies, and a suspect of possibly being involved in gangland slayings," the suit states.

About a year later, a car bomb nearly killed a Boston attorney for a witness who was providing information about organized crime.

As prosecutors prepared to charge Flemmi in the case, Rico telephoned his informant and told him to leave town, the suit alleges.

Though Flemmi was on the run for five years, he stayed in touch with Rico and eventually returned to Boston, where the charges were mysteriously dropped, the suit states.

The case was not unique, the suit states, as Flemmi and Bulger allegedly continued to commit crimes while the FBI looked the other way. Bulger became a top-echelon informant of the Boston FBI office in 1976.

"In the years prior to the Wheeler murder, Bulger and Flemmi, separately and jointly, committed nearly two dozen murders and countless other violent criminal acts, all in the Greater Boston area, and thus under the nose of FBI-Boston. . . . This wave of violence generated little or no interest within FBI-Boston," the lawsuit alleges.

The slaying victims included a member of Bulger and Flemmi's own gang, Brian Halloran, who wanted to provide information about Wheeler's murder. FBI agents in Oklahoma wanted to find out what Halloran knew about Wheeler's death.

Wheeler suit points at Rico

Instead, the Boston FBI office stonewalled that request and refused to place Halloran in the witness protection program. Agent John Connolly tipped Bulger about Halloran's cooperation, the lawsuit alleges, and Halloran was murdered in 1982.

Bulger has been a fugitive since 1995, after a tip from Connolly that he was about to be indicted. Connolly was sentenced to 10 years in prison last year after being convicted of racketeering and obstruction of justice.

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When G-men, mobsters are friends FBI ignored tip-off on Tulsa murder

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Byline: ERICA NOONAN

Body

BOSTON -- The retired FBI agent walked to the witness stand, still looking the part of a G-man: Gray suit; nondescript tie; silver hair; eyes straight ahead.

Then came the questions that made him squirm a bit; questions about a past he really didn't care to talk about.

Had he, John Morris, former chief of the FBI's Boston organized crime unit, exchanged Christmas gifts of books and liquor with mobsters James J. "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi?

Yes, answered Morris.

Had he, John Morris, taken upwards of \$ 6,000 from Bulger -- one of Boston's most notorious tough guys -- including \$ 1,000 to bring his girlfriend to a 1982 Drug Enforcement Agency conference in Georgia?
Associated Press

Yes, Morris admitted, he had.

Had Morris and other agents shielded Bulger and Flemmi from prosecution for 20 years because they were the most prized secret FBI informants in New England history?

Yes, Morris told the judge.

The agent testified for days, bearing witness to the fact that the FBI in Boston had protected some gangsters while sacrificing less powerful thugs in the pursuit of inside information.

While scores of other mobsters went to jail over the years, Bulger and Flemmi emerged from FBI stings unscathed. And Morris said he was taking cases of French Bordeaux and envelopes stuffed with cash from Bulger and Flemmi.

Agents even turned the other way when one squealer tried to tell them Flemmi and Bulger offered him money to kill Tulsa millionaire Roger Wheeler, according to testimony. That squealer later took a bullet. A lot of bullets. Flemmi's 'immune' deficiency

The relationship between the FBI and Bulger and Flemmi is at the center of long pretrial hearings in a racketeering case in federal court in Boston.

When G-men, mobsters are friends FBI ignored tip-off on Tulsa murder

The case began with the arrest of Flemmi, reputed local boss Francis "Cadillac Frank" Salemme and other top mobsters on charges of racketeering and extortion. But the case was thrown into chaos with the disclosures that Bulger and Flemmi had been informants for most of the years they were making headlines as bad guys.

Now, before the mob trial can even begin, a judge is trying to decide if the relationship invalidates the case, and perhaps other prosecutions like it.

At the heart of the matter is Flemmi's claim that he and Bulger were told by the FBI they could do anything short of "clipping someone" without fear of prosecution. If Flemmi can prove he was promised immunity, a judge could toss out the 1995 racketeering indictments against him and Bulger.

And it wouldn't stop there.

Defense attorneys want get-out-of-jail-free cards handed to dozens of other Irish and Italian mobsters snared by potentially illegal FBI wiretaps -- wiretaps that may be tainted by the relationship between Flemmi and his FBI handlers.

A Flemmi victory could overturn New England's most important federal racketeering convictions of the past 15 years, paving the way for new trials for the likes of New England Mafia boss Raymond "Junior" Patriarca of Providence and Boston mob boss Gennaro "Jerry" Angiulo, both serving long sentences in federal prisons. Crooked path of crime

The story of Bulger and Flemmi goes back a long time. Back to the bloody gang wars of the 1960s, when they were young, brash punks making names for themselves on the parochial streets of South Boston.

Raised in the projects, Bulger was a tough kid from a large, old-fashioned Irish-Catholic family. While his younger brother, Billy, took the straight road, becoming a state representative and, eventually, president of the Massachusetts Senate, Whitey Bulger walked a crooked path.

Stolen cars, dope, gambling and, finally, bank robbery kept him in and out of jail.

He and Flemmi were known to authorities as part of the Winter Hill Gang, a motley crew of hoods of Italian and Irish descent headquartered in the blue-collar city of Somerville, just north of Boston. They were renegades, although they had connections to the more established crime families in Boston's North End.

Nicknamed for his snowy hair, Whitey Bulger was a little guy with a bad attitude, a cagey man photographed so rarely that police complained they had only old mug shots to go by.

It seems police have always been looking for him, and newspaper readers around town liked to speculate over their coffee about where Bulger might be hiding out.

For years, Flemmi was running right along with Bulger. But in the late 1970s, the pressure was not coming from the law, but from other local thugs who thought the Rifleman was cutting out a little too much territory for himself.

Things were heating up in the underworld, and at the same time the FBI was trying to recruit Flemmi as an informant.

Then, in 1978, FBI agent John Connolly -- one of several agents from Bulger's South Boston neighborhood -- got the phone call that seemed to be the start of a beautiful relationship.

It was Flemmi's boyhood pal, Bulger, with news that sent a chill down Connolly's spine: Undercover FBI agent Nicholas Gianturco had been marked for death.

Gianturco, deep undercover on a truck hijacking case called Operation Lobster, had been found out by a gang of Charlestown leg-breakers, according to court records of the exchange.

When G-men, mobsters are friends FBI ignored tip-off on Tulsa murder

The thugs, Bulger said, planned to kill Gianturco that night when he dropped by a deserted Hyde Park warehouse to see some stolen jewelry.

Connolly thanked Whitey, hung up the phone and pulled Gianturco off the case.

That tip, the agents believe, saved Gianturco's life and drew Bulger and Flemmi into the FBI fold. An amazing 20 years followed. Rubbing elbows with the feds

As time passed, Bulger and Flemmi grew more valuable as informants and friends to agents like Gianturco, Connolly, Morris and H. Paul Rico, the guy who had recruited Flemmi as an informant.

Sometimes Gianturco or another agent would have dinner parties and Flemmi and Bulger would stop by with bottles of chardonnay.

As Bulger and Flemmi cemented their relationships with the FBI, agents made sure the informants were kept out of jail, according to testimony.

In 1979, FBI officials were said to have arranged to have Bulger and Flemmi dropped from an indictment for fixing horse races; a decade later, the agents warned Bulger and Flemmi to steer clear of the offices of a Roxbury bookmaker under FBI surveillance for police bribery.

The bookie was arrested. Bulger and Flemmi were free to go about their business. A Tulsa connection

The mob hearings, going on in Boston for months now, have provided so much sensational testimony about the fine line between good and bad that it is hard to keep all the accounts straight.

One that stands out is the killing of Jai Alai promoter Roger Wheeler, who was shot between the eyes outside Tulsa's Southern Hills Country Club in 1981. Wheeler was chairman of Telex Corp.

The execution-style hit came after years of business disputes among Wheeler and his associates over expansion out of South Florida and legalized gambling in Connecticut.

In 1982, Edward Brian Halloran, a cocaine addict and former Winter Hill member, announced to the FBI that he wanted to provide evidence Flemmi and Bulger had offered him the contract on Wheeler's life. He said he had turned the job down.

But the agents decided Halloran was unreliable, denied him a spot in the Witness Protection Program and kicked him out the door. Word got out that Halloran had tried to snitch.

Weeks later Halloran and a friend were sitting in a car outside the Topside Bar in South Boston. They were shot. With his dying breath, Halloran named the gunman. The gunman was arrested but never convicted. An earful of evidence

For the FBI, protecting Flemmi and Bulger was paying off.

Using insider information, agents were able to persuade a judge to allow a wiretap of local mob boss Gennaro Angiulo's North End headquarters on Prince Street in 1981.

After two years, Connolly and a pack of other agents had enough secret tapes to arrest Angiulo as he sat down to a plate of pork chops at his favorite Italian restaurant. He and several associates were eventually sent to prison for racketeering.

No one outside the FBI would have guessed that Bulger and Flemmi had provided the tips in that case and many others.

By 1989, the feds were setting their sights on an upcoming Mafia induction ceremony in a Medford home.

When G-men, mobsters are friends FBI ignored tip-off on Tulsa murder

Again, FBI agents asked a judge for a warrant to plant a wiretap. And once more, they left out one important part of the story: Their tips came from their friends in the Winter Hill Gang.

The tapes were a triumph, capturing some of the biggest names in the local mob as they mumbled ancient oaths and secret prayers.

But now, those same recordings could be turned on the FBI with severe consequences.

Defense attorneys for jailed Mafia bosses like Angiulo, Salemme and Patriarca are demanding that the wire taps used against them be thrown out and the men freed.

If the judge had known the truth about Flemmi and Whitey, the lawyers say, the wiretaps would never have been allowed in the first place. Wiretaps are generally authorized by the courts only as a last resort -- when they are the only way information can be obtained. It is hard for the FBI to argue that these wiretaps meet this test, defense lawyers say, when the agency had such good sources already on the inside.

Furthermore, the lawyers say, the FBI's cozy relationship with the informants all but gave them carte blanche to commit crimes. Jail birds for now

As years passed, agents like Gianturco, Connolly and Morris retired or were reassigned to other bureaus. Flemmi and Bulger distanced themselves from the new agents, who saw them as clear enemies.

On a January morning in 1995, 66-year-old Bulger was winding up the last leg of a cross-country car trip when he heard that he was about to be indicted on federal racketeering charges.

He kept on driving.

Neither he, nor his longtime companion, Catherine Grieg, have been seen since.

Flemmi was not so lucky.

Today Flemmi, 62, along with arch-rival Salemme, now 64, are incarcerated in the same cell block in the Plymouth County House of Correction.

The snitch and the snitched-on make the daily trips to the federal courthouse in Boston, shackled side by side in a van.

In court, details of the relationship keep pouring out, and the odd juxtaposition of the good guys and the bad guys continues.

When Rico, the former FBI man now in his 70s, took the stand in January, Flemmi smiled and waved to his old friend from the jury box.

Rico smiled and waved back.

Graphic

PHOTOS

FBI/Associated Press

Roger Wheeler

When G-men, mobsters are friends FBI ignored tip-off on Tulsa murder

Load-Date: May 20, 1998

End of Document



[White House OKs access to mob files from Hub FBI](#)

The Boston Herald

February 28, 2002 Thursday

ALL EDITIONS

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Section: NEWS;

Length: 501 words

Byline: By J.M. Lawrence

Body

White House lawyers yesterday backed off plans to prevent Congress from reviewing Justice Department memos related to Boston mob prosecutions after Indiana Rep. Dan Burton vowed to challenge President Bush in court.

"We've finally reached an agreement with the Justice Department to see the documents we need to see to move forward with this investigation," said Burton, chairman of the House Committee on Government Reform.

Investigators for the committee will now get to pore over documents from the government's prosecution of New England Mob boss Raymond Patriarca and the 1968 Edward "Teddy" Deegan murder case.

The lawyers can read the documents kept in Justice Department files but cannot make copies.

Burton fired his opening salvo yesterday morning at another hearing in the committee's probe of the Boston FBI's past handling of criminal informants. The conservative Republican announced he would organize a bipartisan push for a contempt citation against the president over the documents.

In December, Bush invoked executive privilege for the first time in his administration to block Congress from seeing "deliberative documents" from the prosecutions.

But negotiations between the committee and the Justice Department delivered an agreement by the end of the day.

The long paper trail behind the government's handling of its first mob turncoat Joseph "The Animal" Barboza in the late 1960s and early 1970s has laid the groundwork for the committee's probe into the Boston FBI's later connections to James J. "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi.

Yesterday, former Connecticut state's attorney Austin McGuigan told the committee about the strange twists in his 1970s investigations into mob infiltration of World Jai Alai.

McGuigan said he was stunned to learned from Boston police that World Jai Alai executive John Callahan had mob ties when former Boston FBI agent **H. Paul Rico** was heading security for the gambling operation in Miami.

White House OKs access to mob files from Hub FBI

Then in 1981, the company's new owner, multimillionaire Roger Wheeler, uncovered the skimming operation and was murdered at a Tulsa, Okla., golf course in a mob hit. Flemmi ordered the hit, according to federal prosecutors.

Rico, who handled Flemmi as an FBI informant, is now under investigation in Tulsa for Wheeler's murder.

"Wheeler said he had all these retired FBI agents working for him who were going to protect him from the mob," McGuigan said.

McGuigan also said he was baffled in 1982 when the Boston FBI rejected mob associate Brian Halloran's offer to give up information about Wheeler's murder in exchange for protection. Halloran was later gunned down in South Boston and his family contends FBI agents blew his cover.

McGuigan then tried to talk to Callahan about Wheeler's murder. But Callahan wound up dead and stuffed in the trunk of his Cadillac at the Miami airport in 1983 on the day before they were supposed to meet.

"I was thinking Miami was not the town I wanted to be in," McGuigan said.

Load-Date: February 28, 2002

'Whitey' Bulger arrest a relief for Barrington woman: Mobster allegedly placed a hit on her uncle, executed in Okla. in 1981



'Whitey' Bulger arrest a relief for Barrington woman: Mobster allegedly placed a hit on her uncle, executed in Okla. in 1981

Foster's Daily Democrat, Dover, N.H

June 25, 2011 Saturday

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Section: STATE AND REGIONAL NEWS

Length: 689 words

Byline: Conor Makem, Foster's Daily Democrat, Dover, N.H.

Body

June 25--BARRINGTON -- The news that fugitive Boston mob boss James "Whitey" Bulger was apprehended in California this week brought a sense of relief for Barrington resident Kaethe Houst.

In 1981 her uncle, Roger Wheeler, was executed in the parking lot of a country club in Tulsa, Okla.

It was nearly two decades later she learned the truth about his death -- Bulger, boss of the Winter Hill Gang, South Boston's notorious Irish mob, reportedly had placed a hit on him.

"It just brings back all those memories again, not only what (Bulger) did, but what the government did," Houst said. "The FBI informed our family that they were looking into it and all the time they knew who took out the hit."

According to Houst, the FBI withheld the information to protect a former FBI agent and dirty informant involved with the Irish mob, **H. Paul Rico**.

"I remember the day he died. My mother was crying and I didn't know why," Houst said. "I turned on the news and saw the picture of my uncle that was in my grandmother's house. It felt like an invasion of privacy."

Wheeler's death was featured on America's Most Wanted and Unsolved Mysteries, Houst says.

Wheeler was her mother's brother, a self-made millionaire. He was chairman of the board for Telex Corp. Explaining his propensity for business, she talks about the neighborhood newspaper he started with her mother when they were children.

Houst recalls how exciting it was when her uncle would fly her family out to his home in Oklahoma for a visit. He had white furniture, white carpeting and white dogs, with a soda fountain in the living room. According to Houst, the grounds of his home occupied an area the size of a city block. She remembers her cousin describing his father's returning from business trips as the "circus coming to town."

'Whitey' Bulger arrest a relief for Barrington woman: Mobster allegedly placed a hit on her uncle, executed in Okla. in 1981

"He had a car phone and he was doing some business deal," Houst said. "He had bought some company so it would fail so he wouldn't owe as much in taxes, but it had turned around and he was going to owe more in taxes than my parents made."

After his father died, Wheeler set up a trust fund for his mother, concerned that she wouldn't be able to make it on her own. She used the money to make life better for Houst and her family, sending her to summer camp every year and paying bills whenever her parents couldn't afford them. She paid for most of Houst's college tuition.

Wheeler held a principal interest in World Jai-Alai. Houst says her uncle was targeted to prevent him from naming names after he discovered Bulger's illegal involvement in World Jai-Alai. She believes Bulger was making an example of him.

Houst's mother, Frances Kelsey, lived in Langdon Place in Dover until she died a month ago. Whenever news of Whitey Bulger surfaced, Houst made sure staff removed references to him from her Boston Globe to save her the emotional stress it would cause.

Her mother, who was suffering from dementia, had penned a self-published book earlier called "The Murder of a Millionaire," though she didn't talk about her brother's death much. Houst was relieved Bulger was caught after her mother passed.

Houst's husband served in the U.S. Air Force. They lived in California, Washington, D.C., and Okinawa, Japan, before he retired from the service in 1999 and they moved back to the Dover area, where they met. In 2003, she became her mother's caretaker. She watched as her mother's siblings passed away and left her, the eldest of four.

There have been books and articles written about Roger Wheeler, some which Houst says are well done and some which she says paint her uncle in an inaccurate light, lumping him in with the mob.

On Thursday, Houst's husband, Michael, called her at home with the news that Whitey Bulger had been captured.

"I didn't even think he was still in the United States," she said.

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Load-Date: June 25, 2011



Whitey's collector has served his time

The Boston Herald
October 1, 2004 Friday
ALL EDITIONS

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 014

Length: 427 words

Byline: By J.M. LAWRENCE

Body

The Bulger gang's money man, who collected rent from bookmakers and listened as James ``Whitey'' Bulger threatened to cut off men's ears, won a federal sentence of time served yesterday and will testify if his former crime boss is ever captured.

``I'm ecstatic," Kevin P. O'Neil, 56, said later, his hand shaking as he sipped a black coffee. ``I'm happy for my family . . . I never thought I'd ever be arrested in this."

During 20 years as Bulger's associate, he heard men beg ``Whitey'' for their lives in the office of his Southie barroom, Triple O's, and take beatings for peddling drugs without paying tribute.

And once, federal prosecutors told a judge yesterday, O'Neil dared to ask ``Whitey'' to take the extortion business somewhere else because he feared losing his liquor license.

``You could lose your life," Bulger told him.

With that story, Assistant U.S. Attorney Brian T. Kelly sought a 40-month sentence to reward O'Neil for risking the wrath of a ``vindictive," ``psychotic killer" by cooperating and admitting to money-laundering, extortion and racketeering.

U.S. District Court Judge Richard G. Stearns found O'Neil of Quincy deserved a greater reward, giving the ex-barkeep a sentence of one year and a day.

O'Neil, who already spent 11 months behind bars and 18 months under house arrest, qualified for immediate supervised release.

He must pay a \$10,000 fine and \$25,000 in restitution to Southie Realtor Raymond Slinger, whom Bulger held at gunpoint in 1987, demanding \$50,000 to cancel a contract on Slinger's life.

Whitey's collector has served his time

The judge called O'Neil "at the lowest rung of responsibility" in Bulger's gang and wished him luck. "I do want to see you one more time because I do want to see another trial in this matter," Stearns said in reference to Bulger, a fugitive since 1995.

U.S. Attorney Michael J. Sullivan said he was disappointed by the sentence. Out of all the Bulger gang's players, "only one person got the appropriate sentence - Stephen Flemmi," Sullivan said.

Flemmi, 70, got a life sentence yesterday in Tulsa for the 1981 mob execution of former Reading businessman Roger Wheeler, 55, who owned World Jai Alai gambling frontons infiltrated by the mob with the help of Flemmi's retired FBI handler agent, **H. Paul Rico**.

Flemmi admitted to the Wheeler killing and nine other murders as part of a three-state plea deal to avoid the death penalty in Oklahoma and Florida.

Wheeler's son Larry said, "While your incarceration gives me some pleasure, Mr. Flemmi, the lack of knowledge and the unknowns will haunt me for the rest of my life."

Load-Date: October 1, 2004

End of Document



Whitey's strategy a dead end

The Boston Herald

June 26, 2012 Tuesday

All Editions

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Section: NEWS; Columnists; Pg. 6; Vol. 30; No. 178

Length: 429 words

Byline: HOWIE CARR

Body

If Whitey Bulger really had a get-out-of-jail free card from the feds, why did he spend 16 years holed up in that crummy apartment in Santa Monica?

I know, he was afraid of In Town - the Mafia. You know, fearsome gunsels like the Cheeseman and the Saint and somebody named 'Chipper.'

It's ridiculous, of course. Even assuming Whitey had somebody on Hanover Street to worry about, that's what they made the Witness Protection Program for. Are you telling me Whitey would have objected to having to use an alias to visit all of his safe-deposit boxes, only five of which they've found so far, by the way.

I'm going to make two predictions about this motion, which isn't a Hail Mary pass, it's a Rosary.

Prediction number one: Motion denied.

Prediction number two: Whitey's going to claim he cut this alleged 'immunity' deal with somebody who's not around to contradict him ... because he's dead.

Think Jeremiah O'Sullivan, the G-man who did so many other favors over the decades for the Bulgers. But Whitey could put the finger on anybody. How about crooked FBI agent *H. Paul Rico*? Or his fellow agents, Dennis Condon or Dennis O'Callaghan? They're all eminently qualified to have negotiated the deal. They're all deceased.

This immunity defense has been used before, by Stevie Flemmi. How'd that one work out for the Rifleman? The answer is Otisville, the federal prison where Stevie now resides, or did, the last time he was sending out Christmas cards to his favorite cops.

One thing you have to say about Whitey's lawyer, J.W. Carney Jr.: The taxpayers are getting their money's worth. This is one 'public defender' busting his hump, and now he's got another four months to prepare - on our tab. Carney has never forgotten the state motto: 'Don't kill the job.'

Whitey's strategy a dead end

Here's another prediction: Look for more of this nonsense as the trial date inexorably nears. I heard yesterday about somebody sending Carney one of the Whitey books, in which Stevie is quoted as saying he actually killed one of the 19 people Bulger is accused of capping, 'by mistake.'

So that means Stevie told somebody, who told the author, who put it in the book. Which makes it, what, double hearsay? And even if it were admissible, and the charge was thrown out, that would leave Whitey looking at ... 18 counts of murder.

And even if he did beat all the federal raps, the feds could send him back to California on all those state gun charges. Bottom line: We all know how Whitey's trial ends. The only question now is, will anyone ever be able to turn on the TV set again and not see Steve Davis outside the courthouse?

Graphic

SPECIAL DELIVERY: Whitey Bulger is taken from a Coast Guard helicopter last June to an awaiting sheriff.

staff FILE photo by STUART CAHILL

Load-Date: June 26, 2012

Whitey, was it crowded in the closet, with all the skeletons?



[Whitey, was it crowded in the closet, with all the skeletons?](#)

The Boston Herald

February 22, 2006 Wednesday

ALL EDITIONS

Copyright 2006 Boston Herald Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. 016

Length: 588 words

Byline: By HOWIE CARR

Body

Whitey Bulger isn't gay, at least not exclusively. But it can be safely said that he is, at the very least, bisexual.

Don't believe me? Well, why does his wanted poster from the Tulsa Police Department mention, right after noting his "extreme bad breath," that he may be found "in homosexual communities/resorts or nudist facilities?"

And why is the FBI always sniffing around for him over in Thailand? It's not because they believe he's assisting in the ongoing tsunami relief efforts. It's because they think he may be interested in the same tourist attraction that made Thailand such a prime destination for priests of the Boston archdiocese - the male brothels.

Whitey's best friend at Alcatraz was Clarence Carnes, the Choctaw Kid. Whitey even went to Oklahoma and paid for his funeral in 1987, after the Kid died . . . of AIDS.

Whitey hung out in Jacques, the city's oldest transvestite bar.

And he spent an inordinate amount of time in Provincetown, which is where that "gag" photo of him in the cowboy get-up was taken. Some gag - how many heterosexual males do you know who would doll themselves up like that?

Zip Connolly, the mobster who was also an FBI agent, understood that his master's predilection for Provincetown could present a problem for him. In one of Zip's FBI reports after the murder of the Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler in 1981, Connolly notes that Whitey couldn't have done the hit because he was vacationing in Provincetown "with female companionship."

With female companionship? Methinks Zip doth protest too much.

Whitey's first pal in the FBI was **H. Paul Rico**. Rico was very close to J. Edgar Hoover, and as he arrested one Mafioso after another in Boston, Rico would be summoned to Washington to receive the occasional award and cash bonus. And the old Record-American, always protective of their cop sources, would always run a photo.

Whitey, was it crowded in the closet, with all the skeletons?

As Frank Salemme told the story to congressional investigators in 2003, in 1965 the FBI recorded Charlestown mobster Punchy McLaughlin on a ``gypsy wire" - an illegal, non-court approved bug. Punchy was chuckling about that morning's photo in the Record of Rico with Hoover and his boyfriend Clyde Tolson.

Punchy called them a bunch of - well, remember the word Dick Armev used in place of Barney Frank's real last name.

Rico heard the tape and went wild. He knew Salemme and Stevie Flemmmi had been trying to figure out where Punchy was staying down in Canton so they could murder him. As soon as he heard the tape, Rico drove to Salemme's Roxbury garage and handed the gangster a scrap of paper with Punchy's address scrawled on it. Two days later Punchy got hit.

Methinks Rico also did protest too much.

Whatever else Whitey was, he was discreet. If you saw the photos in yesterday's paper, you might have noticed that they're from Whitey's later years in Boston, after the feds eliminated all of his underworld competition.

``You think he would have been posing for those pictures if Larry Zannino could have gotten his hands on them?" said one guy who knew them both. ``You think Howie Winter or Johnny Martorano would have stood for that kind of (bleep)?"

But they weren't around anymore. They were on the lam, or in prison, and they wouldn't be coming out, which left Whitey plenty of time to . . . Come Out.

In the meantime, if you find yourself in a homosexual nudist facility, remember that \$1 million reward. And if you're just in the South Shore Plaza and you think you see Whitey, but you'd like to make sure, remember three words:

``Extreme bad breath."

Load-Date: February 22, 2006



[WHITEY WORLD A-Z; George McLaughlin, 1927-](#)

The Boston Herald

June 5, 2011 Sunday

ALL Editions

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Section: NEWS; Offbeat; Pg. 13; Vol. 29; No. 156

Length: 150 words

Byline: HOWIE CARR

Body

Last of the McLaughlin brothers from Charlestown, drunkenly murdered a bank clerk in Roxbury in 1964. Was on the FBI's Most Wanted list in 1965 when the FBI got a tip where he was hiding out in Roxbury. According to Stevie Flemmi, crooked agent **H. Paul Rico** asked him for a 'throwdown,' so the feds could kill McLaughlin. (He and his gangster brother Punchy had allegedly insinuated on wiretaps that J. Edgar Hoover was homosexual.) At the pinch, Rico got cold feet and captured McLaughlin, although he never returned the throwdown to Flemmi. McLaughlin continues serving a life sentence at the Bay State Correctional Center in Norfolk. These photos were taken by former chief Herald photographer Kevin Cole, who is now retired. For more information on McLaughlin, read Howie Carr's new book, 'Hitman,' copies of which he will - be signing today from - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Paper Store in Hingham.

Graphic

staff FILE photoS by KEVIN COLE

Load-Date: August 8, 2011



[WHITEY WORLD A-Z Joe Barboza, 1932-1976](#)

The Boston Herald

May 29, 2011 Sunday

ALL Editions

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Section: NEWS; Offbeat; Pg. 17; Vol. 29; No. 149

Length: 116 words

Byline: - HOWIE CARR

Body

These rare 1966 photographs of notorious underworld hit man Joe Barboza were taken by Kevin Cole, the former chief photographer of the Boston Herald. Barboza, who despised newspaper photographers, had just been arrested on an illegal-gun charge. Under the tutelage of corrupt FBI agent [H. Paul Rico](#), Barboza soon flipped and became the first gangster in the Witness Protection Program. His perjurious testimony in a murder case would later send four innocent men to prison for more than 30 years. The Mafia never stopped hunting him, and Barboza was finally murdered in San Francisco in 1976 by Boston Mafia capo J.R. 'Joe' Russo. For more on Barboza, read Howie Carr's new best-seller, 'Hitman.'

Graphic

staff file photos by kevin cole

Load-Date: August 5, 2011



WHITEY WORLD A-Z; Ronald Dermody, 1931-1964

The Boston Herald

April 6, 2008 Sunday

ALL EDITIONS

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 018

Length: 99 words

Byline: By HOWIE CARR

Body

Dermody came from a family of Cambridge criminals. (His father and brother died in prison.) A member of Whitey Bulger's original bank-robbing gang, he got out of federal prison a year before Whitey, in the middle of the Irish Gang War. He wanted to kill Winter Hill Gang boss Buddy McLean but shot the wrong guy. Terrified, Dermody called corrupt FBI agent ***H. Paul Rico*** and asked for a meeting on the Watertown-Belmont line. Rico instead sent his informant - McLean - who shot Dermody to death as he sat in his car. McLean was gunned down 13 months later; Rico died in 2004, under arrest for murder.

Load-Date: April 7, 2008



WHITEY WORLD A-Z; Thomas Timmons, 1921-1968

The Boston Herald
March 9, 2008 Sunday
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Section: NEWS; Pg. 014

Length: 72 words

Byline: By HOWIE CARR

Body

Associate of Wimpy Bennett, vanished from his usual haunts in 1968, foul play suspected. No one was ever charged, but in an FBI report dated May 24, 1968, corrupt FBI agent **H. Paul Rico** blamed Stevie Flemmi, writing that his informant ``killed and buried TOMMY TIMMONS (because) TIMMONS was very anti-Italian and had indicated that he was going to blow up LANGONE's funeral parlor when they were all at some `connected' Italian wake."

Load-Date: March 10, 2008



Whitey Xmas; Weeks: Christmas was payoff day for cops

The Boston Herald

May 16, 2002 Thursday

ALL EDITIONS

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Section: NEWS;

Length: 1190 words

Byline: By J.M. Lawrence

Body

James J. "Whitey" Bulger's loyal sidekick Kevin J. Weeks testified yesterday that Bulger routinely handed out Christmas bribes, including \$ 5,000 to FBI special agent John J. Connolly one year and other amounts to as many as 20 Boston cops.

"He used to say Christmas was for cops and kids," said Weeks, who claims Bulger instructed him to give Connolly the cash because Bulger was heading to a party at the home of then-Boston Bruin Chris Nilan.

The special "EX fund" swelled to as much as \$ 105,000 at one time to cover payoffs to lawmen and donations to Bulger's favorite causes, including funding a trip to Disney for a Southie boy who was raped, Weeks told a federal jury.

Weeks claimed he saw as many as 30 envelopes one year for Christmas payoffs.

Connolly, 61, who Bulger nicknamed "Zip," remained stoic during Weeks' testimony on the seventh day of the trial. He intently took notes as Whitey's "surrogate son" described several meetings he had with Connolly at area bars and Harvard Yard long after the agent retired in 1990 and went to work for Boston Edison.

Connolly declined comment yesterday but has maintained he fostered a close relationship with Bulger in order to develop him as an informant against the Italian Mafia.

Weeks, who was arrested in 1999 and cut a deal for a sentence recommendation of five to 15 years, also named other FBI agents to whom Bulger gave gifts.

Under questioning by Assistant U.S. Attorney Leonard Boyle, Weeks named retired FBI organized crime squad supervisor James Ring, known as "Pipe," retired agent Nicholas D. Gianturco, "Nicky," and disgraced FBI supervisor John Morris, "Vino," who has admitted to taking \$ 7,000 and two cases of expensive wine from Bulger and his crime partner, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi.

Agent John Newton, whom Bulger called "Agent Orange" and who is still working in the FBI's Boston office, was sent an envelope containing \$ 1,000 in cash marked with a drawing of an orange, according to Weeks.

Whitey Xmas; Weeks: Christmas was payoff day for cops

Weeks also claimed Connolly came to him on Dec. 23, 1994, to tell Bulger to skip town because FBI agent Dennis O'Callaghan had revealed to Connolly that indictments were imminent against Bulger and Flemmi.

O'Callaghan, who is expected to testify on behalf of the government at Connolly's trial, retired in 1996 after 24 years with the bureau. He could not be reached for comment.

A spokesman for the Boston FBI declined comment, citing Connolly's ongoing trial.

During a conversation with Weeks inside the dank liquor locker at the Bulger group's South Boston Liquor Mart, Connolly revealed he learned from O'Callaghan that investigators planned to round up Bulger, Flemmi and Francis P. "Cadillac Frank" Salemme over the holidays, according to Weeks.

Weeks quickly notified Bulger, who fled and is still missing, while Flemmi stalled and was arrested a week later. Salemme was caught in Florida later that year.

Weeks testified that he has provided a list of names of corrupt lawmen to federal investigators, but did not disclose their identities in court.

"Anything of this nature will be thoroughly investigated," said Boston police spokeswoman Mariellen Burns.

Under cross examination by Connolly's lawyer, Tracy Miner, Weeks maintained he was telling the truth, but admitted he once joked to the government he'd confess to "killing Kennedy" in exchange for immunity.

Other claims Weeks made yesterday:

- In 1997, Weeks worked with Connolly to prepare a phony letter sent to U.S. District Court Judge Mark L. Wolf on Boston police stationery designed to bolster Flemmi's motion for pre-trial hearings. Flemmi wanted the hearings to make his case that, in his role as an FBI informant, he was authorized to commit the crimes he was charged with, most of which involved racketeering at the time.

- Under cross examination, Weeks said Connolly revealed to Bulger that one of the two men aboard the Valhalla fishing trawler had told the government about Bulger's shipment of guns to the IRA in 1984.

Bulger then confronted John McIntyre, who admitted to being an informant. After abandoning a plan to send McIntyre into hiding in South America, Bulger killed him.

- Bulger once excoriated Weeks for expressing annoyance when Connolly tried to chat him up one afternoon at the Liquor Mart. "Don't ever talk about that guy. He's a friend of ours," Bulger said angrily.

- Bulger claimed he plied FBI supervisor Morris with beers at his house after the gangster murdered former associate Brian Halloran, a government informant, in 1982 and got Morris to reveal that the bureau had come up with a license plate number from the killer's car. "Thank God for Beck's beer," Bulger said.

- Pressed by the defense to reveal the name of the masked man riding in the backseat of the "hit car" Bulger drove to kill Halloran, Weeks said he has "a pretty good idea" it was one of two Bulger associates - Patrick Nee or James "Weasel" Manville, who is deceased.

- The Bulger group once extorted South Boston drug dealer Joseph Murray for \$ 500,000, which Weeks called "a severance package." Murray was later murdered, allegedly by his wife.

Under cross examination, Weeks confidently answered questions with flip remarks and leg-breaker bluster.

When defense attorney Miner asked Weeks whether the Bulger group sized up their victims for strengths and weaknesses first before moving in, he said, "As far as we were concerned, everybody was weaker than us."

"There wasn't a person in America you couldn't intimidate?" Miner replied incredulously.

Whitey Xmas; Weeks: Christmas was payoff day for cops

"We weren't all over America. We were in Boston," Weeks said matter-of-factly.

He mocked Miner when she asked him if Bulger told him to get a body bag during an extortion session in a bar with a real estate salesman named Raymond Slinger.

Weeks said Bulger told him to get Slinger a "bottle of beer," not a body bag.

"I don't think every bar in Southie has body bags," Weeks said.

In another case now facing Connolly, a civil suit was filed yesterday in federal court by men associated with the Mafia who were wrongly convicted in 1968 for the murder of Edward "Teddy" Deegan.

Peter J. Limone and the estates of Louis Greco and Henry Tameleo are suing Connolly, retired agents **H. Paul Rico** and Dennis Condon, FBI supervisor Morris, Special Agent-in-Charge James L. Handley, as well as former federal prosecutor Edward F. Harrington, who is a senior federal judge, and two local policemen.

The suit, which will be heard by U.S. District Court Judge Nancy Gertner, claims Connolly tried to discourage state parole board members in 1982 from commuting the men's life sentences.

The suit accuses the government of conspiring to keep the men in prison after Rico and Condon framed them.

Caption: ACCUSATION: Kevin J. Weeks, right, testifies that former FBI agent John J. Connolly Jr., left, took Christmas bribe money from Whitey Bulger. Staff photo by Mike Adaskaveg; Staff illustration by Kathleen M.G. Howlett

Caption: SURROGATE SON: Government prosecutor Len Boyle, left, questions Whitey Bulger associate Kevin Weeks in federal court yesterday. Staff illustration by Kathleen M.G. Howlett

Load-Date: May 16, 2002



[Widow sues FBI in '82 slaying by Winter Hill gang hitman](#)

The Boston Herald

December 11, 2002 Wednesday

ALL EDITIONS

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Section: NEWS;

Length: 361 words

Byline: By J.M. LAWRENCE

Body

The widow of a Winchester man murdered 20 years ago allegedly by the Winter Hill gang filed a wrongful death suit against the FBI and seven former agents yesterday, claiming the government leaked his cooperation to the gang.

John B. Callahan's body was found in the trunk of his Cadillac in August 1982 at the Miami airport after he had agreed to meet with Connecticut prosecutors to discuss the mob murder of his former boss, World Jai Alai executive Roger Wheeler.

Callahan's widow, Mary Jane Callahan, has never spoken publicly about her husband's murder. Her lawsuit joins 10 other claims pending in federal court against the government filed by the families of FBI informant James "Whitey" Bulger's victims.

According to the lawsuit, Callahan, a former World Jai Alai CEO, "learned that various individuals with no readily apparent ties to World Jai Alai had in fact been skimming profits."

After Jai Alai owner Wheeler was murdered in Tulsa, Okla., Callahan told the company's security head, ex-Boston FBI agent **H. Paul Rico**, about the skimming.

"A federal investigation of the Wheeler murder then turned to Callahan for information . . . Not long thereafter John B. Callahan met his demise," the suit claims.

The suit claims the FBI in Oklahoma City in April 1983 sought permission to interview Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi but Boston FBI agent Robert Fitzpatrick "strongly and successfully" opposed the request. Fitzpatrick claimed he already had interviewed Bulger about both murders. The suit says Fitzpatrick never questioned Bulger about the slayings.

Attorney James P. Duggan, who represents Callahan's widow and two children, could not be reached for comment.

Bulger hitman John Martorano confessed to killing Wheeler and Callahan, with whom he once socialized around Boston. Martorano has testified that Bulger in consort with ex-FBI agent John J. Connolly Jr. decided Callahan could reveal the gang's ties to Jai Alai.

Widow sues FBI in '82 slaying by Winter Hill gang hitman

Callahan graduated from Boston College in 1967 and worked for Arthur Andersen as an accountant. He was recruited to prepare World Jai Alai for sale in 1974 and earned a \$ 100,000 salary, the suit says.

Load-Date: December 12, 2002

End of Document



Wiseguy hearing mixes soap opera and Twilight Zone

The Boston Herald

August 26, 1998 Wednesday

ALL EDITIONS

Copyright 1998 Boston Herald Inc.

Section: NEWS;

Length: 670 words

Byline: By Howie Carr

Body

This is turning into a TV mini-series, *The Life and Crimes of Stevie Flemmi*.

As in most miniseries, certain liberties have been taken with the facts for dramatic purposes, the most dramatic of which, from Stevie's perspective, would be his release from jail before he reaches the age of 117.

Steve Flemmi has always been a strange guy, with an even stranger story. Most hoods claim they were driven into a life of crime by circumstances. Steve Flemmi says the FBI made him do it.

"Very persuasive people," he explained.

Not that it was exactly a one-way relationship. After all, the feds did protect him from the law for almost 30 years. And it was through the FBI that he met the one true love of his life, namely "Jim Bulger."

A sensitive guy, Steve Flemmi. Little did anyone suspect how homesick the Rifleman becomes whenever he leaves Boston, mainly because he adores the city almost as much as he loves the Fifth Amendment.

The villain of yesterday's piece, and probably this morning's, is one Fred Wyshak, assistant U.S. attorney. He is so hissing mad that the Rifleman is trying to paint the feds as the black hats that he keeps dragging Stevie's family into the story. Like, when Stevie brought up his years on the lam in Canada and again mentioned his "ultimate goals."

Wyshak: "What were your ultimate goals?"

Flemmi: "Once I got my passport I could have went to any Commonwealth country and sent for my family."

Wyshak: "Which family?"

Flemmi: "My family."

Wyshak: "You left two families, didn't you?"

Wiseguy hearing mixes soap opera and Twilight Zone

At this point everyone started objecting, but after a sidebar conference, Wyshak seemed to be staring at the freckle-faced 22-year-old cupcake in the hiphugger jeans who sits in the family row every day. She is no relation to either Frank Salemme or Bobby DeLuca.

Then the prosecutor went back to rubbing Stevie's nose in his messy domestic situation.

Wyshak: "How many children did you have by your wife?"

Flemmi: "Two children by my first wife."

Wyshak: "How many children by your - "

Flemmi (interrupting): "Three."

On Thursday, under the tender ministrations of his own mouthpiece, Ken Fishman, Stevie managed a quite serviceable version of the Queen's English.

But with Wyshak asking the questions, and Fishman reduced to holding up five fingers on his left hand whenever Stevie needed to invoke his constitutional privileges, the Rifleman's grammar took a turn for the worse.

"The law," he explained at one point, "was different in dem dose - er, those days."

Stevie worked out a deal. He provided protection to certain people, and the FBI agent **H. Paul Rico** provided protection to him.

"As long as I provided him with information about matters he was concerned with and the matters he was concerned with were LCN matters."

Nice work if you can get it. Rat out the competition - the Mafia - and earn a nice living to boot.

Wyshak: "So it was strictly money?"

Flemmi: "That's the name of the game."

This attitude infuriates Wyshak, who probably doesn't want to be reminded that he works for a guy named William Jefferson Clinton.

Wyshak sometimes almost screams his questions at Flemmi, like he really believes everything is on the level or some such nonsense.

For instance, when FBI agent Rico called Flemmi in 1970 and told him he'd been indicted and that he'd better screw, pronto. Wyshak asked Flemmi if he knew that was a crime.

"I don't know how the government works," Flemmi said. "That might be the way it works. It might be standard procedure for them. The law works in mysterious ways."

In other words, the feds can do whatever they want, whenever they want.

Stevie's favorite movie director is Oliver Stone. His favorite TV series is The X Files.

Wyshak: "So in your view government agents can commit crimes?"

Flemmi: "Absolutely. They do it every day."

Wyshak: "In your case."

Flemmi: "In everybody's case. I read about it in the papers every day."

Wiseguy hearing mixes soap opera and Twilight Zone

So do we all. They usually run those stories right next to the wanted posters for Jim Bulger.

Load-Date: September 3, 1998

End of Document

WITNESS: FBI SUSPECTED AGENTS AIDED MOBSTER IN JAI ALAI KILLING; WHITEY BULGER TRIAL



**WITNESS: FBI SUSPECTED AGENTS AIDED MOBSTER IN JAI ALAI
KILLING; WHITEY BULGER TRIAL**

Hartford Courant (Connecticut)

July 17, 2013 Wednesday

FINAL - 5 EDITION

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Section: CONNECTICUT; Pg. B1**Length:** 945 words**Byline:** EDMUND H. MAHONY, , emahony@courant.com**Dateline:** BOSTON --

Body

Top FBI headquarters officers knew a year after the mob-style execution of the owner of World Jai Alai that gangster James "Whitey" Bulger may have committed the crime with help from one or more corrupt agents, a retired agent testified at Bulger's racketeering trial Tuesday.

But ex-agent Gerald Montanari testified that headquarters failed to act on the information -- even after learning Bulger was suspected of killing the highly valued FBI witness who implicated him and partner Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi in the death of World Jai Alai owner Roger Wheeler.

Montanari and his partner recruited the cooperating witness, Edward Brian Halloran, a gang enforcer who had fallen out of favor with Bulger and Flemmi. Montanari testified that Halloran claimed to have been present, with Bulger and Flemmi, when the Wheeler murder was planned.

Montanari said Halloran also said he was told, in the presence of Bulger and Flemmi, that retired Boston FBI agent **H. Paul Rico** had become World Jai Alai's security chief and would provide information about Wheeler's movements to his killers. And Halloran also told Montanari that Bulger and Flemmi were meeting in secret, as often as weekly, with John Connolly, then an active FBI agent in Boston.

Rico was charged with participating in Wheeler's murder two decades later but died before he was prosecuted. Connolly was convicted of murder five years ago for, among other things, telling Bulger that Halloran had implicated him in the Wheeler murder.

The bureau's decision not to act on Halloran's information when he delivered it in early 1982 meant that Bulger and Flemmi were able to continue working as secret FBI informants -- just as the FBI was launching a massive investigation of their chief rivals in crime, the New England mafia.

WITNESS: FBI SUSPECTED AGENTS AIDED MOBSTER IN JAI ALAI KILLING; WHITEY BULGER TRIAL

It meant that the bureau could continue using Rico as a special undercover operative in a sensitive bribery investigation of a federal judge in Florida. And it meant that Connolly would be able to continue in his role as handler for FBI Boston's two prized informants, Bulger and Flemmi.

Questions about what the FBI knew about crimes by Bulger and Flemmi and the corrupt agents with whom they associated have long tainted the FBI's relationship with the half dozen or so state and local police agencies from around the country that were drawn into the Wheeler murder investigation and related cases.

The FBI and justice department have not disclosed how many FBI agents accepted cash or gifts from Bulger and Flemmi. Two Bulger associates who have agreed to cooperate with authorities have said about six were paid, but only Connolly, accused of taking more than \$200,000, has been prosecuted.

Detectives from Connecticut, Florida and Oklahoma who chased leads in jai alai cases to Boston in the early 1980s complained of being intentionally misled when they turned to the Boston FBI office or the organized crime strike force for assistance. Both were relying on Bulger and Flemmi for information about the mafia.

Under cross examination Wednesday, Montanari said he knew no more than his out-of-state colleagues.

"At that stage, in 1982, it was beyond comprehension to me that an FBI agent would betray one of his own," Montanari testified.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Fred Wyshak displayed old, internal FBI records to jurors Tuesday that showed Montanari was updating FBI supervisors in Boston and Washington about what he was learning from Halloran during the early months of 1982.

The records show that the Washington meeting took place on May 22, 1982. The records show that agents with an interest in the Wheeler case from Massachusetts, Florida and Oklahoma attended, with the most senior representatives in attendance being headquarters supervisors of organized crime investigations and informant development.

Robert Fitzpatrick, the assistant agent in charge of the FBI's Boston office, reported in a memo of his own five days later that the headquarters supervisors made the decision to continue using Bulger and Flemmi as informants.

"In a separate issue, informants of the Boston Division were discussed with FBIHQ Supervising Agent and (Organized Crime) Informant Chief from FBIHQ," Fitzpatrick wrote.

"It was recommended that informants remain open in the Boston Division until substantiated information is received indicating that they should be closed."

The witness who followed Montanari Tuesday testified that just months after the FBI decided to keep Bulger and Flemmi active as informants, the two summoned him to a meeting at a seedy South Boston bar they owned, pointed guns at him and demanded an extortion payment of \$400,000.

The witness, Boston developer Michael Solimando, said the gangsters claimed to have secretly invested money with one of Solimando's partners in an apartment project. The partner happened to be John B. Callahan, a former president of World Jai Alai and the man Halloran claimed was behind the plot to kill Wheeler.

Bulger and Flemmi are accused of participating in Callahan's killing in late July 1982, after learning from Connolly that investigators were planning to press Callahan to implicate the two in the Wheeler killing.

Solimando said he had no idea that Bulger and Flemmi had just killed Callahan. Another witness testified previously that Bulger and Flemmi had invested nothing in the real estate project but were using Callahan's death as an opportunity to extort money from Solimando and other partners in the deal.

Solimando said he raised more than \$100,000 by selling stock, jewelry, equipment and other possessions to pay off Bulger and Flemmi.

WITNESS: FBI SUSPECTED AGENTS AIDED MOBSTER IN JAI ALAI KILLING; WHITEY BULGER TRIAL

He said they told him they would know if he reported the extortion to the FBI and he believed them.

Load-Date: July 17, 2013

End of Document

WITNESS TELLS OF A DISGUISED BULGER, KILLING

**WITNESS TELLS OF A DISGUISED BULGER, KILLING**

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The Boston Globe

May 15, 2002, Wednesday

,THIRD EDITION

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Section: METRO/REGION;**Length:** 1007 words**Byline:** By Shelley Murphy, Globe Staff**Body**

A local hoodlum who agreed to cooperate with the FBI against gangsters James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi feared that if the pair learned of his betrayal they'd "go to any extreme to kill him, even if it means killing his wife and family or others," according to an FBI report presented yesterday in federal court.

Four months after those words were written, the FBI informant, Edward "Brian" Halloran, was shot dead outside a waterfront bar, along with a friend who was giving him a ride home. And yesterday, Bulger's former deputy testified that Halloran's instincts were correct: He was murdered on May 11, 1982, by Bulger, who had been tipped off that Halloran was talking to the FBI.

Longtime Bulger sidekick Kevin J. Weeks, testifying at the federal racketeering trial of retired FBI agent John J. Connolly Jr., told jurors that Bulger, wearing a brown wig and a floppy fake mustache, opened fire on Halloran in a drive-by shooting from his specially modified "hit car," a blue Chevy with a souped-up engine and an automatic switch that shut off all the car's lights.

Weeks, who has cut a deal with prosecutors in exchange for his testimony, told jurors that he served as lookout, letting Bulger know when Halloran was walking out of the South Boston bar by radioing over a walkie-talkie that "the balloon is in the air."

The Bulger gang's nickname for Halloran was Balloon Head, Weeks explained.

Weeks, who spent barely a half-hour on the witness stand and will resume testifying today, is expected to be one of the most significant witnesses against Connolly because he says he had personal dealings with the agent, including the hand-delivery of a bribe.

Connolly, 61, who retired from the FBI in 1990, is accused of protecting Bulger and Flemmi, both longtime FBI informants, by tipping them off to investigations and leaking information to the pair that prompted them to kill three men, including Halloran. He's also charged with accepting a diamond ring from the gangsters and delivering bribes from them to another agent.

WITNESS TELLS OF A DISGUISED BULGER, KILLING

The government also alleges that Bulger, a fugitive, is a free man because Connolly warned him to flee on the eve of a January 1995 racketeering indictment.

Earlier yesterday, another member of the government's rogues' gallery of witnesses, confessed hit man John Martorano, wrapped up his testimony with the admission that he never met Connolly and that all of his damaging information about the agent came from Bulger.

Martorano also admitted that after learning Flemmi was an informant in 1997, he considered killing him while they were both being held awaiting trial at the Plymouth County House of Correction. Instead, he said, he decided to become a government witness.

Martorano, who has admitted killing 20 people and has cut a deal with the government in exchange for his testimony, told jurors that he gave Bulger a stolen two-carat diamond ring in the 1970s that the gangster claimed he was giving to Connolly as a gift for his wife. Martorano said the ring had been a man's, but Bulger told him it had been converted to a woman's setting.

In an effort to bolster Martorano's testimony, prosecutors yesterday called to the stand both Connolly's first wife and a diamond appraiser.

Appearing reluctant and nervous, Marianne Lockary, who married Connolly in 1970 and later divorced him, testified that Connolly gave her a two-carat ring in June 1976. The ring, now a court exhibit, was seized by FBI agents investigating her ex-husband. Appraiser Harry Solomon estimated the ring was worth \$5,500 in 1976.

But attorney Jay Tangney, a member of Connolly's defense team, attacked the government's claim that the diamond in the ring Connolly gave his wife is the same one that Martorano alleges he gave to Bulger.

Under cross-examination, Lockary testified that she and Connolly had sold their home on Columbia Road in South Boston in 1976, suggesting he had cash available for the gift.

While the fifth day of testimony in Connolly's trial began with Martorano and ended with Weeks, four current and former FBI employees also took the stand, presenting documents involving the slayings of Halloran, John Callahan, and Richard Castucci.

Martorano testified earlier that he, Bulger, and Flemmi killed Castucci, a Revere bookmaker, in 1976 because he was an FBI informant. Martorano said Bulger told him he'd been tipped off by Connolly that Castucci had told the FBI where two members of the Winter Hill gang were hiding out in New York City.

FBI reports presented to jurors confirmed that Castucci had been an informant since 1970 and was killed on Dec. 29, 1976, two days after telling the FBI where Bulger's friends were staying.

But attorney Tracy Miner, who represents Connolly, focused on FBI reports that suggested the Mafia had killed Castucci over gambling debts.

Another retired FBI agent, Gerald Montanari, testified that Halloran offered to cooperate with the FBI in January 1982. He said that was when Halloran implicated Bulger, Flemmi, and Callahan, one of their associates, in the murder of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler eight months earlier.

Halloran, who was facing state murder charges, told the FBI that he had declined a request by Bulger, Flemmi, and Callahan, the former president of World Jai Alai, to kill Wheeler. Wheeler, the chairman of Telex Corp., had purchased World Jai Alai and was preparing to go to the police because he suspected Callahan and Bulger's gang of skimming from the sports betting company, according to Halloran.

Halloran had also implicated another retired FBI agent, H. Paul Rico, then head of security for World Jai Alai, in the plot to kill Wheeler.

WITNESS TELLS OF A DISGUISED BULGER, KILLING

But Montanari testified that Halloran resisted taking a lie detector test and kept coming back to his old haunts around Boston, even after the FBI had put him in a safe house on Cape Cod.

Just before he was slain, Montanari testified, Halloran called the FBI from a pay phone outside a bar on the South Boston waterfront and was cautioned by Montanari's partner that he shouldn't be in town.

Graphic

PHOTO, Former FBI agent John J. Connolly is accused of aiding mobster James "Whitey" Bulger, a longtime FBI informant, now a fugitive. / AP FILE PHOTO

Load-Date: May 15, 2002

End of Document



WORLD JAI ALAI, MOB HITS, AND THE FBI: A CHRONOLOGY

Hartford Courant (Connecticut)

November 9, 1997 Sunday, STATEWIDE

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Section: MAIN; Pg. A8; SIDEBAR; CHRONOLOGY; BOX

Length: 831 words

Byline: Research by EDMUND MAHONY

Body

1974: World Jai Alai hires John B. Callahan as president. Callahan quickly makes a number of new hires, including **H. Paul Rico**, a retired FBI agent from Boston who becomes vice president and chief of security.

1976: Callahan resigns from World Jai Alai when publicity about his mob connections threatens the company's chances of licensing a Hartford fronton. He is replaced by his longtime friend Richard Donovan.

1977: Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler Sr. buys World Jai Alai after talks with two other potential buyers die amid reports of mob connections by both.

1980: Concerned about mob penetration of his business, Wheeler decides to sell his Hartford fronton. Connecticut state police investigate skimmming and game fixing in the jai alai industry. Massachusetts police are repeatedly thwarted in their investigations of Winter Hill gang leaders James "Whitey" Bulger and Steven "The Rifleman" Flemmi. Meanwhile, the FBI in Boston -- using Bulger and Flemmi as informants -- is investigating Patriarca family underboss Jerry Angiulo.

1981

January: According to Winter Hill gang member Edward Brian Halloran, Callahan offers him a contract to kill Wheeler. Bulger and Flemmi are present when the offer is made.

March: Wheeler finalizes sale of his Hartford jai alai fronton to L. Stanley Berenson.

April: Wheeler confides in his son that he suspects something is not right at World Jai Alai. He sends his son to Miami to check on the company's computer system and asks him to "keep his ears" open.

May: Wheeler is killed while leaving his Tulsa country club after his customary Wednesday afternoon round of golf.

July: Tulsa detectives assigned to the Wheeler homicide get their first tip from an informant implicating the Winter Hill gang in Wheeler's death.

1982

WORLD JAI ALAI, MOB HITS, AND THE FBI: A CHRONOLOGY

January: Halloran tells the FBI that he was offered the contract on Wheeler and implicates Callahan, Bulger, Flemmi and Rico. The FBI spends six weeks debriefing Halloran, before deciding he is not credible.

May: Halloran stays in touch with the FBI, informing on his mob pals until May 12, when he is gunned down on a south Boston street.

July: Detectives from Tulsa and the Connecticut and Massachusetts state police departments descend on Boston in a search for Callahan. They express mistrust of the FBI to Jeremiah O'Sullivan, the federal organized crime strike force prosecutor who is using Bulger and Flemmi to build a racketeering case against Angiulo. O'Sullivan reluctantly admits that Halloran tried to join the federal witness protection program. Callahan can't be located.

August: Callahan's decomposing body is found stuffed in the trunk of his leased Cadillac in an airport parking garage in Miami. He was shot repeatedly in the head and his killers have left a dime on his chest. Florida detectives say forensic evidence suggests Callahan was shot at World Jai Alai's nearby Miami fronton and his body was driven to the airport.

September: Connecticut state police detectives report to colleagues in Florida that they believe Wheeler was killed because he suspected his employees were skimming from World Jai Alai. One of Wheeler's sons tells Florida detectives the same thing.

September: Tulsa Police Department requests the convening of a federal grand jury investigation of the Wheeler homicide and asks that Rico be subpoenaed as a witness. Both requests were denied.

October: Florida detectives, with assistance from Connecticut, seize tons of World Jai Alai records in an effort to uncover a skim. Although police are convinced a skim occurred, they cannot prove it. World Jai Alai sues Florida and Connecticut authorities and wins.

November: U.S. Department of Justice sponsors a task force meeting in Tulsa for the far-flung police agencies investigating Wheeler's death and other jai alai-related crimes. Justice asks that attendees provide it with any derogatory information they might have on Rico. Connecticut delegation balks and leaves the meeting.

1983: Based on information captured by secret FBI microphones, Angiulo is arrested after his federal indictment on racketeering charges.

1985: First National Bank of Boston pleads guilty to laundering money, much of it mob money collected by Jerry Angiulo. The bank's admission followed a two-year investigation.

1995: Bulger and Flemmi, along with reputed New England mob boss Francis "Cadillac Frank" Salemme and two underlings, are indicted on federal racketeering charges in Boston.

1997: U.S. District Court Judge Mark Wolf orders the FBI to publicly name certain of its informants in the middle of a legal hearing on whether some of the bureau's relationships with informants may have broken the law. The bureau named Bulger and Flemmi, among others. Flemmi discloses his defense to the racketeering charges: that if he was involved in any criminal activity, it was sanctioned by the FBI. Bulger remains a fugitive. The hearings are continuing.

Graphic

PHOTOS: (4 b&w) mugs; PHOTO 1: John B Callahan -- A confidant of top members of the Winter Hill Gang, became president of World Jai Alai in 1974; PHOTO 2: Jerry Angiulo -- Led the Boston faction of the Patriarca crime family and was targeted by the FBI for years.; PHOTO 3: Jack B. Cooper -- business associate of gangster

WORLD JAI ALAI, MOB HITS, AND THE FBI: A CHRONOLOGY

Meyer Lansky, tried to buy World Jai Alai.; PHOTO 4: Meyer Lansky -- one of the nation's most powerful gangsters, surfaced when the FBI bugged New Jersey businessmen trying to bring Jai Alai to their state.

Load-Date: November 12, 1997

End of Document



WORLD NATION BRIEFS

Newsday (New York)

October 10, 2003 Friday

NASSAU AND SUFFOLK EDITION

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Section: NEWS,

Length: 667 words

Byline: COMPILED FROM WIRE SERVICES

Body

Syria Denounces U.S. Vote

Preliminary congressional approval of sanctions against Syria sparked fierce condemnation from Damascus yesterday. One Syrian official called it a "biased and illogical act" that would damage relations and dim chances for peace in the Middle East.

The vote by the House International Relations Committee on Wednesday was a largely symbolic gesture, but one that could lead to more damaging U.S. measures, Western diplomats said. The bill, which accuses Syria of sponsoring terrorists, seeking weapons of mass destruction and occupying Lebanon with more than 20,000 troops, passed three days after Israeli warplanes struck an alleged Palestinian militant training camp outside Damascus.

Imad Mustapha of the Syrian Embassy in Washington called the vote "a blatant double standard that can rarely be met in international diplomacy."

Exiled Islanders Overruled

Inhabitants of Diego Garcia and nearby islands who were evicted 30 years ago by the territory's British owners to make way for a U.S. military base lost a round yesterday in a legal battle to return home and obtain compensation from the British government.

The entire population of the Chagos Islands, which lie 2,200 miles east of Africa and about 1,000 miles southwest of India, was relocated between 1967 and 1973. Meanwhile, Britain leased Diego Garcia, the main island, to the United States and barred anyone from entering the archipelago except by permit.

The former Chagos residents - between 1,000 and 2,000 mostly coconut pickers descended from African slaves and Indian plantation workers - have lived thousands of miles away since, in the Seychelles and Mauritius, two island nations off Africa's east coast.

WORLD NATION BRIEFS

In recent years, a legal campaign to establish right of return and obtain compensation from the British has gathered pace, but High Court Judge Duncan Ouseley rejected their claims yesterday.

China Readies Space Flight

China's first manned space flight might be bolder than previously reported. A day after state media said the capsule would make one 90-minute loop around Earth, a major state newspaper said yesterday in Beijing that 14 orbits are planned during the trip, expected sometime this month.

Astronauts are making final preparations for the flight, which is to include orbits at two different altitudes, the Liberation Daily of Shanghai said, citing "relevant channels." The government hasn't announced a launch date or other details, but reports Wednesday by state television and other media said the rocket would blast off Oct. 15. The Liberation Daily said the launch, from a Gobi Desert base about 900 miles west of Beijing, will happen during the day.

GOP Gains in Texas

Texas lawmakers reached an agreement yesterday on a new congressional map that would put the delegation in Republican control, fending off last-minute GOP infighting about how to divide up the seats.

The new map would increase the number of Republicans in Texas' congressional delegation by as many as seven. Democrats currently dominate, 17-15.

"The majority of the voters in the state of Texas support President George W. Bush and his policies. The majority of our congressional delegation does not, and that's just not fair," Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst said yesterday.

The announcement paved the way for a vote today in the state House and Senate and appeared to end months of squabbling that included two walkouts by Democrats who sought to block a vote.

Ex-Agent Linked to Murder

A former FBI agent who handled high-ranking mob informants was arrested yesterday and charged with murder for allegedly helping to set up a 1981 mob hit on an Oklahoma businessman. **H. Paul Rico**, 78, was arrested at his home near Miami in the slaying of Roger Wheeler, 55, who was shot in the head at a Tulsa, Okla., country club.

Rico "flat-out categorically denies this," his attorney, William Cagney III, said.

Rico's arrest was the latest turn in a long-running scandal over the cozy relationship between the Boston FBI and its underworld informants.

Load-Date: October 10, 2003

WRONGED BY THE FBI, FREE AT LAST; MAN'S WIFE, CHILDREN, INNOCENCE HELPED HIM BEAR 30 YEARS IN PRISON



**WRONGED BY THE FBI, FREE AT LAST;
MAN'S WIFE, CHILDREN, INNOCENCE HELPED HIM BEAR 30 YEARS IN
PRISON**

Hartford Courant (Connecticut)

April 29, 2001 Sunday, 1N/5/6/7 SPORTS FINAL

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Section: MAIN; Pg. A1

Length: 2583 words

Byline: By EDMUND H. MAHONY; Courant Staff Writer

Dateline: BOSTON --

Body

The best meal Joe Salvati can remember, ever, was served on a Thanksgiving, a day that is otherwise indistinguishable from the long, numbing succession of the rest of his stolen days.

His eldest daughter, now a grandmother, cooked. She was a teenager then, living in the family's North End apartment. Turkey. Dressing. Salvati's wife, Marie, loaded dinner and her four young children into the cheap used car she had just learned to drive. She girded herself. The children were always wired during the frightening ride to prison, where Salvati was serving a life sentence for a murder that his family knew he did not commit.

One day last week, a promising sunny morning in a chilly spring, Marie Salvati was touching her husband's arm again after half a lifetime. She turned to him and smiled. "You were at the Concord [prison] farm at that time, remember?"

"We were allowed to take food there," she said, as if she had to explain. "And we prepared everything, I'll tell you. We all had Thanksgiving together. We all sat down. Butternut squash. The whole nine yards, my Maria made. We packed it in a carton and I think it was the best Thanksgiving dinner we ever had while he was away."

Joseph Salvati was away for 30 years. Tiny moments now fill big places in the family memory. No one could have imagined how Salvati's life would shatter on Oct. 25, 1967, the day police officers snatched him off a city street and charged him --wrongly, he has now proved -- with killing a nickel-and-dime hoodlum named Edward "Teddy" Deegan.

He was a strapping, black-haired 34-year-old, and Marie, petite and auburn-haired, was 32. The life they had planned since marrying as childhood sweethearts dissolved in a nightmare interrupted only infrequently by strained meals at prison tables. Their children, 11, 9, 7 and 4 when Salvati was arrested, were 46, 44, 42 and 39 when he was finally and conclusively cleared of the murder earlier this year.

WRONGED BY THE FBI, FREE AT LAST; MAN'S WIFE, CHILDREN, INNOCENCE HELPED HIM BEAR 30 YEARS IN PRISON

He never saw them grow up. He missed first communions and graduations and weddings. He had six grandchildren and a great grandson by the time he was released. His father had died. His mother had Alzheimer's disease. She rarely recognized him.

But hard as it was to live his children's lives vicariously from his prison cell, Salvati was consumed by knowledge that has only recently become public through an investigation of misconduct in the FBI's Boston office: He was an unwitting innocent trapped in what is turning out to be one of the country's worst law enforcement scandals.

Salvati and four other men were framed for murder by a FBI informant named Joseph "The Animal" Barboza, a psychopathic killer known for porkpie hats and a propensity to club men to death. Worse, previously secret FBI memoranda that led to the dismissal in January of Salvati's murder charge show that FBI agents knew he was probably innocent within hours of Deegan's death.

And it now seems certain that Barboza, the FBI's own informant, was behind Deegan's murder.

The FBI concealed the information. Salvati's life deteriorated into pulp fiction.

The federal government invented the witness protection program in the mid-1960s, in the middle of a violent war between gangs of thugs fighting over Boston's neighborhoods. Barboza became the country's first protected witness. That, Salvati believes, predetermined his conviction.

At the time, the FBI was under enormous pressure to crack down on the Mafia, which meant the bureau was targeting Italian organized crime groups. The other men arrested with Salvati were associated with organized crime. It appears FBI agents suggested to Barboza that those others needed to be arrested for something, even if they weren't involved in Deegan's death. Barboza, who later was slain himself, probably included Salvati in the case because Salvati had borrowed \$400 from Barboza's loan sharks and hadn't repaid it fast enough.

Besides an unfailingly loyal family, Salvati attracted a crusading young lawyer from Medford named Victor Garo. Garo worked tirelessly, and for free, on Salvati's case for more than 20 years. Over the decades, the lawyer dreamed up one innovative argument after another. Invariably, judges ruled that although there was something wrong with Salvati's conviction, there was never enough wrong to free him.

Finally, on March 20, 1997, former Massachusetts Gov. William Weld relented and signed a commutation. Salvati won again in January when a Massachusetts judge dismissed the murder conviction.

But Salvati's ultimate vindication may come Thursday, when he and his wife testify in Washington, D.C., before the U.S. House Committee on Government Reform. Congress has opened its own inquiry into FBI misconduct in Boston. **H. Paul Rico** and Dennis Condon, the two now-retired FBI agents who turned Barboza into an informant, are expected to be subpoenaed to testify in the same hearing room. They are expected to exercise their right against self-incrimination.

The committee will examine evidence suggesting that the law enforcement misconduct that stole Salvati from his family ruined other lives as well. Barboza was replaced by equally notorious informants, among them James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi. They are under indictment on a charge of assassinating the man who owned Hartford's now defunct jai alai fronton.

Salvati said he is convinced he was sentenced to what was meant to be a long, lingering prison death because he was a young Italian man living at the wrong time in Boston's Italian North End. He is gray-headed and heavier now. Marie reminds him of things and touches him frequently, as if to reassure herself. Together they tell a story of how love and loyalty can overcome frightening indifference.

"The FBI made up a story and put four innocent men to death," Salvati said last week during a long interview in his lawyer's office just outside the city. "Now to die in prison is one thing. Death is death. But to die because you're Italian? That's something else."

WRONGED BY THE FBI, FREE AT LAST;MAN'S WIFE, CHILDREN, INNOCENCE HELPED HIM BEAR 30 YEARS IN PRISON

"My family kept me going. And Victor Garo brought more hope to me than all the courts. As many times as doors got slammed, we'd just crawl right back and come at them. Victor would always come up with a new idea."

But the long road from Salvati's arrest to the argument that ultimately swayed a Massachusetts governor is measured by unfathomable sadness that neither Congress nor the courts can erase.

Marie Salvati said she was walking to school to pick up her kids when word of her husband's arrest percolated through the neighborhood where the Salvatis and both their parents lived all their lives.

The couple met as teenagers on Revere Beach. They were like all their friends. He drove a truck for a meat packing company. She minded the house. The kids were in parochial school. A trip downtown to Filene's was an excursion.

"I was shocked," Marie said. "But I had to compose myself for the children."

It soon became apparent that conviction was a foregone conclusion.

"I just had bad vibes right from the beginning with this whole case," Marie said. "My husband's name was in no report anywhere to be found and still they went ahead and did what they did. They were just out for a conviction and that was what was going to happen, no matter what. You could have had the best lawyers in the world. It was a point that I guess the government wanted to prove at the time and I guess that was that."

Salvati said he and the three other men charged with him had to be convicted to preserve Barboza's credibility as a prosecution witness in upcoming cases. Two of those men died of old age in prison. The fourth was cleared with Salvati in January, based on the hidden FBI memos.

"They made the witness protection program for Barboza, so they couldn't lose him," Salvati said. "His word had to be gold. He had to be telling the truth. He'd stab you and hit you with a bat. He'd kick you and club you. But according to them, he'd never tell a lie. He was never an informant. He was a liar. He was told what to say, absolutely."

Marie said she raced to school again the day her husband was convicted. Salvati's trial had become front-page news and classmates were taunting the children. A little boy would cock his finger at a Salvati girl and say, "Bang, bang." After school one day, a daughter asked Marie, "What is the electric chair?"

"I didn't want them to hear things out on the street," Marie said. "I told them what had happened and that Dad loves us very much and that Dad is innocent of this thing. I hated to use words like crime or jail. I tried to come up with a choice of words that were kind for them. But they knew."

"That night I had nightmares about him being put away in chains," Marie said. "He was a young man, 34 years old."

Marie got a part-time job with a social service program in the neighborhood. Over the next 30 years, she attended college and became director of a Head Start program in the North End. But first she learned to drive. She scratched together enough money for a used car. She had to visit her husband.

"I had to re-evaluate myself with my goals and objectives," Marie said. "I just sat down one day by myself after his verdict came in. And let me tell you, I had to think fast because life was going pretty fast for me then. He had a life sentence he was facing. Where do I come into this picture? How do I carry on? Where do I go? All these things were heavy on me. I have no regrets for my choices."

Salvati got a prison job the day after he got a life sentence. He became Father Foley's clerk at Walpole, a top job with a top prison salary -- 50 cents a day. When friends or relatives visited and left him \$5 or \$10, he saved it. Every Christmas he sent home a check. Sometimes it approached \$500.

WRONGED BY THE FBI, FREE AT LAST;MAN'S WIFE, CHILDREN, INNOCENCE HELPED HIM BEAR 30 YEARS IN PRISON

And every Friday for 30 years, a card arrived at home for Marie. It was always signed, "I love you forever, Joe." Each card sat on the television set until the next one came. Then they were stored in shoeboxes. She still has them.

"Everything is in a shoebox," she said. "I think it was after 15 or 20 years, I went through every one of them at the table and I just bawled my eyes out. Because I said, 'Really, my life is in a shoebox.' I was married to the state. They owned him. And it brought back so much pain. I just needed that moment. And then it went on."

Life was measured by sporadic family dinners. Depending on the prevailing political attitude in Massachusetts toward violent crime, or on the status of Salvati's futile appeals, prison authorities moved him between minimum- and high-security institutions. At some, the family could eat together; at others, they could only talk.

The Salvati girls grew up with body searches. Their panties and bras were examined before they could visit father. When grandchildren arrived, diapers were searched and formula was opened.

Salvati never talked about life in the institution and Marie never spoke of problems at home.

"I'd run the week by him," Marie said. "What the kids were doing. What they were not doing. And what was going on in the house. But nothing major. He had enough going on. I always told him, 'You take care of yourself inside and I'll take care of the family outside.' That was our way of dealing with things."

The children were always foremost in the couple's minds.

"I wanted to be upbeat," Marie said. "I never said, 'We can't do this because your father is away,' or, 'We can't do this because we don't have the money.' We did what we could and we did the best that we could. We lived modestly. I have great children. I'm very lucky."

She collected 10,000 signatures for her husband's commutation petition. She spoke to hundreds of neighbors who gathered to support her at the Knights of Columbus hall. She had "Free Joseph Salvati" posters printed and hung them in neighborhood windows. She passed police officers on the sidewalk, but they would not look her in the eye.

Salvati said he always knew he would be freed one day.

"The years go by," he said. "One year. Three years. Five years. It takes quite a while to write the appeals up. The judges take twice as long to deny you. Another two years, three years gone by. Then back to the drawing board, year after year after year.

"How do you explain to you children year after year that you're not coming home?" he asked. "The kids got older. They stopped asking."

The Massachusetts parole board voted to commute Salvati's sentence in 1989, but Weld killed it four years later. Then the unexpected happened. Garo had just finished a prison meeting with Salvati and was driving back to his office where his secretary, Claire, was at work.

"I don't have my radio on because I'm thinking about what my newest strategy is going to be." Garo said. "And I walk into the office and Claire is all excited, asking 'Did you hear? Did you hear?' And I said, 'What are you talking about?'"

"She said, 'The governor just approved a commutation. It's on the radio.' I am the last one in this whole state to know. Everyone is calling and everyone is excited and I'm thinking, 'Wow. What a Christmas present for Joe.'"

It was a gift, one that has never been clearly explained. Salvati had not reapplied for commutation after Weld's initial denial.

Garo jumped back into his car and returned to the prison. Sympathetic guards had already told Salvati.

WRONGED BY THE FBI, FREE AT LAST;MAN'S WIFE, CHILDREN, INNOCENCE HELPED HIM BEAR 30 YEARS IN PRISON

"It was kind of emotional between Joe and I," Garo said. "And I think that better stay between us."

On his release date, March 20, 1997, Salvati's family met him at the prison gate. He reported to his parole officer. He visited his mother. Later, during a brief moment of lucidity, he thinks she recognized him. There was a party at the apartment.

"It was a new beginning," Marie said. "A new life."

"It was amazing," Salvati said.

The couple tried to settle into a routine they had not shared in three decades.

"The biggest thing for us when he came home was, he's doing fine." Marie said. "But I'm not doing that great. It was the whole routine, you know. I'm saying 'Joe, you got to do it this way. This is done this way.'

"He says to me, 'Stop telling me what to do.' But, you know, I didn't mean it like that. I had to realize he had 30 years of when to get up, when to stand for count, when to eat, when to do this, when to do that.

"But that only lasted a couple of months and we got over that."

It is funny now.

"Every March 20, she wanted a cake and a celebration," Salvati said. "Every year the cake, everything. I said, 'I don't want to remember this. I want to forget about it.'"

A month after his release, their youngest grandson was born. Salvati assisted in the delivery. The doctors watched him and asked, "Is that the guy? Is that the guy?"

The Salvati children still have trouble with what happened to their father.

"They grumble," Salvati said. "I tell them they can't dwell on it, they can't let it eat at them. But, of course, that's impossible."

Marie is angry that the family has yet to receive an apology.

"They're still in denial and still not giving us the respect that we should have for our family," she said. "That's like putting salt on wounds to me."

Salvati has developed a superhuman capacity for forgiveness.

"All the FBI agents aren't bad," he said. "There are plenty of good ones. We still have the greatest criminal justice system in the world. This is a good system. This is the United States of America and it is still the greatest county in the world. But this shouldn't have happened."

Graphic

PHOTO 1: (COLOR), CLOE POISSON / THE HARTFORD COURANT

PHOTO 2: (B&W), PHOTO COURTESY OF SALVATI FAMILY

PHOTO 3: (B&W) MUG

; PHOTO 2: A PORTRAIT THAT HANGS in Joe and Marie Salvati's bedroom in their North End apartment in Boston shows their four

WRONGED BY THE FBI, FREE AT LAST;MAN'S WIFE, CHILDREN, INNOCENCE HELPED HIM BEAR 30
YEARS IN PRISON

children as they looked around the time of his arrest.

PHOTO 3: VICTOR GARO worked tirelessly on Salvati's case for more than 20 years, dreaming up innovative legal arguments.

Load-Date: April 30, 2001

End of Document



Wrongful conviction judgment is appealed

The Berkshire Eagle (Pittsfield, Massachusetts)

February 17, 2008 Sunday

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Section: STATE

Length: 494 words

Byline: By Matt Pitta, Associated Press

Body

BOSTON -- The Justice Department decided Friday to appeal a \$101.7 million judgment awarded to four men who spent decades in prison for a murder they did not commit.

A federal judge in July found the FBI responsible for framing Joseph Salvati, Peter Limone, Louis Greco and Henry Tameleo for the 1965 slaying of Edward "Teddy" Deegan.

The government filed notice of appeal just four days ahead of the deadline.

The Justice Department did not spell out its reasons for appealing. The document just gives notice that the government plans to fight the judgment, which was issued in July and became final in December.

Justice Department spokesman Charles Miller said the reasons for the appeal would be explained when the government files its brief at a later date.

An attorney for Salvati, Vincent Garo, has estimated that an appeal would take more than a year and could cost the government as much as \$14 million in interest and legal fees if the judgment is upheld.

Deegan was a small-time thug who was shot in a Chelsea alley on March 12, 1965.

In her ruling last year, U.S. District Judge Nancy Gertner found that FBI agents Dennis Condon and ***H. Paul Rico*** knew that mob hitman and FBI informant Joseph "The Animal" Barboza was lying when he named the four men as Deegan's killers.

Barboza fingered the four men to protect Vincent "Jimmy" Flemmi, a fellow FBI informant who was involved in the Deegan slaying.

Gertner said Condon and Rico covered up evidence of Barboza's lie and also told state prosecutors who were handling the Deegan murder investigation that they had verified Barboza's story.

Tameleo and Greco died behind bars.

Wrongful conviction judgment is appealed

Salvati and Limone were freed after three decades in prison in 2001, after FBI memos related to the Deegan case surfaced during probes of the Boston FBI's corrupt relationship with its gangster informants, James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, Vincent's brother.

Salvati, Limone and the families of Tameleo and Greco sued the federal government for malicious prosecution.

Gertner awarded \$29 million to Salvati, \$26 million to Limone, \$13 million to Tameleo's estate and \$28 million to Greco's estate.

The wives of Limone and Salvati and the estate of Tameleo's deceased wife each received slightly more than \$1 million.

The men's 10 children were each awarded \$250,000.

The Deegan case was included in the House Government Reform Committee's investigation of the FBI and its use of criminal informants.

Rico, one of the agents blamed in the case, was arrested in 2003 on murder and conspiracy charges in the 1981 killing of a Tulsa, Okla., businessman. Rico died in state custody in 2004 while awaiting trial. Rico denied before the House committee that he and his partner helped frame an innocent man for Deegan's death, but acknowledged that Salvati wrongly spent 30 years in prison for the crime.

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WRONGFUL IMPRISONMENT LAWSUIT IS FILED AGAINST FBI

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The Boston Globe

May 16, 2002, Thursday

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Section: NATIONAL/FOREIGN;

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Byline: By Thanassis Cambanis, Globe Staff

Body

A man who spent 30 years in jail for a murder he did not commit filed a lawsuit against the FBI in federal court yesterday, accusing the agency of withholding information that could have freed him.

Peter J. Limone, 68, was convicted in 1965 along with Joseph Salvati and two other men in the murder of Edward Deegan.

They were allegedly framed by underworld killer Joseph Barboza, a key FBI witness in the case.

The case has provoked a fury in Washington, where it has sparked congressional hearings into the FBI's use of informants and cooperating witnesses like Barboza.

Limone's lawsuit, seeking damages for wrongful imprisonment, was filed in US District Court in Boston in the midst of the trial of former FBI agent John Connolly, charged with helping organized crime bosses he was supposed to be handling as informants.

"Families were torn apart, simply because the Justice Department and the FBI and the US attorney did not live up to their oaths," said William Koski, Limone's attorney.

An FBI spokesman would not comment on the litigation.

Two of the four men convicted in the murder, Louis Greco and Henry Tameleo, died in prison. Limone was released in January 2001. Salvati's sentence was commuted in 1997 and he was released in March 1997.

The lawsuit filed yesterday also seeks damages on behalf of the families of Greco and Tameleo. It names as defendants several former FBI agents, including Connolly, **H. Paul Rico**, Dennis Condon, John Morris, and James L. Handley, who was in charge of the Boston FBI office from 1964 to 1969.

It also names former US attorney Edward F. Harrington, who is now a senior US district judge in Massachusetts. Also named are Frank L. Walsh, a Boston police officer, and Robert Renfrew, a Chelsea police officer.

WRONGFUL IMPRISONMENT LAWSUIT IS FILED AGAINST FBI

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Wrongfully convicted men to get millions from feds; FBI framed four men, judge finds



[Wrongfully convicted men to get millions from feds; FBI framed four men, judge finds](#)

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

July 27, 2007, Friday

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Length: 774 words

Byline: Denise Lavoie, The Associated Press

Body

BOSTON - In a stinging rebuke of the FBI, a federal judge on Thursday ordered the government to pay a record judgment of nearly \$102 million because agents withheld evidence that would have kept four men from spending decades in prison for a mob murder they did not commit.

Judge Nancy Gertner told a packed courtroom that agents were trying to protect informants when they encouraged a witness to lie, then withheld evidence they knew could prove the four men were not involved in the murder of Edward "Teddy" Deegan, a small-time thug shot in an alley.

Gertner said Boston FBI agents knew mob hitman Joseph "The Animal" Barboza lied when he named Joseph Salvati, Peter Limone, Henry Tameleo and Louis Greco as Deegan's killers. She said the FBI considered the four "collateral damage" in its war against the Mafia, the bureau's top priority in the 1960s.

Tameleo and Greco died behind bars, and Salvati and Limone spent three decades in prison before they were exonerated in 2001. Salvati, Limone and the families of the other men sued the federal government for malicious prosecution.

"Do I want the money? Yes, I want my children, my grandchildren to have things I didn't have, but nothing can compensate for what they've done," said Salvati, 75.

"It's been a long time coming," said Limone, 73. "What I've been through - I hope it never happens to anyone else."

The case is only the latest to highlight the cozy relationship Boston mobsters enjoyed with FBI agents for decades. Former Boston agent John Connolly was sentenced in 2002 to 10 years in prison for his role in protecting two organized crime kingpins, including one who remains a fugitive.

Gertner said FBI agents Dennis Condon and **H. Paul Rico** not only withheld evidence of Barboza's lie, but told state prosecutors who were handling the Deegan murder investigation that they had checked out Barboza's story and it was true.

"The FBI's misconduct was clearly the sole cause of this conviction," the judge said.

Wrongfully convicted men to get millions from feds; FBI framed four men, judge finds

The government had argued that federal authorities had no duty to share information with state officials who prosecuted the men. Federal authorities cannot be held responsible for the results of a state prosecution, a Justice Department lawyer said.

Gertner rejected that argument. "The government's position is, in a word, absurd," she said.

A Boston FBI spokeswoman referred calls to the Department of Justice. Charles Miller, a spokesman for the Justice Department, said officials would have no immediate comment.

Peter Neufeld, co-founder of the Innocence Project, a New York-based legal advocacy group that specializes in overturning wrongful convictions, said the \$101.75 million award is the largest ever in a wrongful-conviction case.

Gertner awarded \$26 million to Limone, \$29 million to Salvati, \$13 million to Tameleo's estate and \$28 million to Greco's estate. The wives of Limone and Salvati and the estate of Tameleo's deceased wife each received slightly more than \$1 million. The men's 10 children were awarded \$250,000 each.

Limone and Salvati stared straight ahead as the judge announced her ruling, but a gasp was heard from the area where their friends and family were sitting when Gertner said how much the government would be forced to pay.

At the time of Deegan's slaying, Tameleo and Limone were reputed leaders of the New England mob, while Greco and Salvati had minor criminal records.

Deegan's murder had gone unsolved until the FBI recruited Barboza to testify against several organized crime figures. Barboza wanted to protect a fellow FBI informant, Vincent "Jimmy" Flemmi, who was involved in the Deegan slaying, and agreed to testify for state prosecutors in the case, plaintiff's lawyers said.

Tameleo died in prison in 1985 after serving 18 years. Greco died in prison in 1995 after serving 28 years.

Salvati was sentenced to life in prison as an accessory to murder. He was released from prison when his sentence was commuted in 1997, after serving a little more than 29 years. Limone served 33 years in prison before being freed in 2001.

Salvati and Limone were exonerated in 2001 after FBI memos dating back to the Deegan case surfaced during inquiries into the Boston FBI's relationship with gangsters and FBI informants Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, Vincent's brother, and James "Whitey" Bulger, who has been on the FBI's "10 Most Wanted" list for years.

Republican Rep. Dan Burton of Indiana, who chaired the House Government Reform Committee when it conducted an investigation of the FBI and its use of criminal informants, said he was gratified by the judge's ruling. "This was one of the biggest injustices that I have ever seen," Burton said.

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[Wrongly convicted man wins belated freedom](#)

The Boston Herald

January 6, 2001 Saturday

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Section: NEWS;

Length: 804 words

Byline: By J.M. LAWRENCE

Body

Again blackening the eye of the Boston FBI, a Superior Court judge allowed Peter Limone to walk out of court a free man yesterday after spending 33 years in prison for a murder he didn't commit.

"I'm just happy I still have my family," said Limone, 66, while hugging his grandsons. "Every day you look at it, and every day you know you're innocent, but you wait for this day."

Judge Margaret Hinkle overturned Limone's conviction in the 1965 murder of Edward "Teddy" Deegan and accepted a motion from Suffolk County prosecutors for a new trial based on old FBI reports discovered during a Justice Department internal probe into corruption.

"It is now time to move on," Hinkle announced to a courtroom packed with Limone's family and friends. "Mr. Limone's long wait is over."

The judge agreed to release Limone without bail.

Reports prepared in 1965 by FBI agent **H. Paul Rico** show the agency had an informant who said Limone and three other men sentenced to life in prison for Deegan's murder were innocent.

But the FBI never shared the information with defense attorneys nor with the prosecutor in the case, both sides have said.

"Today we are at the conclusion that justice may not have been done," Assistant Suffolk County District Attorney David Maier said.

In a quest to corral the Mob in New England, FBI agents apparently hid the evidence to protect their informants Vincent "Jimmy The Bear" Flemmi and hitman Joseph "The Animal" Barboza. The rogue agents let Barboza take the stand to frame his enemies as the only witness in the case.

Flemmi and Barboza, both of whom are now dead, actually took part in killing Deegan, a beefy low-level hoodlum set up and shot in a Chelsea alley simply because he annoyed them, according to Rico's informant.

Wrongly convicted man wins belated freedom

Flemmi's defense attorney, Joseph Balliro Sr., filed an affidavit saying his client confessed to the Deegan murder and maintained that Limone and three others charged were innocent.

Another defense attorney, Ronald J. Chisolm, told the Herald this week that his client, Ronald Cassesso, also admitted his part in Deegan's slaying and told Chisolm back in 1967 that the four were not guilty.

Yesterday, Limone called Rico "scum."

"He knows what he's done," said Limone, who had been convicted of running dice games as a young man.

Now a father of four and grandfather to eight, he admitted he is bitter after spending half of his life in prison, including four years in solitary confinement on death row before the commonwealth eliminated the death penalty in 1972.

"Of course you harbor bitterness," he said. "You have to, how can you not?"

Reading from the 1968 trial transcript, Hinkle recited some of Rico's testimony and called it "ironic."

Asked about the credibility of Barboza's statements, Rico told the court, "I am always concerned with the (truthfulness) of testimony on the part of any witness in any matter I'm involved with."

Rico is now retired and living in Florida.

The conduct of the FBI - which was headed by J. Edgar Hoover during the Deegan case - "tarnishes that agency," Hinkle said from the bench.

The Boston office of the FBI declined comment yesterday.

District Attorney Ralph C. Martin II's office won't attempt to retry Limone and will ask another judge next week to vacate the conviction of Joseph Salvati in the case, sources said.

Salvati's life sentence was commuted in 1997. Two other men who may have been innocent but received life sentences died in prison.

"It's a shame that Henry Tameleo and Louis Greco had to die in jail for nothing," Limone said yesterday.

Limone's attorney, John Cavicchi, who has spent 20 years on the case and argued for Limone and Greco's innocence three times before the Supreme Judicial Court, said the government had no regard for the men's constitutional rights and almost had them executed.

"This is one of those 'If we can't get somebody on what we know they did, we fabricate another case to get them.' That sounds to me like anarchy," he said.

Limone's wife of four decades, Olympia "Oly" Limone and his children greeted him at the family's small Medford home yesterday with Italian-style macaroni and cheese and a 30-year-old bottle of scotch.

Back on Christmas 1967, Limone gave the liquor to his sister Rose Balestieri before he went to prison. "I told him I'd open it when he came home," she said. "Today we opened it."

Photo Caption: HAPPY DAY: Peter Limone smiles and waves to family and friends at Middlesex Superior Court in Cambridge before winning his freedom. STAFF PHOTO BY TED FITZGERALD

Photo Caption: LONG-AWAITED REUNION: A 'happy' Peter Limone is surrounded by family members yesterday after Superior Court Judge Margaret Hinkle ordered him set free after spending 33 years in prison for a Mob murder he didn't commit. STAFF PHOTO BY TED FITZGERALD

Wrongly convicted man wins belated freedom

Load-Date: January 6, 2001

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[Wrongly convicted say FBI was at fault Compensation urged in closing arguments](#)

The Boston Globe

February 28, 2007 Wednesday

THIRD EDITION

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Section: METRO; Pg. B1

Length: 691 words

Byline: Shelley Murphy Globe Staff

Body

Lawyers for four men wrongly convicted of a 1965 gangland slaying argued yesterday that the FBI was squarely to blame for withholding critical evidence during their trial and urged a federal judge to order the government to compensate them for the decades they spent in prison.

"It was more important for the FBI to protect their informants than to protect innocent people who had families," said Victor Garo, one of the lawyers, during closing arguments in a civil suit seeking more than \$100 million in damages from the government on behalf of Joseph Salvati, Peter J. Limone, Henry Tameleo, Louis Greco, and their families. "Shame on our government for doing that."

The discovery of secret FBI files that were never turned over during the men's 1968 trial prompted a state judge six years ago to overturn the murder convictions of Limone, who had served 33 years in prison, and Salvati, who was paroled in 1997 after serving 30 years. Exoneration came too late for Greco, who died in prison in 1995 at age 78, and for Tameleo, who died a decade earlier at age 84.

Yesterday, a Justice Department lawyer argued that the FBI had no duty to share internal documents with state prosecutors and insisted the state was responsible for convicting the men in the slaying of Edward "Teddy" Deegan in Chelsea.

"The United States is not liable to plaintiffs because they were convicted as a result of a state prosecution," Bridget Bailey Lipscomb said. "The FBI did not initiate this prosecution, and there is no duty of the FBI to submit to state or local governments any of its internal files."

She said the FBI had shared some information about Deegan's death with local police.

Three members of Congress who were involved in a two-year investigation of the FBI's mishandling of informants and had condemned the government's handling of the Deegan case were in court yesterday for final arguments, including Dan Burton, an Indiana Republican who spearheaded the probe and formerly chaired the House

Wrongly convicted say FBI was at fault Compensation urged in closing arguments

Committee on Government Reform. Also present were William D. Delahunt, a Quincy Democrat, and Stephen F. Lynch, a South Boston Democrat.

Burton said he believes that all four men were wrongly convicted. "We want to make sure justice is served," he said.

US District Judge Nancy Gertner said she expects to rule by late March or early April on whether the government is liable and, if so, how much it should pay.

The judge challenged Lipscomb's effort to distance the federal government from the state prosecution, saying that state authorities had been unable to solve Deegan's slaying until FBI agents recruited hit man Joseph "The Animal" Barboza as a witness against local Mafia leaders and turned him over to state authorities.

Lipscomb said that the FBI was focusing on Barboza's testimony against Raymond L.S. Patriarca, then the New England Mafia boss, in a federal murder conspiracy case and that there was no evidence they "were even paying attention" to the Deegan case.

Lawyers for Salvati, Limone, Greco, and Tameleo ridiculed the government's assertion, saying that now-retired FBI agent Dennis Condon and his late partner, **H. Paul Rico**, were aware of internal FBI documents that indicated that Barboza had falsely implicated the four men, yet Condon took the stand during the 1968 trial to vouch for Barboza's credibility.

The FBI didn't disclose that agents listening in on an illegal bug had overheard Barboza and another Boston gangster and FBI informant, Vincent "Jimmy" Flemmi, seeking Patriarca's permission to kill Deegan several days before the March 12, 1965 slaying.

Juliane Balliro, a lawyer for the Limones and the Tameleos, accused Rico and Condon of engaging in "criminal, dishonest, and disgraceful conduct."

Michael Avery, a lawyer who also represents the Limones and the Tameleos, called the government's arguments frivolous.

"They were aware of [Barboza's] perjury, and they delivered him to the state knowing full well what he was going to do," he said.

On his way out of the courthouse, Salvati, 74, of the North End, said: "We waited 42 years, and we're still waiting. But we had our day in court. ... Now we just rely on the judge."

Graphic

US Representatives Stephen F. Lynch and William D. Delahunt greeted Peter J. Limone and his wife, Olly, before closing arguments yesterday. Limone served 33 years in prison before his conviction was overturned.

Load-Date: February 28, 2007



[Wrongly Jailed Man Gets Apology](#)

Associated Press Online

May 3, 2001; Thursday

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Section: Washington - general news

Length: 561 words

Byline: KEN MAGUIRE

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

A House panel investigating the shady relationship between the Boston FBI office and its mob informants apologized Thursday to a man who spent 30 years in prison for a murder he didn't commit.

Joseph Salvati was convicted of the 1965 murder of Edward "Teddy" Deegan in Chelsea, Mass., and remained in prison until his sentence was commuted in 1997. He and a co-defendant were exonerated this year.

AP-FBI-Informants ,0618

Members of the House Government Reform Committee told Salvati and his wife, Marie, there is no excuse for what the government did.

"I want to express to both of you how deeply sorry we are for everything that was taken away from you and everything you've had to go through the last 30 years," said committee chairman Dan Burton, R-Ind.

Salvati, 68, and Peter J. Limone, 66, were exonerated after a judge concluded that FBI agents hid evidence that would have proven their innocence. The FBI protected informants who helped them bring down top New England mobsters and manipulated testimony in their 1968 murder trial.

"This is a story that needs to be told," Salvati testified. "The government stole more than 30 years of my life."

The hearing included testimony from famed lawyer F. Lee Bailey and one of the two former FBI agents accused of hiding evidence that would have proven Salvati's innocence.

Bailey testified that he believes the FBI coached Joseph "The Animal" Barboza the prosecution's key witness on how to lie on the witness stand.

"He told me he had quite a bit of help," Bailey said of Barboza, who he briefly represented in 1970, when Barboza signed an affidavit recanting his story. "I believe the testimony was furnished."

Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Conn., told Salvati he was "profoundly sorry" for what happened.

Wrongly Jailed Man Gets Apology

There was no such regret, however, from former FBI Agent H. Paul Rico, who said Salvati's ordeal would "be a nice movie."

"Remorse for what? Would you like tears or something?" he said. "I believe the FBI handled it properly."

Rico, whose attorney advised him to invoke his Fifth Amendment rights, said he was not convinced of Salvati's innocence until hearing him testify Thursday.

Secret reports written by Rico showed informants told FBI agents of plans for the slaying before Deegan was killed and provided names of those involved. Salvati and Limone's names were not included and the reports were never made known to defense lawyers.

"I think you should be prosecuted," Shays told Rico. "I think you should be sent to jail."

The Salvati case is the first of several hearings the committee plans to hold as it investigates the FBI's use of informants.

Burton called for hearings after learning of the case and of federal indictments charging alleged mobsters James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi with about 20 murders and allegations that FBI agents covered up their crimes to protect their prized informants.

Bulger, 71, and Flemmi, 63, allegedly were allowed to conduct crimes, including murders, while informing FBI agents about rival mobsters over several decades. Flemmi is awaiting trial, and Bulger remains at large and is on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted list.

Ex-FBI agent John J. Connolly has been charged with racketeering and obstruction of justice for his handling of Bulger and Flemmi.

A Justice Department task force is currently investigating the Boston FBI office.

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Trouw

May 29, 2001

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Section: De verdieping; Pg. 13

Length: 1561 words

Byline: BERT VAN PANHUIS

Body

Als Louis Freeh, de directeur van de Amerikaanse FBI, volgende maand afscheid neemt, gebeurt dat met een receptie vol blunders en schandalen. De spionagezaak van agent Robert Philip Hanssen die in direct contact stond met de Russen en het 'verlies' van vierduizend pagina's bewijsmateriaal in de Timothy McVeigh-zaak hebben het blazen van de ooit onkreukbare dienst besmet.

Dan Burton, toch niet het meest bescheiden van Amerika's Congresleden, bood begin deze maand Joe Salvati zijn diepe verontschuldiging aan omdat deze door toedoen van de federale politie FBI meer dan dertig jaar onschuldig gevangen had gezeten. Oud-FBI-agent **H. Paul Rico**, die Salvati's vrijheid opofferde om een maffia-informant te beschermen, liet zich tijdens die hoorzitting van het Congres ook van een 'sympathieke' kant zien. De vraag of de zaak ook hem speet beantwoordde hij met: 'Spijt? Moet ik nu een nummertje gaan grienen?'

De tijd dat het imago van FBI-agenten niet stuk kon ligt alweer ver in het verleden. Zo ongeveer toen Elliot Ness met zijn Untouchables in de befaamde tv-serie de strijd aanbond met Chicago's gangsters. Niet alleen de beelden waren nog zwart-wit, ook het blazen van de spelers was dat. Maar sindsdien is de FBI van zijn voetstuk geknetterd, te beginnen met J. Edgar Hoover, ooit de gevreesde en gerespecteerde directeur van de dienst. Niet alleen lapt hij alle burgerrechten aan zijn laars, door iedereen te laten bespioneren die hij politiek en moreel verdacht vond. Hij was ook een schijnheilige fatsoensrakker, die jacht maakte op homo's, terwijl hij in het geniep gretig de herenliefde bedreef. Nadat onthuld was dat hij zijn korte gedrongen gestalte graag in een rode avondjurk hees en zich daarbij voortbewoog op pumps met stilettohakken, werd hij postuum Amerika's befaamde drag queen. En het beeld van de FBI komt nu overeen met de tv-serie The X-files, waarin de agenten Fox Mulder en Dana Scully het regelmatig moeten opnemen tegen collega's.

Minder vermakelijk is dat het aantal schandalen en blunders in de recente geschiedenis van de FBI onderhand te groot is om nog op een velletje A4 te passen. Een kleine bloemlezing. 1992: FBI-agenten schieten in Ruby Ridge, in de heuvels van de staat Idaho, de ongewapende vrouw van een militielid neer terwijl ze in de deuropening van haar boerderij staat met een baby op de arm. Die agenten verdonkeremanen bewijzen en kopen vervolgens de familie van Vicki Weaver af met acht miljoen gulden.

Zelfs excuses zijn niets meer waard ; Imago en slagzinnen zijn belangrijker dan uitgangspunten; 'Mijn weerzin geldt degenen die niets deden'; Imago

Een jaar later eindigt in het Texaanse Waco de bestorming van het kampement, waar David Koresh zich met zijn Branch Davidian-sekte heeft verschanst, in een ramp met 74 dode sekteleiden, onder wie Koresh en talrijke kinderen. De FBI wordt ervan beschuldigd brandbommen te hebben ingezet. Pas vele jaren later geeft de dienst dat toe.

Bij de Olympische Spelen van 1996 wordt Richard Jewell zonder spoor van bewijs voor de televisiecamera's aangewezen als de dader van de pijpbomaanslagen in het olympisch dorp in Atlanta. Het duurt drie maanden voor de FBI zijn fout toegeeft. Najaar 2000: 58 beschuldigingen tegen Wen Ho Lee, de kernfysicus die beschuldigd is van spionage voor China, moeten worden ingetrokken. Voor slechts een aanklacht wordt Lee veroordeeld tot de duur van zijn voorarrest.

Maar als Louis Freeh, de directeur van de federale politie, volgende maand afscheid neemt, gebeurt dat te midden van de twee grootste schandalen die de FBI onder zijn bewind heeft gehad: de spionage van Robert Philip Hanssen en het 'verlies' van vierduizend pagina's bewijsmateriaal in de Timothy

McVeigh-zaak. Freeh - een voormalige FBI-agent en rechter - geldt als onkreukbaar. Maar hij lijdt aan hetzelfde euvel waardoor de meesten van zijn voorgangers zijn gekarakteriseerd: hij is arrogant tot op het bot en niet bereid gezag boven zich te erkennen of het moet - in het geval van de orthodoxe rooms-katholiek Freeh - God zijn. Maar van Janet Reno, de Democratische minister van justitie die acht jaar zijn baas was, trok Freeh zich niets aan. Te stellen dat de twee elkaar niet lagen is heel zacht uitgedrukt.

Het McVeigh-fiasco kan, als de FBI al zijn behendigheid aanwendt, worden afgedaan als een technisch ongeluk. Minister John Ashcroft neemt daar al een voorschot op door vast te stellen dat de vierduizend pagina's geen vitale informatie bevatten, die een ander licht werpen op de schuld van McVeigh aan de bomaanslag in Oklahoma City. Freeh is al diep in het stof gegaan en erkent 'ernstige fouten', wat al heel wat is voor een FBI-directeur. Het geduld van het Congres met de FBI neemt zienderogen af. 'Er heerst daar een cowboy-mentaliteit', stelde enkele weken geleden de Republikeinse senator Charles Grassley vast. 'Imago, public relations en slagzinnen zijn kennelijk belangrijker dan uitgangspunten. Ik accepteer de excuses niet meer.' En zijn partijgenoot Arlen Specter deed er nog een schepje bovenop. 'Als er bewijzen komen van belemmering van de rechtsgang, dan moeten er maar mensen naar de gevangenis.'

Als over veertien dagen het doodvonnis over McVeigh is uitgevoerd, wacht de federale politie misschien nog wel een zwaardere pr-klus: de rechtszaak tegen spion Robert Hanssen, die tientallen jaren ongestoord zijn werk voor de Russen heeft kunnen doen en onder andere de tunnel onder de Russische ambassade in Washington heeft verraden. Deze week wordt hij voorgeleid voor een rechter in Alexandria, even buiten Washington DC. Hanssen, actief in de contraspionage, was de ideale spion: goed katholiek en onberispelijk in zijn levenswandel. Zijn vriendenkring is, drie maanden na de ontmaskering, nog aan het bijkomen van de schok. Deze vent heeft de bijna perfecte misdaad begaan, heeft een van de onderzoekers vastgesteld.

Het was in ieder geval een spionage-affaire uit een tv-script, getuige een van de 21 aanklachten, die als volgt begon: In 1986 verscheen in de ultra-rechtse krant The Washington Times de volgende verkoopannonce: Dodge - 71, Diplomat, motorproblemen, 1000 dollar. Bel: (703) 451-9780 (komende maandag, woensdag, vrijdag, 1 uur 's middags). Hanssen belde en sprak met een KGB-agent die hem vertelde dat een pakketje met geld en een brief in een park even buiten Washington lag. Over een periode van 15 jaar heeft de spion geld en diamanten ter waarde van 3,5 miljoen gulden ontvangen. En waar zijn die gebleven? Want de Hanssens bleven sober leven. Er is wat naar een Zwitserse bankrekening gegaan. En Robert Hanssen heeft een deel besteed aan een nachtclubstripper in DC, die van hem een creditcard en een tweedehands Mercedes kreeg. Bewijs van een seksuele relatie is er echter nog steeds niet. Het heet dat er tijdens de rechtszaak de nodige vuile was over de FBI naar buiten komt, net als jaren geleden de zaak tegen Aldrich Ames de CIA, de Amerikaanse inlichtingendienst, enorm schaadde.

De grootste smet op het blazoën van de FBI is misschien wel het achterhouden, in de jaren zeventig, van bewijsmateriaal na de bomaanslag van 1963 op de 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham (Alabama). Vier zwarte kinderen kwamen om het leven. Drie leden van de Ku Klux Klan werden aangehouden voor de aanslag.

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Slechts tegen een van hen wist de openbare aanklager van toen, Bill Baxley, voldoende bewijzen te overleggen om hem veroordeeld te krijgen. Een tweede werd, na 38 jaar de dans te zijn ontsprongen, begin deze maand alsnog veroordeeld.

In een bitter artikel op de opiniepagina van de New York Times onthult Baxley hoe hij jarenlang de FBI heeft gesmeekt om bewijzen tegen de drie verdachten. Pas nadat gedreigd werd met de media kwam de dienst over de brug. In 1997 bleek de FBI te beschikken over een bandopname, waarop twee van de drie verklaringen afleggen, waarvoor ze in 1977 zouden zijn veroordeeld. Welk excuus heeft de FBI om 24 jaar lang de Ku Klux Klan de hand boven het hoofd te houden, vraagt Baxley zich af. Hij prijst de gewone FBI-agenten, die loyaal hebben meegewerkt aan het onderzoek. 'Mijn weerzin geldt degenen in de leiding die niets deden.'

Namen noemen doet hij niet. Maar DeWayne Wickham, een columnist van USA Today doet dat wel. Hij memoreert hoe al in 1980 Hoover ervan is beschuldigd het Birmingham-dossier te hebben verdonkeremaand en pleit ervoor diens naam van het FBI-gebouw te halen. Welke maatregelen de Amerikaanse regering ook zal treffen om het beeld van de federale politie op te poetsen, die naam blijft wel aan de gevel prijken. Want toegeven dat de FBI 48 jaar is geleid door een racist, een hypocriet en een schurk, daar is de Amerikaanse samenleving nog niet aan toe.

Dat de FBI zijn reputatie van degelijkheid niet meer kan waarmaken is geen vaststelling van recente datum. Bijna veertig jaar geleden, toen Hoover nog een godheid was in Amerikaanse overheidskring, schreef de linkse onderzoeksjournalist Fred J. Cook 'The FBI Nobody Knows' (De FBI die niemand kent). Hij onthult tal van gevallen, waarin de politie de rechten van Amerikaanse burgers aan haar laars lapt om maar te scoren. 'De druk om bekentenissen te krijgen leidt tot activiteiten die geen boodschap hebben aan privacy, burgerrechten en mensenrechten', stelt Cook vast. Er lijkt sinds 1964, toen hij dat schreef, weinig te zijn veranderd.

Waco 1993: Bij de bestorming van het kampement van David Koresh komen 74 sekteleiden om. Pas vele jaren later geeft de FBI toe brandbommen te hebben ingezet.

FOTO ABC

Politie ; Politiek en Staat ; Openbaar Bestuur

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