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## Documents (500)

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**Search Terms:** "h. paul rico"

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**Content Type**

news

**Narrowed by**

-None-

1. Ralph Ranalli discusses the life and death of H. Paul Rico, a former FBI agent who became mixed up with mobsters
2. Alcee Hastings scandal proves H. Paul Rico a gifted gangster
3. Ex-Boston FBI agent charged in 1981 killing;H. Paul Rico's arrest may widen a scandal overthe local agency's ties to its informants in the mob.
4. Ex-Agent Dies in Prison;H. Paul Rico was accused in murder of Okla. businessman
5. H. Paul Rico, 1926-2004
6. Agent of evil traded in treachery, death
7. Blood stains on Rico hands are years old
8. Old man Rico is led away . . . maybe for good
9. Alcee Hastings: A remarkable life;Alcee Hastings trial: Money, the mob and the FBI
10. Death cheats justice; Ex-Hub G-man Rico, 78, dies before Okla. murder trial begins

11. 'Country' cop finally nets slippery FBI fish
12. Rico testimony chilling even by Mob standards
13. A G-man godfather suffers - with good reason
14. AT 78, RICO DIES UNDER GUARD; Former G-man was to be tried for murder
15. Federal agent's acts of treachery go way back
16. Bureau lands on disgraced G-man
17. NIGHTLINE WRONGLY ACCUSED
18. FORMER FBI AGENT ARRESTED
19. he paid for fbi's mistake;Limone spent 33 years in prison for murder he didn't commit
20. Joseph Salvati Discusses Serving 30 Years for Wrongful Murder Conviction
21. Mobster's life tells real story of the FBI
22. Mueller's FBI still mired in Hoover secrets
23. Simple revenge only motive for Salemme
24. How Whitey Bulger Bought Boston
25. How Whitey Bulger Bought Boston
26. Feds betray Bennett family once again
27. Frank-ly speaking, ex-don helped more than UMass prez
28. AGENT DIED ON OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW

29. And after it all, an aging mafioso finds 'redemption'
30. Blind devotion to Hoover was the bile in Deep Throat
31. Dad's execution mystery no more to anxious son
32. FLEMMI DEAL SPURS ARREST OF EX-AGENT GANGSTER LINKS RICO, FORMER FBI MEMBER, TO '81 SLAYING
33. FLEMMO SINGS TO SAVE HIS LIFE; Rats out FBI agent, admits to murders
34. Foley mess just another Gay State-linked scandal
35. FORMER AGENT OF FBI HELD IN MOB KILLING
36. Rico's daughter asks for investigation into her father's death in jail
37. Roy gets his Christmas gift of freedom
38. The truth sets Cadillac Frank free - at last
39. U.S. Lets \$101 Million Verdict Stand For FBI Frame in Mob Slaying Case
40. Bureau's dirty star founded original trenchcoat mafia
41. Ex-Agent Charged In 1981 Mob Hit
42. EX-FBI AGENT ACCUSED IN KILLING;WORKED IN TROUBLED BOSTON OFFICE
43. Ex-FBI agent: Flemmi only gave 'weak' info
44. FBI blasted - Judge rips 'cover-up' culture at Flemmi's sentencing
45. LATEST SCANDAL FURTHER SULLIES FBI REPUTATION
46. MANY SQUIRM AS FLEMMI MAKES DEAL

47. Mob survivor can tell where true evil lies
48. Across the Nation
49. ADRIAN WALKER;SNAGGED BY THE PAST
50. ANALYSIS; Hit man says Connolly helped protect mob
51. Arnold Markowitz reported from Miami. Material from the Associated Press was also used in this report.;JUDGE POSTPONES EX-AGENT'S EXTRADITION HEARING
52. ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
53. Attorney of former FBI agent seeking competency determination
54. Boston FBI chief angry at being left out of loop
55. BOSTON GANGSTER FINGERS FBI AGENT IN PLEA BARGAIN;FLEMMI PLEADS GUILTY IN 10 MURDERS
56. Brothers' murders lost in legal shuffle
57. Cops say ex-agent had role in Okla. murder
58. Defendant in mob slaying dies; The ex-FBI agent had been extradited to Tulsa for trial, then sent to hospital.
59. Defendant in mob slaying dies; The ex-FBI agent had been extradited to Tulsa for trial, then sent to hospital.
60. Editorial; A death penalty benefit
61. Editorial; Letters to the Editor
62. Ex-agent arrested in killing;22 years after the death of a Tulsa businessman, an ex-mob informant handler for the FBI is arrested in his death.

63. Ex-agent says he didn't promise immunity;But Flemmi lawyer challenges credibility
64. Ex-FBI agent arrested in killing
65. EX-FBI AGENT SET UP AMBUSH, HIT MAN SAYS
66. Ex-FBI agent sheds no tear in Salvati case
67. Ex-FBI agents plead for bail for Rico
68. Ex-FBI man to testify at Mob trial
69. FBI agent denies framing innocent man
70. FBI denies hiding evidence in Deegan murder case
71. Feds pay the price for botched mob job
72. Globe correspondent Arnold Markowitz contributed to this report.;FLEMMI DEAL MIGHT YIELD OTHER LEADS
73. Globe correspondent Arnold Markowitz contributed to this report.;FORMER FBI AGENT RICO DIES IN HOSPITAL HAD PLEADED NOT GUILTY IN BUSINESSMAN'S SLAYING
74. Illness postpones ex-agent's hearing
75. Illness postpones ex-agent's hearing
76. Investigators call on 'ailing' ex-FBI agent
77. Jury listens to tapped phone conversation
78. lobe staff reporter Shelley Murphy and Globe correspondent Arnold Markowitz assisted with this report.;BREAK SEEN IN FIGHT ON CORRUPTION
79. Mental evaluation requested for suspect in 1981 mob case;Former FBI agent accused in Roger Wheeler's death

80. Murder rap just the latest in FBI corruption; Arrest of former agent follows string of scandals involving bribes and cozy mob ties
81. New charges sought in mob hit; Tulsa killing part of House hearings on FBI misconduct
82. Paper trail shows Al's ethical compass off base
83. Probe targets ex-fed who dogged Mob
84. Retired FBI agent charged with aiding 1981 mob killing
85. Retired FBI man refuses to testify
86. Rico competency hearing application stirs venue fight
87. Rico daughter requests investigation of his death
88. RICO'S PRIZE RAT TURNS AND BITES HIM
89. 'RIFLEMAN': AGENT RICO AND STEVIE LIKE BLOOD BROTHERS; FBI always had a place for the thug
90. Rifleman isn't likely to pull trigger on pals
91. So many questions for Flemmi
92. Stricken Rico faces murder charge in Oklahoma
93. Suspect FBI should let marshals hit trail for Whitey
94. THE FBI'S 'ANIMAL'; INFORMANT'S VIOLENT CAREER REVISITED IN CONGRESSIONAL PROBE
95. The Last Word for June 23, 2011
96. Wanted poster lays bare some interesting details

97. Wheeler family praises Rico arrest

98. Wheeler murder suspect attacked

99. Young Whitey a Hub hustler

100. PREPARED TESTIMONY OF CHAIRMAN DAN BURTON BEFORE THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT REFORM COMMITTEE NATIONAL SECURITY, VETERAN'S AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE SUBJECT - THE FBI'S CONTROVERSIAL HANDLING OF ORGANIZED CRIME INVESTIGATIONS IN BOSTON.

101. TESTIMONY THE FBI'S CONTROVERSIAL HANDLING OF ORGANIZED CRIME INVESTIGATIONS IN BOSTON: THE CASE OF JOSEPH SALVATI

102. Give Me Secrecy & Give Me Death: An Interview with Lincoln's Bible

103. Low-profile prosecutor leads high-profile hunt|John Durham of Connecticut digs into origin of Trump collusion claims

104. In 'City on a Hill,' a Crime-Ridden Boston Before the 'Miracle'

105. The Beginning of a Beautiful Relationship

106. Billy's turn to squirm should wring a surprise or two

107. FINISHING TOUCHES;

108. Kin demans 'justice' on Mob hit; Limone family plans to pack courtroom for new hearing

109. The Story of Joe Salvati

110. DEATH OF A KILLER;Sources: Authorities suspect mob is responsible for Bulger's demise

111. Sources: Bulger Beaten, KilledAuthorities Suspect New England Mobcrime boss

112. BAD MEMORY LANE;Flemmi fails to recognize cohort at mob trial
113. ig report shows feds are bent and broken
114. McCabe earned Trump tweet;All-caps message justified by misconduct
115. rampant corruption the norm in fbi;Strzok scandal nothing new
116. rampant corruption the norm in fbi;Strzok scandal nothing new
117. 'Rifleman,' 'Cadillac Frank' face off;Ex-mobster testifies against another one
118. Smearing Robert Mueller;Op-Ed Contributor
119. So corrupt, I'm dumb-Strzok!;Dems do their part to cover their own in hearing
120. This is your sad FBI, now and forever;Corruption, incompetence hallmark of G-men
121. Who can explain?;Genduso's past should have kept her off state police force
122. Hill, FBI colluded to ambush Trump
123. Hill, FBI colluded to ambush TrumpHill, FBI colluded to ambush Trump
124. Prosecution of FBI agents rarely happens
125. scandal-ridden fbi must be abolished;'Secret Society' is one controversy too far to tolerate
126. finally, it's quittin' time for d.c. hacks!
127. finally, it's quittin' time for d.c. hacks!
128. Arrest escalates FBI mafia scandal Boston FBI mafia scandal escalates
129. Bad goes to worse in FBI informant scandal



130. Bad goes to worse in FBI informant scandal
131. Bad goes to worse in FBI informant scandal
132. Bad goes to worse in FBI informant scandal
133. Bad goes to worse in FBI informant scandal
134. Boston FBI informant scandal gets worse
135. Corruption connection eventually reaches Hub
136. DID THE FBI HINDER THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE 1980S JAI ALAI KILLINGS?;A TALE OF MURDER AND FRUSTRATION
137. DID THE FBI HINDER THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE 1980S JAI ALAI KILLINGS?;A TALE OF MURDER AND FRUSTRATION
138. EX-AGENT IMPLICATED IN '60S GANG SLAYING TESTIMONY TIES RICO TO AMBUSH
139. EX-AGENT: INFORMANT EXPECTED HIS DEATH;MURDERS RELATED TO JAI ALAI CENTRAL TO PROSECUTION'S CASE;BULGER TRIAL
140. Ex-Agent in Mob Slaying to Be Extradited
141. Ex-agent Rico to be sent to state
142. Ex-agent to face charges in state
143. Ex-FBI Agent Accused of Murder Conspiracy
144. EX-FBI AGENT CHARGED IN MOB HIT ON EXECUTIVE
145. Ex-FBI agent charged in Oklahoma with mob slaying to be extradited from Florida
146. Ex-FBI agent charged with mob slaying to be extradited

147. FBI LET IRISH MOB GET AWAY WITH MURDER; HUNT FOR ROGUE AGENTS
148. FBI LET IRISH MOB GET AWAY WITH MURDER; Hunt for rogue agents;News
149. Feds close in on ex-agent
150. Flemmi's singing must make Zip squirm in his cell
151. Hastings: Didn't Sell Light Penalties For Bribe
152. Hidden truth; Hoover's FBI may have suppressed info on Mob hit
153. JUDGE FREES MAN IN '60S MOB CASE
154. No Headline In Original
155. President Bush Warns Energy Supplies Running Low; Man Wrongly Imprisoned for 30 Years Testifies Before Congress
156. Rico won't challenge extradition
157. Shed no tears for mob's fed who took Fifth
158. Take it from framed man: 'FBI has a license to kill'
159. Take it from framed man: 'FBI has a license to kill'
160. TESTIMONY CENTERS ON JAI ALAI MURDERS; HIT MAN: DEFENDANT PRESSURED HIM TO KILL; BULGER TRIAL
161. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS DAVIS (R-VA) HOLDS HEARING ON CONTINUING INVESTIGATIONS OF THE USE OF INFORMANTS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
162. Victim's mother: 'I want him to suffer'
163. Weeks: Whitey drove 'hit car'

164. Wheeler case suspect Rico dies
165. Wheeler murder charges are filed
166. Whitey passed test - Memo says crime boss acted like loyal federal agent
167. Whitey: United States Of America v. James J. Bulger
168. Whitey: United States Of America v. James J. Bulger
169. Wrongfully Imprisoned Man Blames FBI
170. 1st Circuit restores one lawsuit against the FBI, dismisses another
171. 2 FORMER FBI AGENTS SUBPOENAED BY PANEL QUESTIONS' FOCUS IS '65 SLAY PROBE
172. 2 held in kidnapping of senator's wife
173. 2 reputed Boston mobsters charged in 1980s murders
174. 3 CHARGED IN MURDERS OF JAI ALAI EXECS
175. \$ 50M suit targets Whitey, eight agents
176. \$100 MILLION VINDICATION
177. \$100M wrongful conviction ruling appealed by feds
178. \$101M WIN, BUT JUSTICE PRICELESS
179. \$102 million awarded to men for wrongful convictions
180. \$102 million judgment for 4 men FBI framed

181. \$ 375M lawsuit filed vs. FBI
182. Accusation vs. FBI over Teamsters being eyed
183. Accused FBI agent dies in Tulsa hospital
184. Accused FBI agent had storied career
185. A CRIME GANG'S WEB IS UNRAVELING;MURDERER IS NAMING NAMES, INCLUDING RICO'S, AS PART OF DEAL TO AVOID DEATH PENALTY
186. Across the Nation
187. Across the Nation
188. ADVANCE BETTING OFF FOR SUPER SIX
189. A front row seat on Whitey Bulger trial
190. Agent Says Lawyer Promised Reduced Sentence for Cash
191. Alleged mob victim's family sues FBI over his murder
192. ANALYSIS; Staggering judgment clear warning to law enforcement
193. ANALYSIS; Weeks could sing swan song for Whitey
194. AN APPEAL TO BEGIN IN SUITS ON INFORMANTS US ARGUES FAMILIES BROUGHT CLAIMS LATE
195. Animal, Bear lucky to have FBI as keepers
196. Another day in court; DA to seek new trials for convicts in Mob hit
197. Answers for energy crisis
198. AROUND MIAMI-DADE

199. AP Massachusetts News in Brief
200. AP Massachusetts News in Brief
201. AP Massachusetts News in Brief
202. AP Massachusetts News In Brief
203. APOLOGY ISSUED BY PANEL;MAN WAS WRONGLY JAILED FOR 30 YEARS
204. Appeals court hears arguments in suits against FBI
205. Appeals court restores lawsuit against FBI, dismisses another
206. Appeals Court Rules Federal Judge Can Be Tried on Bribery Charges
207. AROUND MIAMI-DADE
208. AROUND MIAMI-DADE
209. AROUND SOUTH FLORIDA
210. Arrested ...
211. ARRESTED ADMINISTRATOR SWEARS OFF PUBLIC SECTOR
212. Arrest of Bulger is good news in Tulsa
213. Arrest of ex-agent in FBI was result of a lawman's diligence;A Closer Look The Boston Underworld
214. A self-portrait of thuggery by the numbers
215. A SPECIAL SALUTE . . .

216. At Bulger Trial, Finally A Glimpse At Defense Strategy
217. A terrifying round of Russian roulette; Drug smuggler recalls deadly duress
218. AT THE BAR; FBI comment is worst PR imaginable
219. Attorney: Ex World Jai Alai security chief is now 'helpless'
220. Attorney: FBI set up client in '65 murder
221. Attorney: Rico "helpless" without assistance
222. Attorney says criminal evidence should become part of civil case
223. Attorney Says Rico 'Helpless' Without Aid
224. Attorney says Rico "helpless" without assistance, asks for hearing on medical release
225. Attorneys may waive test of ex-agent's competency
226. AT WHAT PRICE THE FBI'S TREACHERY?; 4 families abused by feds await justice
227. Author delves into Whitey Bulger, Roger Wheeler parallels
228. Authorities investigating FBI agents' links to unsolved murders
229. Authorities release voice recording of fugitive
230. A year after mobster's capture, little has changed
231. Backers: Cut Connolly slack
232. Bad fella
233. BAD GUYS VS. GOOD GUYS ISN'T BLACK-AND-WHITE AFFAIR

234. Bennett kin continue to wait, endure
235. Billy won't talk; Congress panel seeks testimony on Whitey
236. Billy won't talk; Congress panel seeks testimony on Whitey
237. BOSTON FEDERAL JUDGE TO TESTIFY IN PROBE OF FBI
238. Boston gangster coming to Tulsa courtroom
239. Boston gangster cuts deal in 10 killings
240. Boston gangster on stand in ex-FBI agent's trial
241. Boston gangster sentenced to life in prison
242. Boston gangster sentenced to life in prison in slaying of businessman in Tulsa, Okla.
243. BOSTON MAN SUES THE U.S. FOR WRONGFUL IMPRISONMENT
244. Boston mobster admits having a role in killings;FBI informant Stephen Flemmi pleaded guilty to racketeering counts involving 10 slayings.
245. Boston mobster Flemmi pleads guilty to racketeering
246. Boston mobster Flemmi pleads guilty to racketeering in plea bargain
247. Boston mobster Flemmi pleads guilty to racketeering in plea bargain
248. Boston mobster Flemmi to plead guilty in plea bargain, law enforcement official says
249. Boston mobster Flemmi to plead guilty in plea bargain, law enforcement official says
250. Boston Mobster Gets Life for 1982 Murder

251. Boston Mobster Gets Life for 1982 Murder
252. Boston mobster gets life for 1982 murder of Miami jai alai exec
253. Boston mobster gets life for 1982 murder of Miami jai alai exec
254. Boston mobster gets life for 1982 murder of Miami jai alai exec
255. Boston mobster gets life for 1982 murder of Miami jai alai exec
256. Boston mobster gets life for 1982 murder of Miami jai alai exec
257. Boston mobster gets life term in slaying
258. Boston mobster pleads guilty to racketeering in plea bargain
259. Boston mobster pleads guilty to racketeering in plea bargain
260. Boston mobster pleads guilty to racketeering in plea bargain
261. Boston Mobster Pleads Guilty Under Deal
262. BRIAN MCGRORY;FOR FEDS, IT'S ALL HARD TIME
263. BRIEFLY
264. BRIEFLY NATION
265. Briefs
266. Briefs
267. Briefs: Bryant's prosecutors want closed testimonyStudy finds cancer, tanning salons link/Mob informant pleads guilty in plea bargain/Bombing trial pace angers Nichols judge



268. Briefs: Suspects in senator's wife kidnapping found Court blocks execution, will review appeal/Former FBI agent charged with murder/More arrests in beating of disabled black man/Garbage collectors agree to end strike/RDA fights terrorism with food registration

269. BROTHERS' KIN SAYS US FAILED TO STOP SLAYINGS BENNETT FAMILY SUES, ALLEGES FBI KNEW OF MURDERS

270. Brothers who were kings of corruption in Boston

271. BULGER AND THE KID; Cemetery photos unearth another Whitey puzzle

272. Bulger case a mixed bag for FBI

273. Bulger companion admits helping him evade arrest

274. Bulger ex-enforcer grilled about varying stories

275. Bulger ex-partner grilled about woman's slaying

276. Bulger, Flemmi would not take polygraphs; Informants' role in murders questioned

277. Bulger frequented Boston

278. Bulger 'future crimes' immunity rejected

279. Bulger guilty

280. Bulger had immunity, lawyer says

281. Bulger says he'll go to House hearing; Judge rejects bid for 2001 transcripts

282. Bulger's longtime girlfriend gets 8-year prison sentence

283. Bulger under fire as source says;; Billy talked with Whitey

284. Bulger under fire as source says: Billy talked with Whitey

285. BURTON, JUSTICE DEPARTMENT REACH AGREEMENT ON BOSTON FBI DOCUMENTS
286. BURTON THREATENS BUSH WITH CONTEMPT OVER BOSTON FBI DOCUMENTS
287. BURTON THREATENS BUSH WITH CONTEMPT OVER BOSTON FBI DOCUMENTS
288. Cadillac yaks; Mob boss Salemme talking to feds; Mob boss talking to feds about FBI duo, informants
289. CANARY FRANK: FLEMMI, WHITEY WORTH MILLIONS
290. Capital charges filed against reputed Boston mob figures
291. Capital murder charges filed against reputed Boston mob figures
292. Capturan a conocido jefe Mafioso con crímenes en Miami
293. CASE OF FATAL TIP;MURDER AND THE MOB;A 1982 SLAYING IN MIAMI FRUSTRATED INVESTIGATIONS INTO JAI ALAI AND ITS TIES TO ORGANIZED CRIME. THIS WEEK, A DECORATED FORMER FBI AGENT GOES ON TRIAL IN THAT KILLING. AMONG THE MAIN WITNESSES: GANGSTERS TIED TO A NEW ENGLAND GANG.
294. Cash-Filled Garment Bag Could Cost Federal Judge His Black Robe
295. Character Witnesses Take the Stand
296. Charged Ex-FBI Agent to Fight Extradition
297. Charges may be filed in 1982 Miami jai alai murder
298. Church scandal, gay marriage top stories in 2002
299. CINTAS NO INCRIMINAN A HASTINGS
300. CITY INCREASES SIZE BY 4 SQUARE MILES

301. CJP building mentioned at Bulger trial
302. CJP building mentioned at Bulger trial
303. Claims of jail assault on ex-FBI agent checked
304. COAST GUARD VESSEL BRINGS IN 5 TONS OF DRUGS
305. Committee Details F.B.I.'s Reliance on Killers
306. Competency hearing set for ex-FBI agent in World Jai Alai killing
307. Congress calls ex-agents in FBI crime probe
308. Congress demands records on Mob probes
309. Congress digs deeper in feds' ties to Barboza
310. Congress Grills Freeh Over McVeigh Documents.
311. CONGRESS HEARS A SORDID FBI TALE
312. Congressmen say ex-agent cooperated in FBI probe
313. Congress rejects immunity for FBI agent
314. CONNOLLY CHARGED IN '82 SLAYINGFLA. CASE LINKS EX-FBI AGENT TO GANGLAND DEATH OF FINANCIER
315. Connolly had a badge, but Whitey was his real boss
316. Connolly's autobiography rates as Hollywood make-believe
317. Connolly's trial to start dark trip
318. CONVICT MAY GET MURDER HEARING JUDGE MULLS FACTS IN MAFIA SLAYING

319. COP-KILLER APOLOGIZES AS PART OF PLEA DEAL
320. COURT FREES LIMONE AFTER 33 YEARS IN PRISON
321. Court hears Wheeler family appeal of lawsuit against FBI
322. Cowboy Whitey must be having a gay old time
323. Cozy relationship of FBI, mobsters threatens court case Judge's decision could mean others will get out of jail jail jail
324. Cozy relationship of FBI, mobsters threatens New England racketeering cases
325. Cozy relationship of FBI, mobsters threatens racketeering cases
326. Crime:FBI Chastised for New England Mob Links; Other Developments
327. Crime:FBI Chastised for New England Mob Links; Other Developments
328. Crime;News in Brief
329. Curiously charming Salemme possessed odd kind of honor
330. DA, law officers in feud
331. DA says he needed Flemmi to go after ex-FBI agent in Tulsa murder
332. DA stands pat on prosecution
333. Dead end? Feds search for Whitey's body on Cape beach
334. Deal that secured Martorano's testimony is defended
335. Death, deceit, then decades of silence

336. DEATH OF EX-FBI AGENT RICO STUNS OKLA. CITY
337. Dec. 25-Jan. 1, and thereafter; Church scandal, gay marriage top stories in 2002
338. Defendant taken to hospital
339. Defendant taken to hospital
340. Defense blasts Bulger's accuser;Attacks credibility; defendant is called shooter in '75 death
341. DEFENSE GIVES GLIMPSE AT STRATEGY;MOBSTER'S LAWYERS ATTEMPT TO DISCREDIT WITNESSES BY POINTING TO HISTORY OF POLICE CORRUPTION;BULGER TRIAL
342. Delahunt sits in on hearings
343. Design rules for lockups ridiculous
344. DESPITE FLEMMI'S SENTENCING, MOB CASE FAR FROM OVER
345. DETECTIVE: JAI ALAI SLAYING INVESTIGATION STILL ACTIVE;EX-FBI AGENT IS A TARGET OF PROBE, OFFICER TELLS CONGRESSIONAL PANEL
346. DETECTIVE'S DOGGED PURSUIT LEADS TO ARREST AFTER 22 YEARS
347. Detective spends 22 years on trail of killerSuspect in slaying of businessman is retired FBI agent
348. Did FBI get help 'flipping' Mob killer Barboza?
349. DID HASTINGS LIE AT HIS BRIBERY TRIAL? 14 JUDGES SAY YES, EMBATTLED JURIST SAYS NO
350. DIGEST
351. Digging in; Committee subpoenas Hub FBI office memos
352. DINNER'S ON HOUSE AT MIAMI JAI-ALAI FOR NON-DRINKERS

353. Dismissal in Wheeler suit upheld
354. Disorders of the justice system
355. Dogged detective's 22-year hunt leads to ex-FBI agent
356. Dogged detective's 22-year hunt leads to ex-FBI agent
357. DOJ Appeals \$100M Wrong Conviction Order
358. DOJ Argues FBI Had No Duty to Disclose Evidence of Perjury
359. Dukakis testifies he was urged to reject clemency for Limone
360. Editorial; Setting right the wrongs
361. Editorial; Airing FBI's dirty laundry
362. Editorial; FBI's skeletons rattling
363. Editorial; Mobster math: 20 bodies, 14 years
364. Editorial; Same old, same old at FBI
365. Editorial; Who should be judged?
366. Et cetera
367. Ex-agent accused of lying for Bulger;Fitzpatrick said he was whistle-blower
368. Ex-Agent Appears by Video at Arraignment
369. Ex-agent denies tipping off Flemmi
370. Ex-agent gets 10 years

371. Ex-agent may feel void on Whitey's 7th anniversary
372. Ex-agent must get jail care
373. EX-AGENT OF FBI ARRESTED IN MOB HIT
374. Ex-agent retraces gang war;Tells how FBI cultivated mob pair in violent '60s
375. Ex-agent's arrest in mob hit damages FBI's image
376. EX-AGENTS IMPLICATED IN JAI ALAI SLAYINGS
377. Ex-agent tells panel jailed man is innocent
378. Ex-agent will fight extradition
379. Ex-Boston FBI Agent Held in Mob Slaying
380. Executive mob ties led to demise in car trunk
381. Ex-FBI agent accused in mob hit dead at 78
382. Ex-FBI agent accused of helping mob dies
383. Ex-FBI agent accused of murder withdraws competency request
384. Ex-FBI agent accused of setting up hit
385. Ex-FBI agent arrested in 1981 mob murder
386. Ex-FBI agent charged in 1981 murder
387. EX-FBI AGENT CHARGED IN MOB HIT
388. Ex-FBI agent charged in mob slaying assaulted in Miami jail

389. Ex-FBI agent charged with mob slaying will fight extradition
390. Ex-FBI agent charged with mob slaying will fight extradition
391. Ex-FBI agent dies in custody; Man was accused of aiding a mob hit
392. Ex-FBI agent eyed in '81 murder
393. Ex-FBI Agent Faces Charges in Mob Hit
394. Ex-FBI agent found competent for trial; Release from jail urged for medical treatment.
395. Ex-FBI agent guilty in mob hit
396. Ex-FBI agent injured in jail assault
397. Ex-FBI agent in Tulsa to face murder counts
398. Ex-FBI agent is arraigned in slaying
399. Ex-F.B.I. Agent Is Charged In a 1981 Gangland Killing
400. EX-FBI AGENT IS CHARGED IN A 1981 GANGLAND KILLING
401. Ex-FBI agent needs aid, attorney says
402. Ex-FBI agent Rico to fight his extradition
403. Ex-FBI agent ruled competent to stand trial in mob murder
404. Ex-FBI agents, attorney Bailey to testify
405. Ex-FBI agent's illness delays extradition hearing



406. EX-FBI AGENT TIED TO SLAYING;D.A. PRESSED TO ACT IN 1981 JAI ALAI CASE
407. Ex-FBI man Rico may be named in mob hit
408. Ex-FBI snitch to be questioned on con charges
409. Ex-hit man: Bulger's aid to FBI a heartbreaker
410. Ex-Hub FBI agent seeking immunity - Reps want Rico's testimony
411. Ex-mobster sentenced to 6-year term
412. Ex-Mobster Who Ratted on Boss Sentenced
413. Ex-mobster who ratted on boss 'Whitey' Bulger sentenced to six years, mostly time served
414. Ex-mobster who ratted on boss 'Whitey' Bulger sentenced to six years, mostly time served
415. Ex-mobster who ratted on boss 'Whitey' Bulger sentenced to six years, mostly time served
416. Ex-prosecutor apologizes to Salvati, Limone
417. Ex-Prosecutor Tells of Ties Between F.B.I. and Mob
418. Extradition hearing of former agent charged in murder postponed
419. Extradition hearing of former agent charged in murder postponed
420. Extradition hearing postponed
421. Extradition hearing postponed; New request for medical care
422. Extradition hearing postponed; New request on medical care

423. Ex-wife recounts plight of wrongfully imprisoned man
424. Faith in FBI is real fugitive in Whitey case
425. Families of hit man's victims to testify at sentencing
426. Family member of Bulger's Tulsa victim speaks out
427. FAMILY OF SLAIN MAN TO SUE US FOR \$50M
428. Fate of ex-FBI agent tied to mob is in jury's hands
429. FBI admits questioning Bulger's sex preference
430. FBI agent denies framing innocent man
431. FBI agent doesn't apologize to wrongfully convicted man: Emotional testimony during hearings on FBI informants
432. FBI agents aided mob informants, Mafia boss says
433. FBI Agent Says Authorities Believed Hastings Would Get Money
434. FBI AGENTS FACE SCRUTINY BY PROSECUTOR;QUESTIONS OF OBSTRUCTION IN JAI ALAI MURDER CASES
435. FBI AGENTS FACE SCRUTINY BY PROSECUTOR;QUESTIONS OF OBSTRUCTION IN JAI ALAI MURDER CASES
436. FBI agents helped Mob hit man avoid death penalty
437. FBI AGENTS WONDER WHO'S NEXT IN PROBE
438. FBI aided killer - Hub FBI men helped Mob hit man escape death row
439. FBI arrests James 'Whitey' Bulger, Boston mobster facing Miami-Dade murder charge;THE ARREST OF JAMES 'WHITEY' BULGER

440. FBI Blamed for Tulsa Probe Snag; Mob Quest Thwarts Roger Wheeler Murder Investigation, Report Says

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Ralph Ranalli discusses the life and death of H. Paul Rico, a former FBI agent who became mixed up with mobsters



## [Ralph Ranalli discusses the life and death of H. Paul Rico, a former FBI agent who became mixed up with mobsters](#)

NPR Weekend All Things Considered Weekend All Things Considered (8:00 PM ET) - NPR

January 25, 2004 Sunday

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**Section:** Interview

**Length:** 1291 words

### **Body**

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STEVE INSKEEP, host:

In the next half-hour of ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, we'll have an update on the latest Mars landing.

First, we'll hear the story of a former FBI agent who died in jail this month. [H. Paul Rico](#)'s death at the age of 78 ended an effort to prosecute him for working with members of organized crime. In the 1960s, one Boston writer described Rico as 'a dashing senior agent who favored a Chesterfield topcoat and French cuffs.' By the end of his life, Rico was in disgrace. He was awaiting trial for taking part in a mob hit after his retirement.

To learn more, we spoke to Ralph Ranalli, who wrote a book about the FBI's close relations to the mob. He says Paul Rico's story stretches from the Boston FBI office to Oklahoma, where that organized crime murder took place in 1981.

Mr. RALPH RANALLI (Author, "Deadly Alliance"): It was a nice spring day in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in late May, and Roger Wheeler, who was a local businessman, quite successful, had just finished a round of golf at the Southern Hills Country Club, a very prestigious country club in Tulsa, and he was quite pleased with himself. He'd shot an 88, which was a very good score for his handicap, and he was heading back out to his car after changing his clothes in the locker room. And he sat down to take off his golf shoes and put on his other shoes, and he sat down in his car, and a man came up and yanked open the door and pressed a .38-caliber revolver against the bridge of his nose and fired a single shot. The murder happened in front of a swimming pool full of young kids and who were splashing around and diving off the diving board.

INSKEEP: Why was this man killed?

Mr. RANALLI: There were a lot of theories at the time, but the one that emerged and ended up being what prosecutors and police who investigated the crime for decades believed was the truth was that Roger Wheeler was rubbed out by the Boston Mafia with the help of a corrupt former FBI agent because he'd bought into the wrong Mafia-controlled pari-mutuel wagering company. It was a Florida-based company called World Jai Alai.

Ralph Ranalli discusses the life and death of H. Paul Rico, a former FBI agent who became mixed up with mobsters

INSKEEP: OK. You mentioned a corrupt former FBI agent. You're referring, of course, to H. Paul Rico, who's the subject of our story here. We should mention that Rico was never tried; never will be since he died before he could be prosecuted. But as far as you know, what evidence tied him to this killing?

Mr. RANALLI: At the time of the murders, Rico was actually an executive at World Jai Alai. But his job in the FBI was recruiting informants out of the sort of the Irish Mafia in Boston back in the 1960s and early 1970s. And they were the ones who basically ratted out Rico, and eventually gave the prosecutors and the police enough to charge Rico with after more than 20 years.

INSKEEP: In the 1960s, H. Paul Rico's job was turning informants, turning mobsters into FBI informants. And you're saying that at some point, the informants turned him into a mobster.

Mr. RANALLI: Well, it was never really clear where Paul Rico's allegiances lay except that Paul Rico actually went to work for the mobsters after he got them to work for the FBI.

INSKEEP: Did you ever meet Paul Rico?

Mr. RANALLI: I did. A very tough-looking man, a guy who sort of sized you up like you were steak. He sort of looked you up and down and regarded you, and if he didn't think much of you, he sort of dismissed you out of hand. And he's not a very personable guy if you weren't a friend. Although what I hear is that in his later years, he lived a fairly normal life of a retiree down in Florida. He played bridge and he played golf and he would go to FBI picnics and the like.

INSKEEP: Is it an unusual career path at all that a guy who was a senior FBI agent retires and then goes on to become a pari-mutuel betting executive?

Mr. RANALLI: Believe it or not, it's not. You do see a good amount of former, you know, federal law enforcement agents--they get hired by casinos and by gaming companies because basically what the casino owners and the gaming company owners are buying is they're buying the sort of cache and the sort of squeaky-clean image of the FBI. But you know, it's a great thing to go in front of a gaming board somewhere and say, 'Oh, here's my head of security, Paul Rico. He's a former FBI agent.'

INSKEEP: That's interesting. I mean, you hear people talking about the revolving door; Defense Department officials who go to work for defense contractors. Same thing?

Mr. RANALLI: Yeah. In Boston, there was a revolving door; FBI agents who worked with mobsters sort of becoming mobsters themselves. You had the case of Rico's successor, John Connolly, who was just indicted and convicted of racketeering.

INSKEEP: Now Paul Rico, in the last years of his life, was also partially the subject of a congressional hearing into corruption in the Boston FBI office back in the 1960s. What was that about?

Mr. RANALLI: Well, because of the revelations that came out in federal court in Boston in the late 1990s, that the Boston office of the FBI had been recruiting high-level organized crime figures as informants--Rico was actually one of the pioneers of this--and these informants had gone on to commit multiple, multiple murders. One had committed 20 murders; another had committed 10 and another committed 26. I mean, it was just these horrible horror stories going on.

And this congressional committee wanted to know, you know, how this could possibly happen, how the FBI could sort of get in bed with these horrible, murderous mobsters. And Rico's name came up in a couple of contexts, one in the context of the Wheeler homicide, but also in an earlier case where a couple of innocent men had spent, like, three decades in prison because of an alleged frame-up that was masterminded by Rico, too.

INSKEEP: While he was an FBI agent, Paul Rico was involved in sending the wrong two people away for a murder.



Ralph Ranalli discusses the life and death of H. Paul Rico, a former FBI agent who became mixed up with mobsters

Mr. RANALLI: Yes, absolutely.

INSKEEP: Why would Paul Rico frame up innocent men for a murder?

Mr. RANALLI: It was really his informant who did the actual framing on the witness stand, but Rico was really responding to the priorities of the FBI at the time. The context of this is that in the early 1960s, J. Edgar Hoover really didn't want the FBI involved in the war on the Mafia. In fact, he said the Mafia didn't exist. But he was goaded into it and basically shamed into it by JFK, who was president at the time, and Robert F. Kennedy, who was the attorney general.

So the FBI was in this catchup mode, where they had to very quickly show some serious results in going after the Mafia to, you know, keep their status as the pre-eminent law enforcement organization in the US. And it was basically--the word went out that 'Anyway you can, make these cases.' And so what Rico went out and did--it was what Hoover wanted and Rico went along with it.

INSKEEP: Before his death in state custody in Oklahoma a number of days ago, what did Paul Rico say about the accusations against him?

Mr. RANALLI: Oh, he was very defiant. He uttered that now famous line, when he was being grilled by Congress about Joe Salvati and Peter Limone spending 30 years in prison. He said, 'What do you want from me? Tears?' And then later on, he told a congressional investigator that, 'You can't do anything to me. I'm an old man. I'm going to die before you're going to be able to do anything.' So he was actually very prophetic about what ended up happening to him.

INSKEEP: We've been talking to Ralph Ranalli, who is a reporter for The Boston Globe and the author of "Deadly Alliance: The FBI's Secret Partnership with the Mob."

Thanks very much for speaking with us.

Mr. RANALLI: Sure thing.

(Soundbite of music)

INSKEEP: This is NPR, National Public Radio.

**Load-Date:** January 26, 2004



## [Alcee Hastings scandal proves H. Paul Rico a gifted gangster](#)

The Boston Herald

November 22, 2006 Wednesday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 010

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**Byline:** By HOWIE CARR

### **Body**

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Memo to the national news media: Please, in all future stories about Rep. Alcee Hastings, stop referring to ``the FBI agent'' who set him up in a bribery sting when Hastings was a federal judge.

The guy who brought down Hastings wasn't just an FBI agent, you know. He was also a gangster. He died in 2004 under guard, in custody, indicted for the murder of his boss two months before he bagged Alcee Hastings.

Meet **H. Paul Rico**, dead almost three years now and still involved, not just in one, but in two unfolding scandals. You're familiar with the trial currently under way here in federal court involving the four men whom Rico framed for a 1965 gangland murder they didn't commit. Two of them went to prison for more than 30 years, the other two died behind bars.

Asked by a congressman in 1997 if he felt bad about framing them, Rico sneered, ``Whaddaya want from me, tears?''

That's the big local Rico story. But nationally, his posthumous 15 minutes of fame involves Rep. Alcee Hastings, (D-Fla.), who is apparently going to become the next chairman of the House Intelligence Committee.

It was 1981. Alcee Hastings was a federal judge in the Sunshine State and **H. Paul Rico** was a retired FBI agent in Miami, arranging gangland hits with his good friends Stevie Flemmi and Whitey Bulger, the latter of whom he had met at gay bars the two closet cases frequented in Boston in the early 1950s.

The feds had it on good authority that Judge Hastings was shaking down defendants, using a lawyer as his bagman, and they needed an FBI agent who could pose as a gangster named Frank Romano.

Hmmmm, which FBI agent could best impersonate a gangster?

You got it. Who better to play a gangster than a gangster himself?

Alcee Hastings scandal proves H. Paul Rico a gifted gangster

Let's go straight to the report of the House Committee on Government Reform: ``Late July 1981: **H. Paul Rico** is brought out of retirement to investigate allegations of corruption by then-U.S. District Judge Alcee Hastings of Florida. He poses as a Mafioso in an FBI sting of Hastings."

This was two months after Rico set up his boss at World Jai Alai to be murdered in Tulsa by Whitey's hitman John Martorano. And it was almost a year to the day before Rico's former boss at World Jai Alai was found dead in the trunk of a car at Miami International Airport, also murdered by Martorano. The feds did ask Rico about the murder of his employer, and he said he had no idea who'd done it. They took him at his word and brought him back on board to play Frank Romano.

Rico quickly bagged Hastings and his bagman, who got a last-minute pardon from Bill Clinton in 2001. Hastings was impeached in the House 413-3 and convicted in the Senate 69-26 of conspiracy to obtain \$150,000 from Romano.

When Rico testified before the Senate in July 1989, many of the solons thanked the bent G-man for his selfless work on behalf of a grateful nation.

But after being removed as a judge, Hastings beat the criminal rap, and won a seat in Congress in 1992. And now Hastings is in line to become chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, even though one of the articles of impeachment was that he'd leaked wiretap information to another crooked politician in Dade County.

Nancy Pelosi got lucky, getting rid of John Murtha. But Alcee Hastings is hanging tough.

Just thought you'd like to know the rest of the story. If, somewhere, **H. Paul Rico** is still keeping up with the Hastings story, I'll bet he's getting a good chuckle. I'll also bet that if he is following events, he has to look up.

Uncharitable? Hey, what do you want from me, tears?

**Load-Date:** November 22, 2006

Ex-Boston FBI agent charged in 1981 killing;H. Paul Rico's arrest may widen a scandal overthe local agency's ties to its informants in the mob.



***Ex-Boston FBI agent charged in 1981 killing;  
H. Paul Rico's arrest may widen a scandal over  
the local agency's ties to its informants in the mob.***

The Philadelphia Inquirer

OCTOBER 10, 2003 Friday CITY-D EDITION

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**Section:** NATIONAL; Pg. A10

**Length:** 621 words

**Byline:** Denise Lavoie ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Dateline:** BOSTON

## **Body**

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A former FBI agent who handled high-ranking mob informants was arrested yesterday and charged with murder for allegedly helping 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 after a round of golf. Rico denies wrongdoing in the case, his lawyer said.

His arrest was the latest turn in a long-running scandal over the cozy relationship between the Boston FBI and its underworld informants. Last year, a former FBI agent was convicted of protecting gangsters, including James "Whitey" Bulger, who is on the FBI's 10 Most Wanted list.

Investigators said Wheeler's slaying was linked to his purchase of World Jai Alai and his suspicion that money was being skimmed from the Florida company. At the time, Rico was retired from the FBI and was the head of security for World Jai Alai.

Investigators said Rico had provided John Martorano, a hit man for Boston's Winter Hill Gang, with information on Wheeler's schedule so he could be killed. Martorano has admitted pulling the trigger and is awaiting sentencing.

Rico "flat-out categorically denies this," his attorney, William Cagney III, said. "He never assisted the Winter Hill Gang in trying to get inside information so they could . . . do away with people."

Rico was jailed in Florida. The office of District Attorney Tim Harris of Tulsa declined to comment. Gail Marcinkiewicz, a spokeswoman for the Boston FBI, also declined to comment.

Ex-Boston FBI agent charged in 1981 killing;H. Paul Rico's arrest may widen a scandal overthe local agency's ties to its informants in the mob.

Rico spent 24 years with the FBI, specializing in organized-crime cases in Boston in the 1960s and 1970s. He cultivated mobster Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi and others as informants.

Bulger, the boss of the Winter Hill Gang, Flemmi and Martorano were all charged in Wheeler's murder in 2001 by Oklahoma prosecutors.

Prosecutors in Florida followed with an indictment charging all three in the 1982 slaying of World Jai Alai executive John "Jack" Callahan in Miami. Investigators said they believed Callahan was killed to keep him from telling authorities about links between World Jai Alai and the mob.

A congressional panel is investigating the Boston FBI office's ties to its mob informants, including Bulger, who fled in 1995 after being tipped off by agent John J. Connolly Jr. that he was about to be indicted on federal racketeering charges.

During Connolly's trial, prosecutors said Bulger and Flemmi were left untouched by law enforcement for decades because they were informing for the FBI on the New England Mafia, which is separate from the Winter Hill Gang. Connolly is serving a 10-year prison sentence.

In 2001, Rico testified about another case before a congressional committee. He denied that he and his partner had helped frame an innocent man for a 1965 gangland killing, but he acknowledged that Joseph Salvati had wrongly spent 30 years in prison for the crime.

Republican Rep. Christopher Shays of Connecticut accused Rico of feeling no remorse for his role in the conviction of four innocent men in that case. Rico replied, "What do you want, tears?"

Salvati's attorney, Victor Garo, predicted that Rico's arrest would split the Boston FBI scandal wide open, exposing more government wrongdoing in Boston and Washington.

"He was the inside man of the Boston office of the FBI in dealing with informants like Steve Flemmi and others," Garo said. "I would imagine that right now many people are concerned about what he knows and what he will say. . . . He knows about all the skeletons in the closet."

Wheeler's son said he was pleased with Rico's arrest.

"It's something I've wanted for years," Larry Wheeler said, adding that he believed Rico played a role in his father's killing.

## Graphic

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PHOTO;

**H. Paul Rico** denies any role in the Okla. man's death.

**Load-Date:** August 17, 2005

Ex-Agent Dies in Prison;H. Paul Rico was accused in murder of Okla. businessman



***Ex-Agent Dies in Prison;  
H. Paul Rico was accused in murder of Okla. businessman***

Newsday (New York)

January 18, 2004 Sunday

NASSAU AND SUFFOLK EDITION

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**Section:** NEWS,

**Length:** 397 words

**Byline:** THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## **Body**

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Tulsa, Okla. - A retired FBI agent accused of helping his former mob informants arrange the murder of a Tulsa businessman died a week after he was extradited to Oklahoma to face charges, a hospital spokeswoman said yesterday.

**H. Paul Rico**, 78, died late Friday, a few hours after a Tulsa County judge put the murder case on hold pending a psychological evaluation to determine if Rico was competent to stand trial.

The cause of Rico's death was not immediately released. He had been hospitalized since Wednesday.

His family said he had congestive heart failure and had lost 53 pounds since his arrest Oct. 9 in Florida, where he had been living.

Rico was accused of helping arrange the 1981 murder of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler, chairman of Telex Corp. and owner of World Jai-Alai in Florida, where Rico worked as security chief after leaving the FBI. Investigators say Wheeler had suspected that Boston gangsters were skimming money from World Jai-Alai. He died after he was shot in the head at Tulsa's Southern Hills Country Club after a round of golf.

Members of Boston's Winter Hill Gang had been informants for Rico when he was an FBI agent in Boston.

Murder charges were filed in March 2001 in Tulsa County against Winter Hill Gang members James "Whitey" Bulger, Stephen Flemmi and John Martorano.

Martorano pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and received a 15-year prison term for carrying out the hit on Wheeler. Flemmi pleaded guilty in October to racketeering charges related to 10 murders, including Wheeler's, and awaits sentencing Jan. 27. Bulger, the brother of former Massachusetts state Sen. William Bulger, remains at large since being tipped off to his pending indictment in 1995.

Ex-Agent Dies in Prison;H. Paul Rico was accused in murder of Okla. businessman

During his arraignment Wednesday, conducted by video feed from the Tulsa County jail, Rico sat in a wheelchair and occasionally moaned but said nothing. His attorney, Garvin Isaacs, at one point interrupted the judge, saying: "I am telling you this man is sick, extremely sick."

Isaacs said during that hearing that Rico, who had a pacemaker, was disoriented after being beaten Dec. 5 by an unknown assailant in the Miami-Dade County jail, but that he had recovered his mental competency and "wants a jury trial to clear his name." Tulsa County prosecutors had questioned the assault allegation, saying an improper dose of medication may have been responsible for bruising on Rico's body.

**Load-Date:** January 18, 2004

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H. Paul Rico, 1926-2004



## *H. Paul Rico, 1926-2004*

The Boston Herald

May 15, 2011 Sunday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 17; Vol. 29; No. 135**Length:** 117 words**Byline:** HOWIE CARR

### **Body**

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This photo is from the Belmont High School Class of 1944 yearbook. Rico went on to become perhaps the most corrupt FBI agent in history, framing four men in 1968 for a murder they did not commit. He met Whitey Bulger in the gay bars of Bay Village in the early 1950s and arrested him on bank robbery charges in 1956. He set up a number of murders, including the 1981 slaying of millionaire businessman Roger Wheeler, for which he was finally arrested in 2004. He died alone in an Oklahoma prison hospital. For more on *H. Paul Rico*, read Howie Carr's new book, 'Hitman,' copies of which he will be signing today at the Yellow Umbrella in Chatham (noon) and at Titcomb's Bookshop in East Sandwich (5 p.m.).

**Load-Date:** August 4, 2011

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## *Agent of evil traded in treachery, death*

The Boston Herald

December 21, 2000 Thursday

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 681 words

**Byline:** By PETER GELZINIS

### **Body**

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Treachery - particularly the kind practiced by the FBI - is a lot like success. It has more than one father.

Around here, it's been easy . . . TOOeasy for us to lose sight of this ugly truth. Think of FBI treachery . . . and one man in French cuffs, manicured nails and a \$ 50 John Gotti hairdo comes into view.

I speak of John "Johnny" Connolly, disciple of J. Edgar Hoover, surrogate brother of Billy and Whitey Bulger . . . and recipient of a federal superceding indictment for enabling his "top echelon" informants to carry out their murderous tyranny under the care and protection of the FBI. Ah, but nothing happens in a vacuum, does it? Not even the finer points of G-Man treachery. While growing up in Southie, sandwiched between the Bulger boys, certainly gave Johnny an instinctive feel for the landscape, every "successful" rogue agent needs a mentor. Someone to school him in the finer points of betrayal.

Johnny Connolly's father in treachery was *H. Paul Rico*.

He was endearing himself to a select circle of murderers and securing legendary status within the bureau, back when Johnny Connolly was still arranging ski trips for the senior class at Dorchester High.

After 35 years, an FBI paper trail that somehow managed to elude the shredder has emerged from the tombs to prove that from *H. Paul Rico*, clear up to his cross-dressing boss in Washington, the FBI sheltered the killers with whom they formed a "special" relationship.

What the paperwork shows is that Stevie "The Rifleman" Flemmi and his brother, Vincent James "Jimmy The Bear" Flemmi, were infinitely more important to *H. Paul Rico* and the FBI than a doomed thug named Edward "Teddy" Deegan.

The papers also show that Rico and his superiors not only knew who killed Deegan, they stood silent while innocent men went to prison for this gangland hit.

## Agent of evil traded in treachery, death

Whitey Bulger was returning home to Southie from prison 35 years ago when **H. Paul Rico** married Stevie Flemmi his brother, Jimmy. On TV, we were spoon-fed Efrem Zimbalist Jr. as Lew Erskine, the suave epitome of truth, justice and the American way with an FBI credential.

Meanwhile, in the slimy recesses of real life, we had **H. Paul Rico** planning his ascent up J. Edgar Hoover's corporate ladder on the homicidal shoulders of the Flemmi brothers. But like the phony TV agent, **H. Paul Rico** always looked like a million bucks.

A couple of years ago, when he was subpoenaed from the sunshine of his Florida retirement to testify at hearings conducted before U.S. District Court Judge Mark Wolf, Rico looked a bit like Darth Vader in a Palm Beach suit. Against the bronzed leather of his tanned face, his silver hair seemed to glow. Apparently, treachery had been very, very good to him.

"Hello Paul," Stevie Flemmi, his favorite stool pigeon, said from the dark side of a crowded courtroom.

"Hi, Steve," Rico answered with a fatherly smile.

The brand of evil documented in these old FBI reports is the same evil that doomed a successful Tulsa businessman named Roger Wheeler. After assuming control of World Jai Alai, Wheeler made the fatal mistake of hiring a decorated former FBI agent, Rico, to oversee security. With Rico came a bevy of old contacts from Somerville's Winter Hill gang, otherwise known as Whitey Bulger, Steve Flemmi and John Martorano.

Not long before Martorano put a bullet in Roger Wheeler's head, the World Jai Alai exec not only smelled a rat, he also saw his profits being skimmed away.

As he buried his father, David Wheeler recalled the moment **H. Paul Rico** appeared to pay his respects. "He (Rico) held out his hand," David Wheeler recalled, "and to this day, I felt like I was shaking hands with the devil himself. I looked in his eyes and I knew this man had everything to do with my father's murder. I just knew it deep in my gut."

Without the kindly intercession of **H. Paul Rico**, it's unlikely Whitey Bulger would be worth millions, let alone free. After all, H. Paul was the G-Man who allegedly "looked after" the Bulger brood when Whitey was in Alcatraz.

Could treachery possibly know a better father?

**Load-Date:** December 21, 2000

Blood stains on Rico hands are years old



## *Blood stains on Rico hands are years old*

The Boston Herald

October 14, 2003 Tuesday

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### **Body**

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The withered old gangster has reached out from solitary confinement to pull his withered old FBI buddy down into the same hell.

Could there be a better definition of poetic justice than Stevie "The Rifleman" Flemmi ratting out **H. Paul Rico** - the duplicitous G-man who first nurtured Stevie in the art of being a rat?

Today, as a 31-page list of Stevie's greatest "hits" is read aloud in a Boston federal courtroom, a DA in Tulsa, Okla., will officially announce that **H. Paul Rico**, a not so spry 78, will be charged with one count of first-degree murder and one count of conspiracy to commit murder.

Flemmi is likely to corroborate in his talks with the feds what the Herald has already seen in investigative papers: That Roger Wheeler was the man Paul Rico wanted dead 22 years ago.

The Tulsa businessman and owner of World Jai Alai realized the retired G-man he hired to run security was actually robbing him. So, Rico put out an S.O.S. to his thug partners, Whitey Bulger and Stevie Flemmi.

They contacted Johnny Martorano in Florida. The Winter Hill hitman needed more information. Rico scribbled out a note with directions to the Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa and ferried it to Martorano via his doomed fellow thief, John Callahan.

Wheeler was executed in the parking lot of that Tulsa country club, just as **H. Paul Rico** had asked, according to the investigative papers.

But this was hardly the first time Stevie Flemmi, or several other gangsters for that matter, had obliged Paul Rico by murdering people. Ironically, Roger Wheeler was among the LAST people Rico targeted for execution. To better appreciate how truly diabolical it was, you must understand the context.

By now, what Flemmi has confessed to the feds is that the fabled Irish gang wars of the early '60s, a feud that piled up somewhere between 80 and 100 bodies, was orchestrated in large part by the Darth Vader of the Boston FBI office, **H. Paul Rico**.

## Blood stains on Rico hands are years old

One local gangster has already remembered Rico as "God." Some 39 years ago, this gangster recalled how Ronald Dermody thought he was in the protective embrace of Paul Rico. Little did Dermody know that Rico had far more affection for his sworn enemy, Buddy McLean.

After meeting with Dermody in a Cambridge hotel, Rico phoned McLean and Ronald Dermody soon left this vale of tears. After the hit, Rico picked up McLean and let him hide out, or spend the weekend at his Belmont home.

Going back a mere 38 years, there are eerie similarities between the execution of Buddy McLean's fabled nemesis, Edward "Punchy" McLaughlin and Roger Wheeler.

Back in the autumn of 1965, it seems that Punchy was spreading rumors all over town that **H. Paul Rico** was J. Edgar Hoover's dance partner. (Remember, this was a good 20 years before stories of the FBI director's penchant for wearing cocktail dresses began to surface.)

Rico wanted Punchy McLaughlin dead, said the papers. But Punchy turned out to be a regular Rasputin. The first time Stevie Flemmi and Frank Salemme tried to whack him, they entered a hospital dressed as rabbis and shot Punchy in the face. He didn't die.

The second time they spotted him in traffic at a rotary. The best Stevie and Frank could do was shoot off one of Punchy's hands. Rico was upset and told Salemme he was "acting like a cowboy." Salemme told Rico if they had better information, it might be easier to kill Punchy.

With that, Special Agent Rico allegedly turned up at Frank Salemme's garage with a note containing the name and address of Punchy's girlfriend in Canton. Flemmi and Salemme wound up following Punchy for two weeks before finally killing him at a bus stop in West Roxbury.

Of course, there are also tales about Paul Rico asking his gangster friends for "throwaway guns" and cars. It's all part of Paul Rico's long and distinguished criminal career in service to the United States.

Today, some 22 years late, Paul Rico will answer for Roger Wheeler's murder. But as one source put it yesterday, "You can expect to hear lots of other names if this guy goes to trial. What happened in the past speaks to context," the guy said. "It establishes what you'd call a pattern of behavior."

**Load-Date:** October 14, 2003



## *Old man Rico is led away . . . maybe for good*

The Boston Herald

October 15, 2003 Wednesday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 639 words

**Byline:** By Peter Gelzinis

### **Body**

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TULSA, Okla. - Very early last Thursday morning, as he stood at the front door of his Miami condo, the devil looked like a broken-down 78-year-old man in his pajamas. Harold Paul Rico tried to focus his bloodshot eyes on a team of eight police officers. The one face he knew all too well belonged to Sgt. Mike Huff, a Tulsa homicide detective.

Over the space of 22 years, the cop and the crafty old G-man had burned holes in each other's eyes more than once. They'd trade smiles and sneers. But this was different. This wasn't about a civil suit. Huff had come from Tulsa to finally tell **H. Paul Rico** he was under arrest for the murder of Roger Wheeler.

The old man's desiccated face went pale as he seemed to drop into a chair by the dining room table. More annoyed than shocked, his wife said, "He needs to take his medicine with some food."

"Fine," the cops said, "so cook him some breakfast." Along with his toast, the old man swallowed a battery of pills that help keep his treacherous heart beating and his blood pressure in check. After he dressed, Rico's wife opted for a bit of humor. She asked her husband if he wanted to wear his World Jai Alai sweater for the ride into the Miami Dade police station. It was a rather defiant little reference to the company where her husband was once chief of security, working for a man he helped to doom.

Then, the wife asked if she could take a picture of her husband going out the front door of his retirement home with eight cops. Obviously, Mrs. Rico thought the old man would be home in time for lunch.

Shortly after his booking on a charge of murder in the first degree and conspiracy to commit murder, **H. Paul Rico** learned that he was not going home. When he was told there'd be no bail and no bond, the G-man who nurtured serial killers like Joe "The Animal" Barboza and Stevie Flemmi, who spawned other cops like John "Zip" Connolly, reportedly lost control of his bowels.

It was as if 40 years of bile had suddenly let go on a man once extolled by J. Edgar Hoover as a decorated Mafia fighter.

## Old man Rico is led away . . . maybe for good

As Stevie Flemmi included his former FBI handler and fellow gangster in a crime spree that lasted four decades, Tim Harris, Tulsa's district attorney, went before the cameras to say he sat across from Steve Flemmi some three weeks ago and made a "calculated decision" to spare him the death penalty "in order to move (the Roger Wheeler case) forward."

A fundamental part of the deal Harris struck with Flemmi is that he will come to Tulsa to be the star witness against his friend and protector, **H. Paul Rico**.

Roger Wheeler's son, David, spoke movingly about his gratitude to a cop like Mike Huff, who kept his faith and sanity intact over these past 22 years. "He gave me the hope that a day like this would finally come. The one word that describes Mike Huff is relentless," Wheeler said. "This betrayal went beyond my father's comprehension and, in many ways, is still beyond my comprehension.

"My whole world was challenged," Wheeler continued. "People worked very hard to make me out as a fool, some misguided person looking in the wrong places. Paul Rico was a part of all that."

There is a long list of witnesses that Tim Harris has compiled in anticipation of his prosecution of **H. Paul Rico**. It includes former FBI agents from Boston, executives from the old Bank of Boston, a string of local gangsters and, of course, James Whitey Bulger.

Before yesterday's press conference concluded, David Wheeler looked into the camera to say that he would make a personal plea to U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft to have the search for Whitey Bulger taken away from **H. Paul Rico**'s former agency and given to the U.S. Marshals.

"Oh, we want Whitey here," Mike Huff said, "and we want to go and find him. It would be great to have him here for Rico's trial."

**Load-Date:** October 15, 2003

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## *Alcee Hastings: A remarkable life; Alcee Hastings trial: Money, the mob and the FBI*

Palm Beach Post (Florida)

May 29, 2019 Wednesday

FINAL EDITION

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**Section:** A SECTION; Pg. 1A

**Length:** 2677 words

**Byline:** By Wayne Washington, The Palm Beach Post

### **Body**

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William Dredge was in a bad spot.

A career criminal, he had found himself ensnared in a federal narcotics probe in Maryland. Hoping for leniency, he told the feds he had something to offer: a federal judge who was for sale.

Dredge said he knew a lawyer in Washington, a man named William Borders, who claimed he could fix cases in the courtroom of U.S. District Judge Alcee Hastings.

Federal investigators reported that Dredge said Borders told organized crime boss Santo Trafficante that, for a price, he could have Hastings fix a racketeering charge the mobster faced.

Borders, who was helping Dredge in his case, knew Hastings. They were friendly and spoke frequently on the phone, though Hastings would later attempt to minimize their connection.

Borders was president of the National Bar Association, a trade group of black lawyers. He was a powerful, well-connected man who made big campaign contributions. And he was among those who had recommended Hastings when President Jimmy Carter was looking for a new federal judge in Florida.

Investigators noted that Borders met with Trafficante multiple times, but they could not prove Dredge's claim.

Instead, they decided to try a different tack. They would run an undercover operation to see whether Hastings would play ball in another case, one involving Frank and Thomas Romano, Broward County brothers who had been convicted of wire fraud, theft and racketeering in Hastings' Miami courtroom.

The brothers had been charged with using \$540,000 in New Jersey Teamsters pension fund money for their own purposes and with filing false tax returns.

Dredge introduced Borders to Frank Romano, and the sting, officially dubbed "Operation Apple Eye," was on.

Alcee Hastings: A remarkable life; Alcee Hastings trial: Money, the mob and the FBI

The Frank Romano who met Borders wasn't actually Frank Romano. He was retired FBI agent H. Paul Rico.

Rico, posing as Romano, met multiple times with Borders. Investigators taped their conversations and those Borders had with Hastings.

Transcripts described in congressional hearings indicate Borders was cagey and careful, but Rico eventually got the contours of the deal: His Romano character would pay Borders \$25,000 if the lawyer got Hastings to release property that had been seized in the case.

"Frank Romano" would pay another \$125,000 once he was confident Borders could get Hastings to go easy on the sentencing.

The disguised agent told Borders he needed to know if he could actually deliver on his promise. He decided to test Borders' influence by seeing if he could get Hastings to meet at a particular restaurant at the Fontainebleau hotel in Miami Beach at a particular time.

When the appointed time came, Hastings showed up. Rico, satisfied, paid Borders the \$25,000.

But when Hastings didn't immediately issue the order to release the Romanos' assets, Rico reached out to Borders. An hour later, Borders called Hastings, and the FBI recorded the call.

The men exchanged pleasantries and then Hastings was recorded saying: "I've drafted those, ah, letters for Hemp ... and everything's OK. The only thing I was concerned with was, did you hear if, ah, you hear from him after we talked?"

Borders said he had.

"I talked to him, and he wrote some things down for me," Borders said.

"I understand," Hastings replied.

Borders said: "And then I was supposed to go back and get some more things."

"All right," Hastings said. "I understand. Well then, there's no great big problem at all. I'll, I'll see to it that, ah, I communicate with him. I'll send the stuff off to Columbia in the morning."

The men said their goodbyes, closing a conversation that would prove to be the heart of the case against Hastings.

Investigators claimed the "letters for Hemp" reference was actually code for the order to release the Romanos' assets.

Hastings said he and Borders were discussing their efforts to help the judge's old roommate, Hemphill Pride, the Columbia, South Carolina, lawyer whose law license had been suspended after his federal conviction.

The day after the recorded conversation, Hastings ordered the release of most of the Romanos' assets.

Rico, still posing as Frank Romano, later traveled to Washington to give Borders the rest of the payoff.

Sirens blared the minute the exchange was made.

"We're busted," Borders was recorded as saying.

"I'm afraid so," Rico replied.

Pride and Hastings were both in Washington when Borders was arrested. They were there to attend a ceremony honoring Borders' leadership of the National Bar Association.



Alcee Hastings: A remarkable life; Alcee Hastings trial: Money, the mob and the FBI

Pride later testified that he told Hastings of Borders' arrest and suggested the judge get back to Florida so he could be on his home turf if the investigation snaked its way to him.

It would be the last friendly suggestion Pride would make to the judge.

At the center of the sting

**H. Paul Rico** died in a hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in January 2004. He was 78 years old and had suffered from congestive heart failure.

He didn't die as a celebrated agent. He died under indictment for murder.

The undercover investigator who lined up the bribe in the Alcee Hastings case had, according to the charge, helped arrange the 1981 murder of Roger Wheeler, a wealthy Oklahoma businessman who owned World Jai Alai.

News reports indicate Wheeler had uncovered a skim at his business carried out by members of Boston's Winter Hill gang, run by infamous mobster James "Whitey" Bulger.

Rico, who had used members of the gang as informants during his days as an FBI agent in Boston, was head of security for World Jai Alai when Wheeler was shot to death getting into his car after a round of golf.

The Boston FBI's use of informants, including Bulger, mushroomed into a major scandal and has been portrayed in a pair of movies, 2006's "The Departed" and "Black Mass," released in 2015.

While Rico did not get a chance to defend himself against the charge that he helped gangsters kill Wheeler, that case wasn't the only one that raises questions about his credibility.

In 1988, the Supreme Court of Rhode Island overturned a murder conviction after determining that Rico had elicited perjury from a key witness.

As he testified during Hastings' impeachment trial, Rico was asked about the Rhode Island ruling, which he said was made "without calling me to testify."

Conviction and acquittal

The high-flying legal career of William Borders disintegrated on March 29, 1982, when he was found guilty of conspiracy to solicit a bribe and obstruction of justice. He was sentenced to five years in jail and ordered to pay a \$35,000 fine.

He would later get a pardon on President Bill Clinton's last day in office, but the Washington, D.C., bar would not allow him to practice again. Still fighting to be allowed to practice law, he died in 2018.

Borders' friend, Alcee Hastings, had been indicted with him.

The case against Hastings energized his black supporters, who saw it as yet another example of the white power structure attacking a black man who had risen too high.

Hastings girded himself for the fight, hiring a team of lawyers, including one named Patricia G. Williams, who would see him through this and other difficulties.

The judge ripped the government, saying he was being targeted because of his race and because of his opposition to the Reagan administration.

Three decades later, Hastings maintains that his criticism of the administration, his rulings and his unwillingness to shed friends and associates once he became a judge made him a target.

"I should have been more monastic, but that's not my style," he said.

Alcee Hastings: A remarkable life; Alcee Hastings trial: Money, the mob and the FBI

Even before Rico's indictment, there were holes in the government's case against Hastings. Big ones.

Investigators could not prove that any of the first \$25,000 given to Borders made its way to Hastings. They had not waited to see if Borders would take the remaining \$125,000 and give some to Hastings.

That allowed Hastings to argue that Borders was carrying out the scheme on his own, trading on his associate's position as a judge.

With Borders refusing to testify, Hastings disputed the notion that the two were good friends, saying Borders was merely a political ally with a funny way of speaking, a reference to the taped conversation that played such a big role in the case.

After a two-week trial in federal court in Miami, a jury acquitted Hastings of the charges against him.

Hastings and his supporters were euphoric.

"His victory has more or less opened the door of hope for so many of us who, through innumerable injustice, had come to feel that justice sits atop a mountain out of reach of the poor, the oppressed and the blacks of this nation," Athalie Range, a black funeral home owner, told *The Miami News* after the verdict.

In a series of lectures he had published as "The Battles of Hastings" in 1996, one of Hastings' attorneys, Terence Anderson, said the government knew Borders made false claims about his influence over judges.

"Before the investigation had been authorized, the FBI's files contained information indicating that Borders had falsely held himself out as having the power to fix cases before other judges, judges whose integrity the government had never questioned."

Anderson did not elaborate on what that information was, and efforts to reach him were unsuccessful.

For Hastings, the not guilty verdict was the only one a just system could deliver.

"Indeed, they found me not guilty of crimes I never committed," Hastings would say. "I have not received a bribe. I have not obstructed justice. And I have not betrayed the high office I hold under Article III of the United States Constitution. I am not guilty."

Hastings had taken the feds' best shot - and won.

A few weeks after the verdict, 500 people showed up for a victory celebration and fundraiser.

Hastings was in the clear. Or so it seemed.

Colleagues file secret complaint

William Terrell Hodges and Anthony Alaimo weren't convinced.

Hastings had won his case and was back on the federal bench.

But Hodges and Alaimo, two of Hastings' fellow judges on the 11th Judicial Circuit, wondered, if Borders were guilty, how could Hastings be innocent?

Under a new set of rules, the two judges, both white, took the extraordinary step of filing a secret complaint requesting an investigation into whether Hastings had lied and falsified evidence during his criminal trial.

The judges' complaints sparked a three-year investigation led by John Doar, a legendary figure who had worked in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Justice Department for seven tumultuous years under Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson.

## Alcee Hastings: A remarkable life; Alcee Hastings trial: Money, the mob and the FBI

An 11th Circuit panel, reviewing Doar's findings, concluded that Hastings committed perjury, tampered with evidence and conspired to gain financially by accepting bribes.

The conclusions were, in essence, the same charges Hastings had beaten in court. He and his supporters complained that the government was making another attempt to punish him for crimes a jury had said he did not commit.

Despite those complaints, the case against Hastings gathered momentum.

The panel took their conclusions to the U.S. Judicial Conference, which oversaw the policies and administration of the federal court system.

On March 17, 1987, the conference advised the U.S. House that Hastings should be impeached and removed from office.

The House Judiciary Subcommittee on Criminal Justice conducted its own investigation.

'Al, that's not gonna fly'

Cameras for C-SPAN rolled as House members heard from a series of witnesses, including Doar, Rico and Pride, whose testimony proved devastating against his old friend.

Under questioning, Pride said he was not even eligible for reinstatement to the South Carolina bar when federal investigators taped that telephone call between Borders and Hastings.

"There was no discussion of letters," Pride told House members. "I did not solicit help. And I did not expect any letters. That would not have helped me. I had a local problem, one I felt I was in control of and it was not a situation where Judge Hastings or Mr. Borders were in a position to help me."

Pride described his earlier efforts to get Hastings to help him when he was in prison. He said he called Hastings in his chambers, but the judge did not return the call.

Finally tracking him down at his home, Pride said he asked Hastings for financial assistance and help with a petition that would argue the government had been selective in its prosecution of him.

"When I reached him on the phone, he told me that he had read it," Pride said of his petition, which would cost him \$2,500 to have drawn up officially by an attorney. "He had selective prosecution petitions before him, and he did not think there was any selectivity on the part of the government, that it did not possess merit."

Pride also said Hastings told him that "because he was a federal judge, that he was not in a position to solicit money for me."

In later testimony, Pride described a trip he said Hastings took to Columbia to discuss the criminal case that had ensnared Borders.

Borders already had been arrested, and FBI agents had reached out to Hastings.

After meeting with Hastings and one of his attorneys in Columbia, Pride said he gave his friend a ride back to the airport.

Hastings brought up the pivotal telephone call between himself and Borders, Pride said.

"He said to me that he was writing letters to the judge," Pride said. "I told him in the car, 'You weren't writing letters for me.' He said, yes, he was writing letters to solicit support. And I told him: 'Not for me and not without my permission, and if you were, that was not going to help me, and if you had asked me whether or not I wanted you to write letters, I would have told you, 'No, don't do that.' I further told him: 'Don't involve me.'"

## Alcee Hastings: A remarkable life; Alcee Hastings trial: Money, the mob and the FBI

Pride said he emphasized, over and over, that he wanted nothing to do with the case and that he would not agree to the judge's version of events.

"He was trying to convince me that he was writing those letters for me, and I was just as adamant in my position that you were not," Pride said. "I said, 'Al, that's not gonna fly.' I felt that he was trying to involve me in a matter that I had nothing to do with. And I felt that his act of saying that he was writing letters was an officious act."

'Not Guilty So Say We All'

Hastings said he remembers speaking to Pride about the case but the conversation did not play out as Pride described.

"Hemphill wanted to get his law license back, and they used him," Hastings said, indicating that Pride's previous legal troubles made it easier for federal investigators to pressure him.

As they had during his criminal trial, Hastings' supporters stood by him.

One nursery and kindergarten school had its children participate in a rally for the judge. The children marched two-by-two, holding hands and wearing signs meant to serve as a reminder that Hastings had been acquitted of criminal charges.

"Not Guilty So Say We All," the signs read.

In the end, the House was unmoved.

With a near unanimous vote of 413-3, House members adopted a resolution approving 17 articles of impeachment against Hastings, the largest number of articles in any impeachment proceeding up to that point, according to a summary prepared for the U.S. Senate.

The articles included conspiracy, bribery, perjury, falsifying documents, thwarting a criminal investigation and undermining the public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary.

On Oct. 20, 1989, the Senate voted on 11 of the 17 articles and convicted him on eight. The president pro tempore of the Senate ordered Hastings removed from the bench, a stunning fall from what was once a commanding, historic height.

But Hastings did not wallow in the ashes of his incinerated judicial career.

It didn't matter that 99 percent of House members voting on his impeachment had voted in favor of it. It didn't matter that the Senate had thrown him off the bench.

The same day the Senate removed him from the bench, an undaunted Hastings announced that he was running for governor of Florida. Alcee Hastings had made history once, and he had every intention of doing so again.

Staff researcher Melanie Mena and data reporter Chris Persaud contributed to this story.

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## Notes

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Part 2: The defendant

## Graphic

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Then-U.S. District Judge Alcee Hastings in his chambers in April 1987 before his lengthy impeachment trial and removal from the bench. [BILL REINKE/The Miami News] In February 1983, after his acquittal on conspiracy and obstruction of justice charges stemming from an FBI sting operation, then-U.S. District Court Judge Alcee Hastings spoke with reporters. [BILL REINKE/The Miami News] Facing a call for his impeachment, then-federal Judge Alcee Hastings had the support in April 1987 of children from Helen's Nursery and Kindergarten at a march on his behalf. Their signs refer to Hastings' 1983 acquittal on conspiracy and obstruction charges. [LENNY COHEN/The Miami News] Then-U.S. District Judge Alcee Hastings, right, listens in October 1989 with his attorney, Terence Anderson, during his Senate impeachment trial. In 1996, Anderson published a series of lectures on the case dubbed "The Battles of Hastings." [RICK MCKAY/Palm Beach Post Washington Bureau] Then-federal Judge Alcee Hastings and attorney Patricia G. Williams on a break from his trial on conspiracy and obstruction charges on Feb. 3, 1983, the day before his acquittal on all counts. The case came under further review and years later, Hastings was impeached and removed from the bench. [CHARLES TRAINOR/The Miami News] William Borders, pardoned by President Clinton. ORG XMIT: ORG XMIT: MER0701311006101041 Pride [TIM DOMINICK/The State] **H. Paul Rico**, an FBI agent who played a critical role in the sting against then-U.S. District Court Judge Alcee Hastings in the 1980s. Rico later was implicated in a murder involving Boston mobster James "Whitey" Bulger. He died in 2004 at age 78 before he could go to trial.

**Load-Date:** June 2, 2019



## *Death cheats justice; Ex-Hub G-man Rico, 78, dies before Okla. murder trial begins*

The Boston Herald

January 18, 2004 Sunday

FIRST EDITION

Copyright 2004 Boston Herald Inc.

**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 821 words

**Byline:** By Peter Gelzinis

### **Body**

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Judgment day came a bit early for Harold Paul Rico.

Shortly after midnight yesterday, the decrepit and duplicitous old Boston G-man went to meet his maker before a DA in Tulsa could force him to meet a jury for his alleged part in the murder of Oklahoma businessman Roger Wheeler.

Sadly, a ton of the dirtiest FBI secrets will be buried with Rico. How convenient for Robert Swan Mueller III, the current bureau director, who worked in the Boston office long enough to know there were no bigger FBI rogues than **H. Paul Rico**.

On the other hand, Rico was just arrogant enough to know that at 78 - a pacemaker buried in his chest - death was more friend than foe. "What the hell are you guys gonna do to me?" he once sneered at a congressional investigator in Washington, D.C. "I'm an old man. I'll be dead before you can do anything to me."

As it turns out, he was right. Rico died before a prosecutor could lay a glove on him. Somewhere in the fugitive ether, James "Whitey" Bulger must be raising his Irish coffee toward heaven, or maybe pointing it toward hell. Though Paul Rico did indeed send Whitey to Alcatraz more than half a century ago, Whitey always held a special place in his empty heart for this son of J. Edgar Hoover. "Paul Rico was always very good to the Bulger family," he liked to say.

In disclosing the tales of his sordid life, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi has allegedly told investigators that he killed a bunch of other gangsters at the insistence of his FBI handler, **H. Paul Rico**.

Flemmi's information not only led to Rico's arrest by the Tulsa cops in Miami last fall, it allowed Stevie to bargain himself out of the electric chair in Oklahoma.

"So now Flemmi gets a pass on the death penalty and never has to deliver in court," one law-enforcement source wryly noted when told of Rico's death.

## Death cheats justice; Ex-Hub G-man Rico, 78, dies before Okla. murder trial begins

"More than a little ironic wouldn't you say? When you think of how much Stevie benefited when (Rico) was alive, all the prison time he avoided thanks to Paul Rico. Now the guy dies . . . and look who's STILLbenefiting . . . Stevie Flemmi, the least deserving motherbleeper on the planet."

It was almost 40 years ago when Bill Bennett Jr. watched two FBI agents confront his father in the Dorchester bar he owned with his brothers. Edward "Wimpy" Bennett and his brother Walter, a pair of bookmakers and loansharks, were missing and presumed dead by everyone. (Four decades later, both Frank Salemme and Stevie Flemmi admitted to killing the Bennetts and burying their bodies at a Hopkington gun range.)

Barely 17 at the time, the son heard the agents ask his father for the books to the family business. "I heard one of the agents say that if my father didn't want to end up like his brothers, he'd better hand over the books," Bill Bennett said. His father, the last Bennett brother, refused.

Less than two weeks later, William Bennett was executed. Before his death, he told his son that one of the agents who came for the books was Paul Rico.

Informed yesterday that Rico had died in a hospital room under prison guard, Bill Bennett let out a deep sigh. "I've got just one comment on Mr. Rico's death and it's this: I'll see him in hell!"

Thanks to unearthed FBI reports and confessions of a career mobster like Frank Salemme, we know Rico not only helped to place innocent men on death row, he played a huge role in choreographing the Boston gang wars of the '60s.

For instance, Salemme has told law-enforcement officials he and Flemmi succeeded killing Edward "Punchy" McLaughlin thanks in part to information provided to them by Rico.

John Martorano essentially repeated the same story with the murder of World Jai Alai owner Roger Wheeler. Seeking to halt Wheeler's inquiries into the skimming of World Jai Alai funds, Rico, then security chief for the Florida company, allegedly called upon his Boston acquaintances, Bulger and Flemmi.

Roger Wheeler was shot in the head in parking lot of a Tulsa country club. That was 23 years ago. Tulsa homicide Det. Mike Huff refused to let the case fade away. Last October, it was Huff who presented with Rico with a warrant for first degree murder.

Until Huff came for him, Rico had been living a rather full and comfortable life in retirement, going out to dinner and playing plenty of golf. He was sure he'd back home for lunch that October day. When he realized there'd be no bail for a first-degree murder suspect, my guess is that Paul Rico was content to wither and die rather than live in a courtroom.

Yesterday, Mike Huff was not willing to let his case die with Rico. This cop spoke of the other outstanding murder warrant in this case, the one with Whitey Bulger's name on it. "He needs to be caught and stand trial. The public has right to some answers."

If it sounds like this country cop is tilting at windmills, remember Paul Rico dismissed him for years, too . . . right before meeting his maker in a prison jumpsuit.

**Load-Date:** January 18, 2004

'Country' cop finally nets slippery FBI fish



## 'Country' cop finally nets slippery FBI fish

The Boston Herald

October 10, 2003 Friday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;**Length:** 639 words**Byline:** By PETER GELZINIS

### **Body**

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Ahab went insane before he finally caught up with Moby Dick. Fate has been a bit kinder to Sgt. Mike Huff, a homicide detective in Tulsa, Okla.

For some 22 years, this cop has pursued a diabolical former G-man named **H. Paul Rico** for his alleged role in the execution of Roger Wheeler, a prominent Tulsa businessman.

All it cost Mike Huff was a marriage, a family and no small amount of faith in what he called the "cesspool" of the FBI. But somehow, he has managed to hold on to his sanity. Perhaps that's because the dogged cop always knew that one day he would stand outside the home in West Palm Beach with a warrant in his hand.

By all accounts, yesterday's sunrise arrest was uneventful. For Paul Rico, the moment could hardly have been a surprise. Three years ago, he sat before a congressional committee in Washington and admitted that almost 40 years earlier he allowed his mob informant, Joe "The Animal" Barboza, to send four innocent men to prison facing a death penalty.

"Whaddya want from me, tears?" he barked at the D.C. cops. Rico would later sneer to a lawyer for the House Government Reform Committee: "Whaddya going to do to me? I'm an old man."

Old men die in prison every day. If Paul Rico's lucky, he'll die in a cell, instead of the electric chair. And there's no one who appreciates that more than Rico's most beloved rat - and partner in crime - Steve Flemmi. After all, the emaciated 69-year-old Rifleman is looking at dying in Oklahoma for helping to orchestrate the Wheeler hit with Rico's other old friend, Whitey Bulger.

The consensus suggests Flemmi is playing musical chairs with the electric chair. In exchange for what's left of his life - the only thing he's got to trade - Stevie is believed to have supplied Mike Huff with what he needed to finally slip the cuffs on Rico's decrepit wrists after 22 long years. For it is more than a little ironic that after two decades, **H. Paul Rico** gets pulled in to answer for Roger Wheeler's murder on the eve of Steve Flemmi's long-awaited trial in federal court.



## 'Country' cop finally nets slippery FBI fish

Boston lawyer Frank Libby represents the Wheeler family in a wrongful death suit against the federal government that names **H. Paul Rico**. There's no doubt in Libby's mind that Steve Flemmi was the catalyst for what happened in Florida yesterday.

"Since John Connolly's trial and before, all these pieces of information have been slamming into each other," Libby said yesterday. "The common thread in all of it has been **H. Paul Rico**. And yet until now, he's managed to walk away unscathed."

Libby was referring to the stunning testimony of the Winter Hill henchman John Martorano during the Connolly trial last year. Martorano said he killed Wheeler, president of World Jai Alai, at the behest of Rico, the late John Callahan, Flemmi and Bulger to cover their skimming a ton of dough.

Needless to say, when Mike Huff's investigation led him to the Boston office of the FBI and a long ago face-to-face with special agent John "Zip" Connolly, it didn't take long for this country boy to realize he was in the presence of the devil.

The case haunted Huff because he saw the devastating impact it had on Roger Wheeler's family. The family business collapsed. The Wheelers left Tulsa. The son, David, would become a kind of brother to Huff. Early on, the two realized they were up against a treachery much bigger than they could imagine.

David Wheeler has always known in his heart that the retired FBI agent his father hired as vice president of "security" was the man who arranged for a bullet in his head in the parking lot of the Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa. He knew it even as Rico knelt at his father's casket, whispering hollow prayers of condolence. He knew when the government set out to bury this case and with it, the stubborn Tulsa cop who wouldn't go away.

**Load-Date:** October 10, 2003



## *Rico testimony chilling even by Mob standards*

The Boston Herald

May 6, 2001 Sunday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 676 words

**Byline:** By Peter Gelzinis

### **Body**

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Evil as it may look, **H. Paul Rico's** face is disintegrating. It's as if the weight of this sinister old G-Man's poisoned career is burned into the dissolute landscape of his tanned, sagging flesh.

Last week, as the House Government Reform Committee in Washington opened hearings into FBI corruption, Rico's lawyer urged him to plead the Fifth. But the silver-haired rogue arrogantly waived off his counsel.

"What do I care? I'm 76 years old," Rico was heard to grumble. "What the bleep are they gonna do to me?"

Indeed. To look at Rico is to know his liver is likely to explode before the government can make him pay for allowing Joe Salvati to be framed and rot in prison for 30 years.

U.S. Rep. Bill Delahunt is no stranger to the darkness of the tale, having done his share of Bulger-Flemmi reconnaissance as DA of Norfolk County. Yet, what he heard on Thursday "had the surreal quality of a Kafka novel."

"It was like what you'd expect to hear from an S.S. guard in a Nazi death camp," Delahunt said. "Unlike some of the other members on the committee, I was somewhat prepared for the lack of moral responsibility. But what's stunning is just how twisted the depravity is and how deep it reaches."

The original sin of Joe Salvati's wrongful conviction for the murder of Edward "Teddy" Deegan was documented in a recently uncovered report Agent **H. Paul Rico** and his partner, Dennis Condon, wrote some 35 years ago.

Not only do they learn of the Deegan "hit" BEFORE it happens, they also know that Vincent "Jimmy The Bear" Flemmi plans to kill him. The late Jimmy The Bear was the brother of Rico's favorite informant, Stevie "The Rifleman" Flemmi.

The report Rico and Condon wrote was passed on to their immediate FBI boss in Boston, one John "Jack" Kehoe. Ultimately, Rico, Condon and Kehoe allowed another FBI stool pigeon, Joe Barboza, to implicate Salvati in the Deegan murder.

## Rico testimony chilling even by Mob standards

But the issue Delahunt raised yesterday goes deeper . . . and is darker than the stain of this original sin.

Several times over the course of his 30 years in prison, the state parole board recommended Joe Salvati be let out of jail. Each time, the recommendation was systematically thwarted, under the reign of both Michael Dukakis and Bill Weld.

"Who was in a position to provide information that precluded the (parole) recommendations from being acted on?" Delahunt asked. "And was this the action of law enforcement people?"

Well, there was **H. Paul Rico**, who knew Joe Salvati had nothing to do with the Deegan murder. There was his boss, Jack Kehoe, who would leave the FBI to oversee the state police as commissioner of public safety under Michael Dukakis.

And there was Rico's partner, Dennis Condon, who would eventually follow Kehoe as czar into the very same post.

"Think of how air tight it was," said one embittered law enforcement source. "That poor sonovabitch (Salvati) was never gonna see the light of day. How could he? These guys knew the whole bleeping thing would unravel if he ever got out of jail."

As recently as 1993, William Floyd Weld disregarded his parole board's recommendation on Joe Salvati, insisting his "ties to organized crime" made him a threat to society. Meanwhile, all Salvati had for a record was minor B & E in 1954.

Then, in 1997, two years after Whitey Bulger ran away, one year after Stevie Flemmi admitted he shared a 30-year marriage of convenience with **H. Paul Rico** and Dennis Condon, Bill Weld frees Joe Salvati. Suddenly, he's an innocent man.

Bill Delahunt said he intends to subpoena Michael Dukakis, Bill Weld, Jack Kehoe and Dennis Condon (who claims his heart is too weak) to hear their reflections on how justice was subverted for three decades.

As for **H. Paul Rico** . . . Hey, "What do you want? Tears?" All the evil truth is in the face. Indicted G-Man John Connolly found what he needed in that treacherous face. So, too, did Whitey Bulger, who remained forever grateful for all the "kindness" Rico showed his kid brother, Billy.

Talk back to Peter Gelzinis online at [bostonherald.com](http://bostonherald.com).

**Load-Date:** May 6, 2001



## [A G-man godfather suffers - with good reason](#)

The Boston Herald

January 15, 2004 Thursday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 592 words

**Byline:** By Peter Gelzinis

### **Body**

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A 78-year-old FBI mobster was arraigned in a Tulsa jailhouse yesterday.

After spending the last four months in an orange jumpsuit, **H. Paul Rico** looks almost as bad as the murder he's accused of orchestrating some 22 years ago, with the assistance of his former "Top Echelon" informant and personal hit man, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi.

Rico did not speak yesterday. Rather, he sat in a wheelchair and moaned occasionally for the benefit of a closed-circuit TV camera. He recently has complained of snakes crawling all over his cell. Snakes, indeed. And more than a few ghosts. No doubt they all have faces that look just like Stevie Flemmi and Whitey Bulger.

"Judge . . . I am telling you this man is sick, extremely sick," said Rico's Tulsa mouthpiece, Garvin Isaacs, whose immediate goal is to spring the old G-man on reduced bail.

Yes, 'tis a scene that conjures up memories of Vincent "The Chin" Gigante. Remember the wizened New York mafioso who tried so hard to convince a judge he'd gone daffy that he stumbled into court each day in his bathrobe and pajamas?

In Tulsa, the Cosa Nostra parallels begin with the so-called "character" letters, written on Rico's behalf by former field agents who sound like "soldiers" celebrating the memory of their legendary FBI godfather.

Consider this love song by Michael V. Guio of Indiana: "I know what a great agent you were in Boston and remember your kindness in showing a rookie the ropes when I was assigned to the Boston (Organized Crime) Squad in 1968."

Coincidentally, that was right around the time **H. Paul Rico** and his partner, Dennis Condon, were pulling off a masterful frame, which sent four innocent men to death row for a murder Rico knew had been committed by two of his informants.

"I took the lessons that you provided with me to New York," Guio writes, "and . . . have told many that you were the best informant man that I ever knew."

## A G-man godfather suffers - with good reason

If not the best, then certainly the most treacherous. For in the end, one has to give this FBI monster his due. After all, he did become a legend in J. Edgar Hoover's FBI by sanctioning the murder and mayhem of informants like Joe "The Animal" Barboza, Vincent "Jimmy the Bear" Flemmi and his brother, Stevie, to name but a few.

Of course, Paul Rico's distinctive contribution to the science of cultivating informants was to have them kill upon request, just like the Mafia to encourage them to eliminate other hoods in an all-out gang war that littered Boston's streets throughout the '60s with nearly 100 bodies.

After telling Rico he was called out of retirement by the special agent in charge of the Indianapolis office to impart informant techniques to young agents, Guio goes on to bemoan the current state of a so-called new and reformed FBI.

"The present (Indianapolis) SAC agrees," Guio writes to his mentor and "godfather," Paul Rico, "that it isn't our Bureau anymore."

OURBureau?

If you were to change his wardrobe just a bit, Guio could be talking about "our thing," or to be more precise, "this thing of ours."

Our Bureau? Our thing? When you talk about the despicable old man in the orange jumpsuit, it's really one and the same, perfectly interchangeable. For ***H. Paul Rico*** never did fight the Mafia. He just tailored it to his needs. He "made" some gangsters and saw to it that others departed this vale of tears.

This FBI mobster in the Tulsa jail may indeed be falling apart. But if there is such a thing as justice, Paul Rico's long list of maladies won't catch up to him until the day AFTER a jury does.

**Load-Date:** January 15, 2004



## [AT 78, RICO DIES UNDER GUARD; Former G-man was to be tried for murder](#)

The Boston Herald  
January 18, 2004 Sunday  
ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 925 words

**Byline:** By J.M. LAWRENCE

### **Body**

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**H. Paul Rico**, the retired Boston FBI agent who created Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi's double life as an informant in 1965, died yesterday at a Tulsa Hospital while awaiting trial on charges he conspired with his ex-informants to commit murder.

Tulsa police said no cause of death has been determined for the 78-year-old Rico, a Belmont native, who died alone around 12:30 a.m. with jail guards outside his room, according to a source.

"It's not the closure desired or expected by law enforcement," Tulsa County District Attorney Timothy Harris said. "But life holds different turns and I don't think anyone could have expected this."

Police launched an investigation into Rico's death and were forced to retrieve his body from a funeral home yesterday. His body should have gone directly to the medical examiner's office, sources said.

A judge on Friday had put the case on hold until Rico faced a competency evaluation following reports he suffered an assault by other inmates in December in Miami and hallucinated visions of snakes.

Rico was accused of conspiring with Flemmi and James "Whitey" Bulger to kill World Jai Alai owner Roger Wheeler in 1981 in a bid to take over Wheeler's gambling frontons. Two other men connected to the case also were murdered by the mob in 1982.

"I'm about to join the grassy knoll club myself here," said Frank Libby, attorney for the Wheeler family, yesterday.

Libby speculated guilt killed Rico, though the ex-G-man entered a plea of innocence from his wheelchair on Tuesday in the Tulsa jail infirmary.

"You can't discount the notion the body is driven by the mind," Libby said. "He and Roger Wheeler were just about same age in 1981. Wheeler gets grotesquely murdered and Rico goes on to enjoy another 23 years of life and then the long bony arm of justice grabs him. That's gotta do something to you."

## AT 78, RICO DIES UNDER GUARD; Former G-man was to be tried for murder

Hospital officials said Rico died of natural causes, but Tulsa police called the statement "premature" until an autopsy is performed.

Rico's attorney, Garvin Issacs, and family members told a judge on Friday that Rico suffered from congestive heart failure and had lost 53 pounds since his October arrest but was lucid and eager to go to trial.

Issacs could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Former FBI colleagues of Ricoreacted to his death with anger and blamed Tulsa law enforcement for pursuing a case on the testimony of Flemmi and hitman John Martorano. Flemmi pleaded guilty to Wheeler's murder and nine other killings in October, while Martorano testified in 2002 that Rico gave him details about Wheeler's habits.

"It's an atrocity," said retired FBI agent Mike McPheters of Moses Lake, Wash., who last saw Rico days before his arrest at his Florida home. "He was doing fine. This whole thing just precipitated his death. He had to die for something that no one knows he ever did."

Tulsa officials dismissed a brotherhood of 25 retired FBI agents who wrote letters to the court on Rico's behalf as blind loyalists. "They don't know what the case is," Harris said. "They have a friend who was charged and it's valiant they stand by him."

Sgt. Michael Huff, who began his investigation of the Wheeler case almost 23 years ago, said citizens deserve to hear all the evidence now.

"We wanted our day in court, too," Huff said. "This wasn't a guy that had one bad day that he made a slip up and somebody wound up dead. This was something much more complicated. The conspiracy was much deeper."

Harris declined comment on details of the murder case, citing Tulsa's outstanding warrant in the Wheeler murder for Bulger, the notorious FBI informant now on the Top 10 Most Wanted list and a fugitive since 1995.

Rico's death cancels a raft of subpoenas for testimony that could have shed more light on the Boston FBI's use of murderous informants and Rico's bond with Flemmi and Bulger after his 1975 retirement from the FBI, according to Huff.

"The axis of the story was Rico," Huff said. "Rico's the one who tied everything together. He bridged the gap from the 1960s Boston gang wars through the Wheeler murder and beyond."

During his FBI years, Rico won accolades for turning hitman Joseph "The Animal" Barboza against the Mafia, but then withheld exculpatory evidence, leading to wrongful convictions against four men for a 1965 mob murder. Joseph Salvati and Peter Limone spent three decades in prison before charges were dropped in 2001, while two others died in prison.

"He was not the only person who took part in cover-ups and the framing of innocent people," Salvati's attorney, Victor Garo, said. "There is no doubt that many people feared what Paul Rico might have said if he ever became talkative."

Caption: BEREAVED: Walter and Barbara Bennett wait in November at a possible burial site in Hopkinton in hopes the bodies of Edward and Walter Bennett would be recovered. Stephen Flemmi, an H. Paul Rico informant, admitted killing the two. Bill Bennett Jr., a nephew, said of Rico yesterday, 'I'll see him in hell!' STAFF FILE PHOTO BY GEORGE MARTELL

Caption: BUSTED: Ex-agent John J. Connolly was accused with H. Paul Rico of withholding evidence. STAFF FILE PHOTO BY MARK GARFINKEL

Caption: SO HELP ME GOD: Above, former FBI agent H. Paul Rico is sworn in for his testimony before congress on the false imprisonment of Joseph Salvati. Rico was to be tried foR the 1981 murder of Tulsa, Okla.,

AT 78, RICO DIES UNDER GUARD; Former G-man was to be tried for murder

businessman Roger Wheeler, below left, a case Tulsa police detective, Mike Huff, below right, has worked on for more than 20 years. STAFF PHOTO BY MARK GARFINKEL.

**Load-Date:** January 18, 2004

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End of Document





## [Federal agent's acts of treachery go way back](#)

The Boston Herald  
January 9, 2001 Tuesday  
ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 686 words

**Byline:** By PETER GELZINIS

### **Body**

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It lasted for 33 years, but Peter Limone ultimately survived a frame-up by the U.S. government. And the sweetest part of living long enough to go home to Medford is knowing that the feds will have to pay this genial old West End bookmaker for all the time he spent in the can.

"We are going to sue everybody," Limone's lawyer, John Cavicchi, said yesterday.

Of course, they'll drag their feet, but in the end the feds will cough up millions in compensation for the sins of a truly Machiavellian ex-FBI agent named **H. Paul Rico**.

In a nutshell, Rico not only allowed henchmen informants like Vincent "Jimmy The Bear" Flemmi and Joe "The Animal" Barboza to whack out Edward "Teddy" Deegan, he made sure four other people went prison for it . . . two dying there.

Ah, but Rico's treachery didn't begin - or end - with Peter Limone, Joe Salvati, Henry Tameleo or Louis Greco.

If the feds intend to conduct a meaningful exorcism of **H. Paul Rico's** evil, they better revisit the systematic executions of Edward, Walter and Billy Bennett in 1967.

For almost as long as Peter Limone sat in prison, Bill Bennett Jr. has been imprisoned by the memory of watching a sinister G-man demand that his doomed father surrender the books of the Bennett brothers' various enterprises . . . legal and otherwise.

Though two of his brothers had already been murdered, Billy Bennett refused to give Rico what he wanted. Less than two weeks later, he was dead.

"I was there. I saw the whole thing," Bill Jr. recalled yesterday in a phone interview. "It was Paul Rico, an FBI agent, who told my father he'd better give him the family books . . . or else, basically."

The Bennetts, Edward "Wimpy," and brother, Walter, once controlled gambling and loansharking along a wide stretch of Dudley Street. Billy managed their bar, Walter Lounge, near Uphams Corner. Their protege was a tough,

## Federal agent's acts of treachery go way back

cunning kid from Dudley and Mt. Pleasant who would betray them in the end. His name was Stevie Flemmi . . . one of **H. Paul Rico**'s prized rats.

"What (Rico) wanted with the books had very little to do with money," Billy Bennett's son explained. "Lots of names appeared in those ledgers. I'm talking politicians and police officials . . . just the kind of people who'd pay - quite handsomely, I bet - to make sure they never saw the light of day."

The son, who left Boston years ago to make a life for himself far away, spoke of the severe beating his father suffered before being shot and dumped in a snowbank.

"I've been told that certain law enforcement agents sat not too far away and watched my father being beaten to a pulp," Bennett said. "The killers who slaughtered my two uncles and my dad in a matter of months were assisted by the very people who were sworn to bring them justice. In my book that makes them murderers, too."

Last July, the federal government told Bill Bennett, his brother and cousins, that no one would answer for wiping out their fathers. The loophole that denied them a chance at justice after 34 years was neatly summed up in the phrase, "improper use of a grand jury."

That was before FBI documents that **H. Paul Rico** forgot to shred were made public a few weeks back. The cold-blooded arrogance in these papers is what finally sprang Peter Limone from jail. Indeed, if there is any justice, the duplicitous agent named Rico will be indicted under a racketeering act by the same name, RICO.

"What guys like Rico were doing back then," said John Cavicchi, "is what they do in places like Cuba, or Iraq, or some banana republic somewhere. It was tyranny, really. And the crimes were compounded over the years by a legal system that refused to listen to Peter Limone and Joe Salvati."

As for whether the sons of Billy Bennett have a reason to feel poisoned by a tarantula named Rico, John Cavicchi would only say, "Anyone who had the misfortune to cross paths with that gentleman is more than entitled to seek justice."

"Our prison didn't have bars on the doors, or razor wire on the fences," Billy Bennett said, "but I've been living in one since I was 17 and saw my mother come home from the morgue."

**Load-Date:** January 9, 2001



## [Bureau lands on disgraced G-man](#)

The Boston Herald

November 22, 2019 Friday

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**Section:** MAIN; Pg. 6A

**Length:** 739 words

### **Body**

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Don't you hate it when you and your married girlfriend are trying to engineer a coup against the duly elected president of the United States, and your wife busts you and threatens to hire a keyhole peeper and call your mistress's cuckolded husband?

Meet Peter Strzok, the fired crooked FBI agent. And now all his lovey-dovey texts with his galpal are in the public domain, and his squalid, corrupt Deep State life is like an old country song.

Livin' Here, Lovin' There, Lyin' In Between.

I'm telling you, they're not cranking crooked G-men out of the Boston office like they used to. [H. Paul Rico](#), who died in a prison hospital in Tulsa, and Zip Connolly, who's still doing life in a Florida penitentiary on a different organized-crime hit, would have never gotten caught with their, uh, pants down like Strzok did.

To refresh your memory, Strzok was the agent so crooked he needed a corkscrew to get into his trousers in the morning. He was the pluperfect modern G-man -- his specialties were paper shuffling, pencil sharpening and fetching coffee for Jim Comey and Andrew McCabe.

Strzok was the Democrat charged with double duty in 2016: a) brooming the Hillary Clinton espionage investigation so that she could win the election, and b) framing candidate Donald Trump on the Russian collusion hoax, using Clinton's fake dossier.

Nasty business, fixing presidential elections and setting up a coup, but that's the FBI's dirty mandate -- functioning as the Democrats' secret police as the nation was turned into a banana republic. The G-men were framing everybody who wasn't on the team. Just ask Gen. Michael Flynn.

The evil Democrat/FBI edifice of Strzok, Comey, McCabe et al. is about to come tumbling down -- the report on the FBI's abuse of the FISA court warrants is to be released Dec. 9. The Flynn conviction will likewise be thrown out.

In the meantime, we now have a teaser, an appetizer of the impending mega-humiliation of Strzok and the rest of his crooked, incompetent FBI.

See, Strzok has sued to get his phony-baloney job back, which forced the Bureau to file in court their own report on his shocking misconduct.

## Bureau lands on disgraced G-man

A lot of the report involves the tens of thousands of texts Strzok exchanged with his married girlfriend, an FBI lawyer named Lisa Page. The FBI first tried to delete them, but they're not making crooked G-men as slick as H. Paul Rico and Zip Connolly anymore. The Inspector General found them, and now they're in the public record.

You've read the texts the lovebirds sent one another about how much they loathed Trump, and loved Clinton, and their "insurance policy" to destroy the Republic. But now we also have a sampling of the sweet nothings they were whispering in one another's ears.

Let's go to page 13, texts from April 4, 2017, between Strzok and his girlfriend. Mrs. Strzok has just realized what's been going on, and is on the phone, trying to reach the trollop to give her a piece of her mind. Strzok texts his squeeze.

Strzok: (My wife) has my phone. Read an angry note I read but didn't send you. That is her calling from my phone. She says she wants to talk to (you). Said we were close friends nothing more.

Page: Your wife left me a vm. Am I supposed to respond? She thinks we're having an affair. Should I call and correct her understanding? Leave this to you to address?

Strzok: I don't know. I said we were close friends and nothing more. She knows I sent you flowers, I said you were having a tough week.

What a drag it is, when you're trying to frame a duly elected president of the United States, and you get busted for playing doctor with the shades drawn!

Strzok must have been asking himself -- WWBCD? What would Bill Clinton do? Guess we know what he's having for dinner every night now -- hot tongue and cold shoulder.

Here's the final verdict on Strzok from the FBI's Office of Professional Responsibility:

"Your inappropriate text messages ... caused immeasurable harm to the Bureau's reputation with DOJ, other government officials, and the American public... The level of hypocrisy seen in your conduct is staggering ... an enormous embarrassment to the Bureau ... Your vituperative text messages will be the subject of damning public discourse for days, months and even years to come, and the FBI will be recipient of the expressed outrage."

Hey FBI, wait until the IG's report hits Dec. 9. You ain't seen nothing yet.

Check out Howie's latest podcasts at [howiecarrshow.com](http://howiecarrshow.com).

## Graphic

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Howie Carr AP file photos 'IMMEASURABLE HARM': Fired FBI staffer Peter Strzok came under a withering attack by his old agency, which called his text messages 'inappropriate' and 'vituperative.' Above, FBI headquarters.

**Load-Date:** November 22, 2019

## NIGHTLINE WRONGLY ACCUSED

**NIGHTLINE WRONGLY ACCUSED**

ABC News Transcripts NIGHTLINE (11:35 PM ET) - ABC

August 28, 2002 Wednesday

Copyright 2002 American Broadcasting Companies, Inc.

**Length:** 3630 words**Body**

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graphics: AUGUST 28 2002

ANNOUNCER

August 28, 2002.

TED KOPPEL, ABC NEWS

It was a brutal, gangland murder in this back alley. And the FBI knew that this man was the killer before it happened. But this man served 30 years in prison for the crime.

JOSEPH SALVATI, WRONGLY ACCUSED

See, I never accept what they charged me with. But I had to accept the punishment and I accepted it. And I done it.

MARIE SALVATI, WIFE OF ACCUSED

You know, it was so important for the family to stay together. And that meant a lot to me. And my children, he needed it, we needed it.

TED KOPPEL

He was set up to protect the real killers.

JOSEPH SALVATI

Law enforcement that does wrong must be held accountable. They must. It's, this can't go on. They hid behind their badge and, and, and, and done this.

TED KOPPEL

Tonight, the fall guy betrayed by his own government.

graphics: FALL GUY

## NIGHTLINE WRONGLY ACCUSED

ABC NEWS NIGHTLINE

ANNOUNCER

From ABC News, this is "Nightline." Reporting from Washington, Ted Koppel.

TED KOPPEL

Back in 1967, four men were indicted in a gangland killing. All four were found guilty. Three were sentenced to death, the fourth was sentenced to life in prison. All four men were innocent and the FBI knew it. But the Bureau did nothing because the actual killers were also FBI informants and considered critical to the battle against organized crime. It's the kind of thing you would like to believe could not happen in the United States. But it did. There were no executions. Massachusetts dropped the death penalty in 1974. But two of the innocent men died in prison. And each of the other two spent over 30 years behind bars. You'll meet one of them, and the woman who stood by his side all of those years, in a few minutes. But first, a little more background from "Nightline" correspondent Chris Bury.

CHRIS BURY, ABC NEWS

(Voice Over) On a chilly March day in 1997, Joseph Salvati emerged from this Massachusetts prison after 30 years inside. His life sentence commuted, Salvati had his freedom back but not his name.

JOSEPH SALVATI

In the eyes of the law, I am still guilty of crimes that sent me to prison. However, I still maintain that I'm innocent and I promise you that you have not heard the last of my case.

CHRIS BURY

(Voice Over) Nearly four years later, a judge cleared him of murder, and in this bombshell from the bench, accused the FBI of knowing he was innocent all along.

JUDGE MARGARET HINKLE,

MASSACHUSETTS SUPERIOR COURT

The FBI had information at the time of the murder, at the time of the investigation of the murder and at the time of the trial of Mr. Salvati and his co-defendants, that the individuals who were involved in the murder did not include Mr. Salvati.

CHRIS BURY

(Off Camera) In March 1965, FBI agents eavesdropped as two gangsters asked the local mob boss, Raymond Patriarca, for permission to kill a petty criminal named Edward Deegan. The mob boss agreed, according to this FBI memo detailing the conversation. Raymond Patriarca has put out the word that Edward "Teddy" Deegan is to be hit, and that a dry run has already been made.

graphics: " . . . RAYMOND PATRIARCA HAS PUT OUT THE WORD THE EDWARD "TEDDY" DEEGAN IS TO BE "HIT" AND THAT A DRY RUN HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE . . . "

CHRIS BURY

(Voice Over) Two days later, Deegan is shot to death in an alleyway. Another FBI memo quoted informants naming the four prominent local hoodlums responsible for the killing. But only two of the real killers were charged and four innocent men, including Salvati, were convicted of murder, even though the FBI knew they were not guilty.

graphics: " . . . PROMINENT LOCAL HOODLUMS, WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KILLING."

NIGHTLINE WRONGLY ACCUSED

RALPH RANALLI, AUTHOR, JOURNALIST

They let it happen. They knew who had really done it. And then three years later, they let the wrong guys be indicted. And it was all in the name of going after the Mafia.

CHRIS BURY

(Voice Over) The real killers protected by the FBI included two notorious mob hit men, Vincent Flemmi and Joseph Barboza. They were crucial in the Bureau's efforts to get mob boss Raymond Patriarca.

graphics: VINCENT FLEMMI JOSEPH BARBOZA

JOSEPH " THE ANIMAL " BARBOZA, HITMAN

You know, I've been termed, termed like a, a, a canary, a song bird. Well, I may be all kinds of birds, but, you know, Patriarca is a jailbird today.

CHRIS BURY

(Voice Over) His testimony also sent Salvati, then a local truck driver, to prison. Two other falsely accused men died serving time. A fourth spent 33 years in prison until his release last year.

JIM WILSON, CHIEF COUNSEL

It's a tragic case. It's the sort of thing that should never happen in the United States.

CHRIS BURY

(Voice Over) Jim Wilson is Chief Counsel for a House Committee investigating the FBI's conduct in the Boston cases. It discovered that Hoover's own creation, the top echelon informant program, routinely protected vicious criminals, including repeat killers, in exchange for inside information.

JIM WILSON

The Salvati case isn't the only element of what went on in New England. There's a, a pattern that went for nearly 40 years of government misconduct.

REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTOPHER SHAYS,

REPUBLICAN, CONNECTICUT

Do you have any remorse?

**H PAUL RICO**, FORMER FBI AGENT

Remorse? For what?

CHRIS BURY

(Voice Over) In hearings last year, the former FBI agent responsible for cultivating mob informants in Boston defended the practice.

REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

So you really, don't really, you don't really care much and you don't really have any remorse, is that true?

**H PAUL RICO**

Would you, would you like tears or something? Or what?

NIGHTLINE WRONGLY ACCUSED

REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

Pardon me?

**H PAUL RICO**

What do you want, tears?

CHRIS BURY

(Off Camera) Joseph Salvati is now suing the FBI for 300 million dollars. In all, the damages sought by those falsely imprisoned and their families exceed two billion dollars. The chairman of the House Committee investigating all this, Republican Dan Burton, is so outraged, he's asked Congress to remove J. Edgar Hoover's name from FBI Headquarters. This is Chris Bury, for "Nightline" in Washington.

TED KOPPEL

I'll be talking with Joe and Marie Salvati in just a few minutes. But first, I wanted to introduce you to the man who, for the past 25 years, has represented the Salvati family, Joe Salvati in particular. You estimate that you've put in 25,000 hours of your time. Victor Garo incidentally, is the man that I'm talking to here. 25,000 hours?

VICTOR GARO, SALVATI FAMILY LAWYER

That's right. 25,000 free hours of my time because I felt that this was, it was such a great injustice to this family. I thought that it had to be fought and I have been fighting it for over this period of time.

TED KOPPEL

Was it your idea to sue the government now for \$300 million?

VICTOR GARO

We have talked about it. I don't make any decisions by myself. Mr. Salvati, his wife and the kids, we all sit down and talk about the moves that we make.

TED KOPPEL

I know there were a lot of memos that went all the way up to J. Edgar Hoover's desk.

VICTOR GARO

Absolutely.

TED KOPPEL

Are you, are you convinced, and when I say are you convinced, do you have evidence that Hoover actually knew what was going on?

VICTOR GARO

The evidence shows that J. Edgar Hoover knew everything that was going on in this case. And, in my opinion, he conspired with other FBI agents to murder Joe Salvati. The manner and means to commit that murder by, was by way of an indictment on October 25th of 1967, wherein the punishment and the penalty at that time was death in the electric chair. And allowing an informant of theirs to commit perjury. And the FBI agents in Boston at that time had evidence to show that Mr. Salvati was innocent of the crime that they were charging him with.

TED KOPPEL



NIGHTLINE WRONGLY ACCUSED

And lest anybody think that you're exaggerating here, in fact, one of four men who was in there was in there on a, on a death penalty sentence, right? In other words, one of the four men that the FBI knew was innocent of the charges against him?

VICTOR GARO

There were, there were others that were, were sentenced to death. Mr. Salvati was sentenced to life in prison. But his family, from October 25th of 1967 until July 31st of 1968, when he was found guilty and the jury recommended leniency for him, they thought that their father or their husband was going to die in the electric chair. As a matter of fact, one of the children, on one of the visits to Joe, his youngest daughter, said to him, "Daddy, I hear you're gonna get a present. They're gonna, you're gonna get the electric chair. Daddy, what does it mean, they're gonna give you the electric chair?" You tell me how anybody with a conscience can allow an eight or 9- year-old girl to come to her father and say, "Daddy, what's, what are you going to get, the electric chair?" I just don't understand how people can live with their consciences, knowing that they're trying and attempting to destroy a family that is supposed to be protected by the Constitution of the United States.

TED KOPPEL

Mr. Garo, I thank you. We're gonna ask you to relinquish your chair. When we come back, I'll be here with Joseph and Marie Salvati.

graphics: NIGHTLINE

ANNOUNCER

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commercial break

TED KOPPEL

And I'm joined now by Joe and Marie Salvati. Thank you for coming. Joe, I want to begin with you. And I'm gonna begin. Let's get something out of the way. When you were a kid you were not exactly a model citizen, right.

JOSEPH SALVATI

Oh, yes, I was.

TED KOPPEL

Except for, I mean, there was one charge against you, right?

JOSEPH SALVATI

I had a breaking and entering charge about 45 years ago.

TED KOPPEL

When you were 19?

JOSEPH SALVATI

Right.

TED KOPPEL

Other than that, clean record?

## NIGHTLINE WRONGLY ACCUSED

JOSEPH SALVATI

That's it.

TED KOPPEL

You were a truck driver?

JOSEPH SALVATI

I, I drove truck and I drove trailer. And I unloaded fish. And I even worked as a doorman for nothing, just for tips, and . . .

TED KOPPEL

How did these guys in the mob come to know you at all? I mean, why did they have any views about you at all, even in terms of setting you up as a victim?

JOSEPH SALVATI

Well, let's see, I borrowed \$400 from a shylock and things were slow and I had to pay the bills, so I went to him and borrowed the money.

TED KOPPEL

And you weren't able to pay it back?

JOSEPH SALVATI

And I paid the vigors every week. And about a month, two months later, I, I, I needed two more hundred. And I went and borrowed two more hundred, but Joe Barboza became partners with this fella that I borrowed the money from. And he was like the enforcer and said, "Yeah, I give him the money." He said, "I hope you don't pay."

TED KOPPEL

When one of the wise guys says to you, "I hope you don't pay," what is he really telling you?

JOSEPH SALVATI

Well that's, he's telling you he'd come after you and hurt you.

TED KOPPEL

They hurt you, but it must have come out of the blue. I mean, the way they hurt you, you can't have anticipated that. You can't have expected that.

JOSEPH SALVATI

Oh, of course not. He killed me with his mouth.

TED KOPPEL

Tell me what you mean.

JOSEPH SALVATI

Well, he, he, he sentenced me to death. He, he replaced me with, with his friend that really committed the crime, because when he was collecting his money, see, just at the time when Barboza was becoming an informant, he sent someone out to collect his money. He had a bat under his arm. And he said, Joe said he wants the money

## NIGHTLINE WRONGLY ACCUSED

and he wants it now. And they come after me and were gonna hurt me. And I went after them and hurt them. I took the bat and we struggled and they ran out. And I said, "Now you can tell Joe Barboza he's not getting anything," with a few choice words in it. He sent word back to us through a lawyer and said, you tell Mr. Joe I'll take good care of him.

TED KOPPEL

And he did, didn't he?

JOSEPH SALVATI

And I said, what the hell can you do to me? I never done nothing with him. But he did.

TED KOPPEL

When the cops first came after you, when they arrested you, what did you think?

JOSEPH SALVATI

I think I was numb. I couldn't talk. This, the sergeant, I knew him, he said, "Joe", he said, "Can I talk to you?" I said, "Sure." He said, "I got a warrant for your arrest." I said, "For what?" He said, "For murder." I got weak. I was, you know, I got numb. I said, "You, come on, you gotta be kidding me." "Sit down," he said, "and read this."

TED KOPPEL

How did you tell Marie?

JOSEPH SALVATI

I didn't. She found out when she got through work, through with the children. Someone had told her that your husband just got arrested.

TED KOPPEL

Now, you, you had, you'd been married for quite a while already at that point, hadn't you, Marie?

MARIE SALVATI

Well, yes. Yes.

TED KOPPEL

How many years?

MARIE SALVATI

Thirteen years.

MARIE SALVATI (CONTINUED)

Thirteen years?

MARIE SALVATI (CONTINUED)

Yeah.

TED KOPPEL

Did it ever occur to you that you might be married to a murderer?

## NIGHTLINE WRONGLY ACCUSED

MARIE SALVATI

Not in my wildest dreams. Never.

TED KOPPEL

So when you heard this, when you heard that he was . . .

MARIE SALVATI

When I, when I heard this, this here, I was shattered. I was devastated. I, I, like I, I just couldn't believe it. The children were coming out of school. It was like during the daytime when they picked him up. And it was very hard because we live in a small neighborhood. And it's, you know, you just walk down the street and everybody knows who you are. And this, this spread like wildfire in the community. You know, that Joe got picked up and was arrested. And no matter who you talked to in the neighborhood, they know my husband is a good person. It's impossible, can't be. Never would hurt anybody. That was, that's what even made it more like shocking that he would get picked up for something like this.

TED KOPPEL

But this was, this was a nightmare that had to keep getting worse, day by day, week by week. 'Cause you think, okay, there's been a mistake. They got the wrong guy, they're going to figure it out.

JOSEPH SALVATI

This can't happen. Something's wrong here.

TED KOPPEL

This can't happen. So then you go to trial, right?

JOSEPH SALVATI

Waited ten months and then went to trial.

TED KOPPEL

How long did the trial last?

JOSEPH SALVATI

Thirty, 30 some-odd days.

TED KOPPEL

Thirty days. And then there, you had a jury trial, right. The jury goes out and how long did it take the jury to come back with a verdict?

JOSEPH SALVATI

They had a verdict within hours.

TED KOPPEL

So, when they came back, and the judge turns to the foreman of the jury, we've all seen it, 100 times, right, in movies, right? Mr. Foreman, Madame foreman, whatever it is, have you reached a verdict? Do you remember that moment?

## NIGHTLINE WRONGLY ACCUSED

JOSEPH SALVATI

Mm hmm. Very clear.

TED KOPPEL

Describe it for me.

JOSEPH SALVATI

When the jury came back, they all had their heads down. I said we're in serious trouble here. When they got up and read the verdicts, he had, I had to stand up one at a time and asked us, do you have anything to say? And some said yes. When he pronounced the death sentence on four of them, he said, "you're to die in the electric chair with the current running through your body until you are dead" on certain given date. He done this like he was enjoying it. He come to me and said, do you have anything to say and I said no. And he pronounced, he said I sentence you to the rest of your life, natural life in prison.

TED KOPPEL

And in point of fact, your collective nightmare at that point was just beginning. You had no idea what was still awaiting you. But we're going to try and jam, we're gonna try and jam 30 years into six or seven minutes when we come back. we'll be back in a moment.

commercial break

TED KOPPEL

And we're back once again with Joe and Marie Salvati. Joe, as a young man, you had to be a pretty tough guy. I mean, if you would take on some guy from the mob that was coming after you with a baseball bat. But still, on that first day, state prison? Federal prison?

JOSEPH SALVATI

State prison.

TED KOPPEL

State prison. How do you survive that? In other words, you're going in there. They are told you're gonna be in there for the rest of your natural life. And you know something that even Marie doesn't know. She loves you, she believes in you, she trusts you. She cannot believe that you're guilty. But you're the only one on earth who knows "I'm not guilty."

JOSEPH SALVATI

And the people who put me there.

TED KOPPEL

And the people who put you there are not just a bunch of hoodlums. Right? Some of them, . . .

JOSEPH SALVATI

Are law enforcement.

TED KOPPEL

Are law enforcement.

NIGHTLINE WRONGLY ACCUSED

JOSEPH SALVATI

Most of them were.

TED KOPPEL

FBI agents.

JOSEPH SALVATI

Right.

TED KOPPEL

Right. Justice department.

JOSEPH SALVATI

Justice, FBI.

TED KOPPEL

What are you thinking?

JOSEPH SALVATI

I was thinking how am I going to do this time? I sat down and, you know, you hear a lot of stories about how people go nuts thinking about the time they're doing. I said I'm either going to do it the easy way or the hard way. I done the time and I didn't let the time do me.

TED KOPPEL

But what does that mean?

TED KOPPEL (CONTINUED)

That means I done the time. See I never accept what they charge me with. But I had to accept the punishment. And I accepted it. And I done it.

TED KOPPEL (CONTINUED)

How did you grow accustomed to being in prison? Did you grow accustomed to that?

JOSEPH SALVATI

You never, you live day-to-day. You know, you do what you have to do.

TED KOPPEL

What was the worst part about it?

JOSEPH SALVATI

Being in prison. Being away from your family. You get a visit. They're here. You love your kids. You hold them, hug them and then have to leave. Get back in your room and you sit down and think.

TED KOPPEL

How often could you see Joe?

## NIGHTLINE WRONGLY ACCUSED

MARIE SALVATI

Well, I would go up every week.

TED KOPPEL

How far, how far was it from where you lived?

MARIE SALVATI

It's a good, It was a good hour and a half drive, 2-hour drive. I didn't, I didn't have a car in the beginning. And I didn't drive. So, I would, I would network with somebody that was visiting and I'd take the four kids. You know, and I made sure he got a visit every week. And then, about after a a year and a half or two years, I got my driver's license. And I got myself a little car. And, you know, we were in for it for the long haul.

TED KOPPEL

Joe, did you ever, were you ever able to talk to some of the other guys who'd been sentenced with you? I mean, they were innocent too.

JOSEPH SALVATI

They were on death row. And two of us got life sentences. So, you'd see them when they went to mass. General hello, goodbye. It's just a walk down the corridor. If they were on death row, you can't go near them.

TED KOPPEL

If anything is worse than what you're going through, it's what those two guys are going through.

JOSEPH SALVATI

Right.

TED KOPPEL

So you actually had gotten a little bit of mercy.

JOSEPH SALVATI

Right.

TED KOPPEL

But these guys, do you have any idea what was going through their heads?

JOSEPH SALVATI

Oh, I could imagine. When I'd get visits, you know, all I had to do is stall my children. You know, they'd come up, "Daddy, you coming home for this? You coming home for the Birthday? We're having a party and can you come home? Or when are you coming home?" And this went on for a year, two years, three years. And like I told you, my daughter came up and said, "Daddy, what's an electric chair?" And I said, "where did you hear that?" The kids in school they go by me and they go. Your Father's got an electric chair. And bang bang, they're dead, children are cruel. That's what you had to live with.

TED KOPPEL

Three of us are going to talk on "Up Close," which will be a little later this evening, about what you both went through. But I just want to close this part of the conversation, Joe. You're suing the government for \$300 million.

## NIGHTLINE WRONGLY ACCUSED

Does that mean anything to you? I mean, what's the point here? I don't know whether the money's going to make it, . . .

JOSEPH SALVATI

Are you asking me do I want my children to have the things I couldn't give them? Yeah. You want my grandchildren to go to school and have things, nice things? Yeah, yes. I want the money. I deserve it. For what they done to my family and me.

TED KOPPEL

What about punishment? What about a little bit of vengeance here where you say, I want people to pay for what they did?

JOSEPH SALVATI

Law enforcement that does wrong must be held accountable. They must. It's, this can't go on. They hid behind their badge and done this.

TED KOPPEL

And you know what those guys would say, what these guys have said. They've said, "Look . . . "

JOSEPH SALVATI

We done our job.

TED KOPPEL

"We done our job. We went after the big guys. We were after the Mafioso. And, you know, if a few people, if they had to do the time, I mean, what is it, what was it? Rico?"

JOSEPH SALVATI

Yeah, Paul Rico. The con man.

TED KOPPEL

Paul Rico. He said, what do you want me to do? Cry?

JOSEPH SALVATI

That's what he told that, this is the FBI. This is the guy that done all the framing. Knew it. And Congressman asked him do you think, after hearing all this, Joe Salvati's innocent? He said yes. But the Congressman kept looking at him, looking. He said well, I answered your question. He says I know, but I just want to look at you. He said, how do you live with yourself? How do you go to sleep at night? He says, Ah, what do you want? He said, I'll make a good book. This is the FBI. The Justice Department.

TED KOPPEL

All right. We're going to continue our conversation a little bit later this evening on "Up Close," we hope you'll join us for that. But I'll be back in a moment.

commercial break

TED KOPPEL

Coming up on "Up Close," I'll have the rest of my interview with Joe and Marie Salvati.



NIGHTLINE WRONGLY ACCUSED

TED KOPPEL (CONTINUED)

How long has it been since you cried, Joe?

JOSEPH SALVATI

I cry everyday.

TED KOPPEL

And that's our report for tonight. I'm Ted Koppel in Washington. I hope to see you shortly on "Up Close."

graphics: NIGHTLINE

**Load-Date:** March 5, 2004

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End of Document

## FORMER FBI AGENT ARRESTED

**FORMER FBI AGENT ARRESTED**

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A decorated former FBI agent was charged Thursday with setting up the 1981 murder of a top jai alai industry executive, a stunning development in a case investigators suspect arose from efforts by Boston gangsters to penetrate legalized gambling in the U.S.

Authorities arrested former Boston special agent **H. Paul Rico**, 78, at his home near Miami at about 7 a.m. Thursday. Rico's lawyer said he was charged with conspiracy to commit murder and with the murder of World Jai Alai owner Roger M. Wheeler Sr., who was 55 when two gangsters shot him in the head outside his Tulsa, Okla., country club on May 27, 1981. Rico was arrested on Oklahoma charges by Tulsa and Miami-Dade police officers. Wheeler lived in Tulsa.

Rico's arrest is the latest twist in a decade of scandalous disclosures about a corrupt relationship between a cadre of FBI mob investigators in Boston and the mostly Irish gangsters they were supposed to be prosecuting. Another Boston agent -- considered by many to be a Rico protege -- was convicted of racketeering a year ago for providing protection from arrest to the gangsters now believed to have carried out Wheeler's assassination.

Informed sources said Thursday that authorities in Oklahoma based their decision to arrest Rico on information they obtained in recent days from Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, an imprisoned member of Boston's violent Winter Hill gang and a longtime former informant of Rico's. Flemmi is scheduled to go to trial Oct. 20 for about two-dozen murders, including Wheeler's.

Investigators from around the country who have probed Wheeler's death for two decades believe it was linked to his 1978 purchase of World Jai Alai, a legalized gambling company that operated frontons in south Florida and Connecticut. Jai alai is a fast-paced Basque game similar to handball but

## FORMER FBI AGENT ARRESTED

played with long wicker baskets.

Prior to Wheeler's purchase of the company, members of the Winter Hill Gang penetrated the company and were skimming profits, according to a variety of investigators and mob informers. John B. Callahan, an accountant whom Connecticut investigators described as a high-level Winter Hill money launderer, had become president of World Jai Alai by the middle 1970s. Connecticut investigators once tailed Callahan to a meeting of Winter Hill gangsters at Boston's Playboy Club.

Callahan hired Rico as World Jai Alai's vice president for security. Prior to his appointment at World Jai Alai, Rico spent most of his career as a high-profile mob fighter in the FBI's Boston office. During his time there, Rico was supposed to be investigating organized criminals. But disclosures from investigations in federal court and by Congress suggest that, while Rico claimed to be targeting gangsters as informants, he may have been providing them information they used to avoid arrest.

Not long after Wheeler bought World Jai Alai, he confided to Connecticut investigators that he believed his business had been targeted by "mobsters from Boston" who were skimming money. Wheeler's fears became so pronounced that he sold his Hartford fronton to distance himself from New England criminals. But, he told investigators, the skimming continued.

Information collected through a variety of investigations -- notably a probe conducted by a special Justice Department task force beginning in 1997 -- suggests that Winter Hill members decided in the early 1980s they had to kill Wheeler to protect their multimillion-dollar skimming operation.

Winter Hill hitman John Martorano has told investigators that Rico indirectly provided him a slip of paper containing information about Wheeler's address, automobile, appearance and habits so he could be killed. Martorano said Callahan gave him the slip of paper, but claimed Rico had scribbled down the information. The slip of paper no longer exists.

Rico and his lawyer William Cagney III have denied repeatedly that Rico had anything to do with Wheeler's death or any other crimes. Cagney said again Thursday that Rico "categorically denies this" and said Rico will fight the charges filed Thursday by Tulsa County District Attorney Tim Harris.

Harris said Thursday that he "has no comment at this time."

Martorano has told investigators that the plan to murder Wheeler was put together by Winter Hill gang members James "Whitey" Bulger, Flemmi and Callahan. Under the plan, Martorano said he and gang member Joe McDonald flew to Tulsa, where they collected guns that Flemmi had shipped to Oklahoma by bus.

Martorano said he and McDonald then stole a car and waited for Wheeler outside the Southern Hills Country Club on a day they had been told Wheeler would be playing his weekly round of golf. Martorano has told investigators that he shot Wheeler in the forehead after Wheeler left the club and climbed

## FORMER FBI AGENT ARRESTED

into his Cadillac. Martorano said his payoff for killing Wheeler was to be \$10,000 a week he could earn from running the jai alai parking concession in Miami.

Two more Winter Hill members -- Callahan and Edward Brian Halloran -- were killed during the 18 months following Wheeler's death. Martorano said Bulger and Flemmi wanted them killed to prevent them from talking to investigators about the Wheeler shooting.

"This is very scary," said Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Conn., a member of the Congressional Government Reform Committee, which spent more than two years investigating FBI misconduct in Boston. "It's particularly alarming when someone who works for the FBI is accused of murder and conspiracy to commit murder, not to mention being a member of organized crime."

Members of the Wheeler family have been pressing federal and Oklahoma authorities to arrest Rico for more than a decade. Larry Wheeler, one of the victim's sons, said: "It's something I've wanted for years."

"This is going to send shock waves through the bureau," said Robert Fitzpatrick, a retired supervisory FBI agent who worked in Boston at the time of Wheeler's death. "I mean big shock waves."

Oklahoma officials, as well as police and prosecutors in Miami and federal investigators in Boston, refused to comment on developments leading to Rico's arrest.

Rico is expected to be held at the Miami-Dade County jail and will have to decide in coming days whether to fight extradition to Tulsa, a spokesman for the Miami-Dade State Attorney's office said Thursday. The spokesman said Rico will be denied bail in Florida because he was arrested on an out-of-state warrant. A former Tulsa prosecutor said Rico, accused of a capital crime, will likely be denied bail if extradited to Oklahoma, as is expected.

Rico spent 24 years with the FBI, from the 1950s to the early 1970s, before retiring in Florida. Former FBI director J. Edgar Hoover repeatedly decorated Rico for his work as a mob buster. But recently, his record as an agent has crumbled under close inspection. Among other things, he is accused of having knowingly allowed four innocent men to be convicted and imprisoned for murder in Boston in the 1960s. The men were convicted based on perjured testimony by a Rico informant.

When pressed by Shays during a congressional hearing about sending an innocent man to jail for life, Rico retorted, "What do you want? Tears?"

Police in Tulsa have been pushing for Rico's arrest in the Wheeler murder for years, but their efforts have been repeatedly rebuffed by federal prosecutors and by Harris. It was not clear what happened in recent days to persuade Harris to file for Rico's arrest.

Three informed sources said Thursday that Rico's arrest followed a meeting days earlier in Boston between Harris, Tulsa Police Homicide Sgt. Michael Huff and Flemmi. Flemmi is scheduled to stand trial in Boston on charges

## FORMER FBI AGENT ARRESTED

related to dozens of murders, many of which he and Bulger are accused of committing while supposedly acting as FBI informants. Among the victims were Wheeler, Callahan and Halloran.

Bulger is a fugitive from justice. A federal judge concluded in a report that Bulger was able to flee a 1995 indictment because he was tipped off by friends in the FBI.

The three sources said Flemmi provided information that, combined with information already obtained from Martorano and other Winter Hill informants, persuaded Harris to seek Rico's arrest. After Flemmi is tried in federal court in Boston, he faces state murder prosecutions in Oklahoma and Florida for jai alai-related deaths.

Sources in Tulsa said Harris may discuss developments connected to Rico's arrest sometime next week.

## THE FBI GENT AND THE JAI ALAI HIT: A CHRONOLOGY

1972: Connecticut legalizes greyhound racing and jai alai, two parimutuel sports.

1974: World Jai Alai Inc. of Miami hires John B. Callahan, a Boston financier, as president.

1975: **H. Paul Rico** retires from the FBI after 24 years. He specialized in organized crime cases in Boston and cultivated mob informants, including Steven "The Rifleman" Flemmi and James "Whitey" Bulger, two leaders of Boston's Winter Hill gang. Callahan hires Rico as vice president and chief of security for World Jai Alai.

1976: Callahan resigns from World Jai Alai when publicity about his mob connections threatens the company's chances of licensing a Hartford fronton.

1978: Roger Wheeler Sr., a Tulsa-based businessman and founder of Telex Corp., buys World Jai Alai.

1980: Connecticut state police investigate skimming and game-fixing in the jai alai industry. Wheeler decides to sell his Hartford fronton.

1981:

March: Wheeler finalizes the Hartford fronton sale.

May 27: Wheeler, 55, is fatally shot in the head after playing golf in Tulsa.

1982:

January: Edward Brian Halloran, a disaffected Winter Hill member, tells FBI he was offered a contract to kill Wheeler, and implicates Callahan, Rico, Bulger and Flemmi.

May: Halloran is gunned down in South Boston.

August: Callahan is found dead in the trunk of a car at Miami International Airport.

September: Connecticut state police tell colleagues in Florida they believe

## FORMER FBI AGENT ARRESTED

Wheeler was killed because he suspected employees of skimming from World Jai Alai. Tulsa Police Department requests federal grand jury investigation of Wheeler homicide and asks that Rico be subpoenaed; both requests are denied.

October: Florida and Connecticut authorities seize World Jai Alai records in investigation; World Jai Alai sues Florida and Connecticut and wins.

1999:

September: John Martorano, a Winter Hill gang hit man, begins cooperating with authorities.

September: Federal judge condemns FBI for tainted relationship with mob informants that crippled investigations such as the one into corruption and murder in the jai alai industry.

2001:

March: Tulsa police seek charges against Rico, Bulger, Flemmi and Martorano in Wheeler's slaying, but Rico is not charged. The other three later are charged in Florida with killing Callahan.

May: Congressional panel starts investigating ties between Boston FBI office and mob informants.

May: Martorano pleads guilty to killing Wheeler.

2002:

May 13: During the federal racketeering trial of former FBI agent John Connolly, Martorano implicates Rico and Connolly in several jai alai-related slayings, including Wheeler's. He says that the Wheeler hit grew out of the gang's failed attempt to buy World Jai Alai, and that other killings, including those of Callahan and Halloran, were intended to thwart the Connecticut and Oklahoma investigations.

May 28: Connolly is convicted on racketeering charges. He is sentenced in September to 10 years.

Dec. 5: A homicide investigator from Oklahoma tells a congressional panel evidence is being developed to arrest Rico in the Wheeler slaying.

2003:

Oct. 9: Rico, 78, is arrested in Miami and charged in Wheeler's death. Investigators say he provided Martorano with information on Wheeler's schedule so he could be killed.

## Graphic

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PHOTO: (2 b&w) MUGS

PHOTO: (b&w), TULSA WORLD

PHOTO: (3 b&w) MUGS

; 22 YEARS AFTER A MURDER

## FORMER FBI AGENT ARRESTED

Bible Belt millionaire Roger Wheeler (left) was murdered execution-style in Tulsa, Okla., in 1981, three years after he bought World Jai Alai, which owned frontons in Connecticut and Florida. For decades, investigators have believed he was killed because he suspected Boston gangsters were skimming money from the business. Now

**H. Paul Rico** (right) -- an oft-decorated former FBI agent who was World Jai Alai's vice president for security -- is charged with helping to set up the killing.

POLICE SEARCH FOR CLUES in this file photo of the car where where Roger Wheeler Sr. was found dead on May 27, 1981, outside the Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa, Okla. Wheeler was killed by two members of Boston's Winter Hill gang. On Thursday, former FBI Special

Agent **H. Paul Rico** was charged with murder and conspiracy to commit murder of the World Jai Alai owner.

BULGER

CALLAHAN

CONNOLLY

**Load-Date:** October 10, 2003

he paid for fbi's mistake; Limone spent 33 years in prison for murder he didn't commit



## *he paid for fbi's mistake; Limone spent 33 years in prison for murder he didn't commit*

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### **Body**

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Peter Limone, a Mafia soldier from the North End who just died at the age of 83, spent 33 of those years in prison for a murder he didn't commit — because he was framed by the FBI.

Think about that the next time you see some talking head on TV pontificating from Washington about how the FBI is the world's greatest law enforcement agency blah-blah-blah.

Think about Peter Limone, and his three innocent co-defendants, Louie Grieco, Henry Tameleo and Joe "the Horse" Salvati. Fidelity, Bravery, Integrity — yeah, right.

Not only did the FBI know Limone et al. weren't guilty, they also knew who the real killers were. The morning after the hit on Teddy Deegan in a Chelsea alley in March 1965, the Boston FBI sent an "airtel" memo to J. Edgar Hoover naming the real triggermen.

But one of them was Joe "the Animal" Barboza, the first hood in the Witness Protection Program. Barboza wanted to take some Mafia guys off the board, and so did the crooked agents in the Boston FBI.

Grieco and Tameleo died in state prison. The only one who survives is Salvati. He was put in the death car by the Animal because he had refused to repay \$200 he owed Barboza, meaning the Horse paid off a \$200 debt with 33 years of his life.

In 2007 Limone and the others (or their estates) were awarded \$101.7 million by a federal judge, which sounds good for about two seconds until you remember the 33 lost years.

The frame was set up by two Boston G-men, ***H. Paul Rico*** and Dennis Condon. They wanted to protect their prize canary, Joe the Animal. The Animal's obsession was taking down "In Town," the Boston Mafia. You see, when Barboza was raising bail money to get out of jail in 1966, the Mafia had lured two of his collectors to a dive on Commercial Street, murdered them and stolen \$82,000 cash.



he paid for fbi's mistake; Limone spent 33 years in prison for murder he didn't commit

This was Barboza's revenge, more for the \$82,000 than for his two hoods.

Everybody always knew that Barboza was lying, and that the FBI was framing the four North End guys. It was mentioned in books, court filings etc. But still they couldn't get the sentences overturned.

Every few years they'd come up for parole, and the FBI would send an agent to the hearing. Usually it would be John "Zip" Connolly, another legendarily bent G-man now doing 40 years in Florida for a gangland hit in Miami.

Finally, in 1997, hitman John Martorano began talking to the feds. He had been a friend of Barboza's. In 1967, while in protective custody as a rat, Barboza had called Martorano at a pay phone in Lynn and told him he was planning to lie on the witness stand.

Before the trial began, Martorano had gone to the boss of In Town, Jerry Angiulo, and offered to go on the witness stand and tell the true story. But Angiulo figured it wasn't necessary. As cynical as he was, even Angiulo couldn't imagine a jury believing Barboza, especially considering that Louie Grieco, a World War II hero, had been in Florida the night Deegan was murdered.

But the jury bought it, and Limone remained behind bars decade after decade until Martorano began cutting a deal of his own. He told the story again, and this time somebody listened. Shortly thereafter, the prosecutor probing FBI corruption in Boston got the old 1965 records proving the frame up.

In 2003, at age 77, Rico was called before Congress and asked how he could frame four innocent men.

"What do you want?" Rico famously sneered. "Tears?"

A year later, Rico was dead in a prison hospital in Tulsa. He was under indictment for a gangland hit in Oklahoma.

Limone at least he died a free man, which is more than can be said of Rico (and probably eventually Connolly). I called Martorano yesterday.

"He was a real man," Martorano said. "He was old-school, a good guy."

Forget James Comey. Peter Limone and [H. Paul Rico](#) – they are the real story of the FBI.

Buy *Howie's* new book, "*Kennedy Babylon: A Century of Scandal and Depravity*," at [howiecarrshow.com](http://howiecarrshow.com).

## Graphic

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TIME AND AGAIN: Peter J. Limone give a thumbs up to those who supported him during his three decades in prison.

HENRY Tameleo

WRONGLY CONVICTED: Joseph Salvati, second from left, stands with his daughter, Gail Orenberg, left, his wife, Marie, and his son, Anthony, in front of U.S. District Court in Boston in 2006, before the start of his civil suit.

HERALD FILE photo

ap file photo

**Load-Date:** June 20, 2017

he paid for fbi's mistake; Limone spent 33 years in prison for murder he didn't commit

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## *Joseph Salvati Discusses Serving 30 Years for Wrongful Murder Conviction*

CNN CNN BURDEN OF PROOF 12:30

May 4, 2001; Friday

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**Section:** News; Domestic; SHOW

**Length:** 3366 words

**Byline:** Roger Cossack

**Guests:** Joseph Salvati, Victor Garo, Marie Salvati, F. Lee Bailey, Jim Wilson

**Highlight:** Joseph Salvati spent 30 years in prison for a 1965 killing north of Boston. But new evidence shows he was innocent and that the government knew he was innocent. Salvati speaks out about his wrongful conviction.

### **Body**

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THIS IS A RUSH TRANSCRIPT. THIS COPY MAY NOT BE IN ITS FINAL FORM AND MAY BE UPDATED.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

JOSEPH SALVATI, WRONGFULLY CONVICTED OF MURDER: I have served 30 long and hard years in prison for a crime I did not commit.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

ROGER COSSACK, HOST: A Congressional committee calls it a travesty of justice. Joseph Salvati was fingered for a 1965 killing north of Boston. But new evidence shows he was innocent and the government knew he was innocent.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

VICTOR GARO, ATTORNEY FOR JOSEPH SALVATI: With one witness, Joseph "The Animal" Barboza, who gave uncorroborated testimony in three cases, the government had what they wanted.

PAUL RICO, RETIRED FBI SPECIAL AGENT: I believe the role I played was the role I should have played. I believe that we...

GARO: But now -- but now you know you...

RICO: ...supplied the witness and that we gave him to the local police. And they are supposed to be able to handle the case from there on. That's it.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

Joseph Salvati Discusses Serving 30 Years for Wrongful Murder Conviction

COSSACK: Today on BURDEN OF PROOF: After three decades behind bars, Joseph Salvati is rattling out the United States criminal justice system.

ANNOUNCER: This is BURDEN OF PROOF with Roger Cossack and Great Van Susteren.

COSSACK: Hello and welcome to BURDEN TO PROOF.

On March 12, 1965, Edward Deegan was murdered near Boston. Six men were convicted of the killing, based primarily on the testimony of an alleged contract killer -- among them, Joseph Salvati.

He served 30 years in prison for a murder he did not commit. But recently uncovered evidence in the case shows that an informant tipped off the FBI before the murder, and agents were later told that Vincent Flemmi and Joseph "The Animal" Barboza had participated in the killing. Flemmi was being courted by the FBI as a top echelon informant. And Barboza, an alleged contract killer from the Patriarca family, was the prosecution's key witness in the conviction of Joseph Salvati.

In 1970, Barboza hired criminal defense attorney F. Lee Bailey, who joins us today from Boston. And joining us here in Washington: Joseph Salvati and his wife, Marie, and Salvati's attorney, Victor Garo. In the back, Jackie Stocklin (ph), Josh Pavlock (ph) and Jim Wilson, chief counsel for the House Committee on Government Reform.

Joe, I want to start right with you because this a story that is just beyond belief, but did it happen to you. Joe, why you? Why did they decide to incorrectly -- and lie and put you in prison for a crime you didn't commit?

J. SALVATI: Because Barboza told them to. Barboza and I didn't get along. And I made a loan from him and never paid him back. And, to him, like, that's defiance. And he doesn't like that. And that's his way of getting people -- besides shooting them.

COSSACK: And then so -- Barboza -- Barboza just went ahead and lied about you and put you in prison. You went ahead and said that you had nothing to do with it and had a trial. What was the trial like?

J. SALVATI: The trial, it was like, you had a better chance if you faced the Ku Klux Klan. The trial was over before it started. Everything was -- there was more signals than a third base coach would give you there. And everything just, you know, was all against us.

COSSACK: Did you testify in the trial?

J. SALVATI: Yes.

COSSACK: And you told the jury you had nothing to do with it?

J. SALVATI: Yes.

COSSACK: But they didn't believe you.

J. SALVATI: No.

COSSACK: Marie, what was it like for you? All of a sudden, one day, you're minding you're own business and suddenly you hear that your husband has been arrested for murder.

MARIE SALVATI, WIFE OF JOSEPH SALVATI: Well, it was a nightmare, for sure. You know, I was numb. I couldn't believe this was happening to my life. My whole world went upside down.

COSSACK: How old were you then?

M. SALVATI: I was 32 years old. COSSACK: And had how many children?

## Joseph Salvati Discusses Serving 30 Years for Wrongful Murder Conviction

M. SALVATI: And we had four children, we had. And they were little. My youngest was 4. My son was 4. My daughters were 7, 9 and 11 when their dad went away. You know -- so it was devastating. It really, you know, changed our lives completely.

COSSACK: And yet you never lost confidence in your husband. You never believed that he was anything but innocent. How did you manage -- the two of you, how did you manage to keep together during those 30 years?

M. SALVATI: Well, I would go visit Joe every week. First of all, we talked to the children about what had happened, you know. And I told them their dad had no part of what was happening to him. He needed our love, our support.

Joe was always a good father and a family man. The respect was there. We have old-time values from marriage and nurturing and family. And then I would take the children up. I would go every week, but I'd take the children up, like, every other week, pack a lunch bag, get them ready to go. And you know, they needed that. He needed that for the children: the hugs, the kisses, the nurturing.

And I would tell him, like, all the good stuff would happen. And he -- I said to him, "You take care of yourself in jail, and I will take care of the family outside."

COSSACK: Joe, how did you manage to keep your sanity in there? You knew, for 30 years, that you had absolutely nothing to do with this murder, that you were just plucked off the street and put in prison. How did you manage to keep your sanity?

J. SALVATI: Well, I had to stay strong. I had to do the time. You know, you sit down and you get together with yourself. And you can either do it the hard way or the easy way. You do the time or let the time do you. And I had my family, I had my children and Victor. And you do it a day at a time. You have to stay strong for your family and yourself.

COSSACK: You would get a card from him every week, wouldn't you?

M. SALVATI: Yes.

COSSACK: Tell us about that.

M. SALVATI: Every -- once a week, usually every weekend, you know, I get this card in the mail, and I'd leave it out on my TV, and it was what kept us going. It was our little package, with little love notes, little personal notes sometimes, and, "I love you," things like that, would be on the card. And I'd keep it out until -- and I wouldn't put it away until the next card came.

And let me tell you, for like 30 years, I want to say I felt like my life was in the shoe box. And as the boxes got full I tied them with a ribbon. And, you know, I felt like I was married to the state. I felt the state owned my husband. It was really -- it was a hard thing. In the meantime, I knew I needed strength to go on, and you do what you have to do.

COSSACK: Victor, you're a heroic lawyer and it's a delight to have you here. Lawyers get such bad reputations for things, sometimes undeservedly. But you are a lawyer who defended and stuck with him for many, many years free of charge, because you knew and believed he was innocent.

First of all, why -- it's clear that there's two parts of this story. First, an innocent man goes to prison for 30 years. But the other part, perhaps equally as important, is the notion that law enforcement knew he was innocent, knew he was innocent before the murder was even committed, knew who committed the murder, and yet let him go to prison. Tell us about that.

GARO: Back in the days of the '60s, there were gang wars going on, there was a lot of killings, and the government was not able to prove who were doing the killings.

COSSACK: This is in Boston.

## Joseph Salvati Discusses Serving 30 Years for Wrongful Murder Conviction

GARO: In Boston, the Boston gang wars in the '60s. And the government, under J. Edgar Hoover at that time, found a way to wipe out and eradicate organized crime in the entire northeast area through one witness, and that was Joe "The Animal" Barboza.

The FBI flipped him to become a witness against -- in three different cases. First, against Gennaro Angiulo in Massachusetts, who was the alleged head of organized crime in Massachusetts. Two: against Raymond Patriarca, the alleged head of organized crime in New England. Three: the Deegan murder case, the right arms of Gennaro Angiulo and Raymond Patriarca, and other people they wanted off the street.

So in one fell swoop, with one witness giving uncorroborated testimony, here we go. The FBI, through its propaganda, was able to say: We are still the best crime-fighting force in the world. Look what we're going to do.

And that's the reason why I say that J. Edgar Hoover crossed over the line in this case. J. Edgar Hoover became a criminal in this case because he let Joe "The Animal" Barboza testify perjurally on October 25, 1967.

COSSACK: Victor, records now -- newly discovered or newly released records, now indicate clearly that law enforcement absolutely knew about this. Why would they trade Barboza, who they believed was going to be an informant? Or is that the reason that they traded Barboza, for him, just because they believed Barboza could give them the rest of the Mafia?

GARO: It was all about PEG: power, ego and greed. That's what it was with J. Edgar Hoover. He had to have the power. The only way he could have the power was go after organized crime. Go after it and wipe it out in the entire northeast area. The FBI sold its soul to Joe Barboza. It was more important for the FBI to protect prized informants and witnesses like Barboza, than it was for innocent people to be framed. And they knew they were being framed.

COSSACK: They also wanted Stephen Flemmi to be an informant, too. Was he part of this?

GARO: If I could give you a little chronology on the evidence: In February of 1965, **H. Paul Rico** and Dennis Condon targeted Stephen "the Rifleman" Flemmi...

COSSACK: Now, those are two FBI agents.

GARO: That is correct.

COSSACK: Former FBI agents.

GARO: Targeted Stephen "the Rifleman" Flemmi as a top echelon informant. On March 9th of 1965, the records show and the evidence shows that **H. Paul Rico** and Dennis Condon, retired FBI agents, targeted Vincent Flemmi, who was Stephen Flemmi's brother, as an informant.

On March 10th of 1965, Vincent Flemmi told an informant, who I say was his brother, Stephen Flemmi, that he and Barboza were going to go kill Teddy Deegan. On March 12th, Teddy Deegan was shot. On March 13th, Vincent Flemmi tells the informant -- same informant who I say is his brother -- that he and Barboza and three others last night killed Teddy Deegan, how they killed him, that they had done a sloppy job, and all the facts surrounding that...

COSSACK: That information, definitely, in your allegations and what the papers seem to show, was in the hands of law enforcement.

GARO: I have the documents. I have the initials of **H. Paul Rico** on the documents. But more importantly, on March 19th, all this information was sent up to J. Edgar Hoover. J. Edgar Hoover knew in March of 1965 who the innocent and who the guilty were, but he allowed Barboza, who then had flipped as a witness for them in 1967.

COSSACK: I've got to take a break. When we come back, how, after three decades, top-secret FBI -- I'm sorry, I have to go to Jeanne Meserve now in Washington.

(INTERRUPTED BY BREAKING NEWS)

Joseph Salvati Discusses Serving 30 Years for Wrongful Murder Conviction

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COSSACK: All right, let's take a break from BURDEN OF PROOF -- more on this story of this innocent man who went to prison for 30 years for a crime he did not commit. Stay with us.

(BEGIN LEGAL BRIEF)

An Indiana Baptist school principal was charged Thursday in connection with the disappearance of an 11-year-old girl who has been missing for more than two days. (END LEGAL BRIEF)

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

REP. DAN BURTON (R), INDIANA: I think this whole episode is disgraceful. It's the greatest -- one of the greatest, if not the greatest failure in the history of federal law enforcement. If there's one institution that the American people need to have competence in, it's the FBI.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COSSACK: After serving 30 years in prison, the truth about Joseph Salvati is finally coming out. In an effort to protect a potential government informant, he was prosecuted for a crime he absolutely did not commit. Joining us now is famed attorney F. Lee Bailey.

Lee, there came a time when this Joseph "The Animal" Barboza came to you and said: Listen, I want to recant this testimony.

Tell us about that.

F. LEE BAILEY, FMR. ATTY FOR JOSEPH BARBOZA: I had represented him earlier in an unrelated case, and to his surprise, we won it. So when he decided that he'd better do things right, he sought to hire me. Bear in mind, four of these people were under sentence of death, and they upheld that sentence in the Supreme Judicial Court.

He gave me a short affidavit naming the four people who were innocent. Of the six, two had actually been involved. I filed it in federal court. Federal officials went to Barboza who, by now, was back in prison for a probation violation, and said: Cancel Bailey's lie detector test. Fire Bailey or you'll never walk the streets again.

So he did, and they covered up what was staring them in the face, and that was that he had made up a story, that he had help from the FBI, and how he made it up, and who told him to target the supposed right-hand man of Patriarca and Gennaro Angiulo.

COSSACK: Now, Lee, when you started to represent him, he came to you and the issue was he wanted to recant his testimony, because in Massachusetts, at least as I understand it, that if you are caught committing perjury in a case in which there's a possible death penalty, you can -- you, yourself, the perjurer, can go to jail for life. Is that true?

BAILEY: Absolutely, and Barboza knew it. And he wanted me to find a way that he could recant the testimony, vindicate these men, Patriarca, and these four, without going to prison. And I said I would try to find a way, and I wrote the Mass. attorney general to tell him what was up. He didn't bother to answer my letter.

COSSACK: Now, when did you find out, Lee, that -- I mean, when did you find out that the FBI or federal agents -- was it the FBI or federal agents who visited Barboza and told him to fire you?

BAILEY: It was federal people.

COSSACK: Do you know who they were?

## Joseph Salvati Discusses Serving 30 Years for Wrongful Murder Conviction

BAILEY: Well, the testimony has shown that it was Edward Harrington of the strike judge, now a judge, and a very fine judge, and an associate named Cliff Barnes. And, although their conduct, I don't think, was inappropriate, someone followed on and said, "Fire Bailey." They did not.

COSSACK: Did you -- when did you learn this, Lee?

BAILEY: Well, I've learned it by degrees, but bear in mind something, Roger. Everybody in our profession knew these guys were innocent and they'd been framed. We knew it before trial, during trial and after trial, and we knew it was orchestrated by the FBI. But nobody would do anything about it. The court system simply failed because it didn't have the machinery to catch a perjurer.

COSSACK: All right. Let's talk to Jim Wilson now. Jim, you're the attorney for the government committee that is -- the Congressional committee that is hearing this and reviewing this. Where do you start in a situation like this?

What kind of legislation can your committee produce to make sure things like this don't happen again?

JIM WILSON, HOUSE CMTE. ON GOVT. REFORM: Well, I think there are two things that are important. This is Congressional oversight at its best. Victor Garo worked for 26 years and he vindicated the rights of his client, But something that people should know about: Mrs. Salvati was asked a question yesterday, the first question she was asked was: "Has anybody ever said they were sorry?"

And the answer was no. So the first thing we did accomplish yesterday was at least there was a recognition of the suffering that went on in this case. Now, moving to what we can do, we need to take a long, hard look at the way informants were used and are currently being used, because the way informants were used in Boston in the '60s and '70s and '80s and '90s was absolutely disgraceful. And it should never happen again. You can't legislate out bad conduct and bad actors, but you've got to set up a system that has checks and balances so that people can understand what is going on at the time.

COSSACK: Jim, what are you going to do with a system that rewards people, oftentimes bad people, Barboza was a bad guy -- that rewards bad people for giving information to the government, when they have an absolute, that gives them an absolute reason not to tell the truth. How do you put a brake there? What do you do?

WILSON: Well, you can't -- we're not painting the FBI with the same brush. There are an awful lot of good people who do the right thing.

COSSACK: And I want to make that clear that I agree with you on that.

WILSON: And that's a critical thing.

COSSACK: I'm talking about a specific set of facts, and only a specific set of facts.

WILSON: We had a situation here where there was an informant who was never asked the critical question by his FBI handlers. The critical question in this case was: You knew that Vincent Flemmi was going to kill Deegan. You knew afterwards he did kill Deegan. What did he say when you asked him why didn't you testify against Vincent Flemmi? They just didn't ask that question.

So here we've got somebody who did the wrong thing. But it was also exacerbated by the fact that there were no checks, there were no balances. The FBI was never -- never disclosed their informants or any of the information to anybody outside of the Bureau. There's got to be a check or a balance on the use of confidential informants.

COSSACK: Lee, any suggestions on what you do with confidential informants? I know as a criminal defense attorney you have fought this battle your entire life.

BAILEY: There's only one thing that can be done to stop the Barboza and the H. Paul Ricos of this world. And that is for the FBI, which runs over 10,000 polygraph tests a year when it wants to, but will not test its dirty and lying



Joseph Salvati Discusses Serving 30 Years for Wrongful Murder Conviction

witnesses -- to be required to do that before people are put in the electric chair based on the testimony of a man who killed 20 people and made it known that he was getting vengeance.

COSSACK: Joseph, what do you intend to do with the rest of your life now? Tell us about it.

J. SALVATI: Well, I retired and I do a little real estate work, and spend a lot of time with the grandchildren, my children and family. About three, four weeks ago, we took our first vacation together, Marie and I. We went to Florida for a week. And just live our lives.

COSSACK: What's it like, having him home after all this time, Marie?

M. SALVATI: Oh, it's wonderful. It's a new life for the both of us. And we've still got a lot of years ahead of us, so we're upbeat about all the good stuff that's happening. And it's going to get better for us.

COSSACK: Mr. Garo, what do you intend to do now with this case? Are you going to bring a suit on behalf of them?

GARO: I've been asked that question many times, and I'd like to answer that, if I may, that I keep asking: Why do I have to file a civil lawsuit in this case when a superior court judge has already thrown out the case and has lambasted the FBI of wrongdoing? The district attorney's office in Suffolk County has nol-prossed the case and said we will never prosecute this because of the FBI documents. We have the FBI documents showing what they have done. In order for me to go bring a civil lawsuit, which is complex civil litigation, it will be another five to eight years before this couple will receive a dollar.

Therefore, the federal government, once again, has Mr. Salvati on the hook, so that he'll be about 78 years of age, maybe, before he receives any money. There's something wrong with that system.

COSSACK: With that, I'm afraid that's all the time we have today. Thanks to our guests, thank you for watching. Today on "TALKBACK LIVE," it's "free-for-all-Friday." What's making news in your community? So send your e-mail to Bobbie Battista and tune in at 3:00 p.m. Eastern time.

And on Monday, we'll be joined by Michael Shiavo. His wife has been in a coma for 11 years and he says it's time to let her go. But her parents are fighting to keep her on a feeding tube. So join us Monday for another edition of BURDEN OF PROOF. I'll see you then.

TO ORDER A VIDEO OF THIS TRANSCRIPT, PLEASE CALL 800-CNN-NEWS OR USE OUR SECURE ONLINE ORDER FORM LOCATED AT [www.fdch.com](http://www.fdch.com)

**Load-Date:** May 4, 2001



## *Mobster's life tells real story of the FBI*

The Boston Herald

June 20, 2017 Tuesday

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**Byline:** HOWIE CARR

### **Body**

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Peter Limone, a Mafia soldier from the North End who just died at the age of 83, spent 33 of those years in prison for a murder he didn't commit — because he was framed by the FBI.

Think about that the next time you see some talking head on TV pontificating from Washington about how the FBI is the world's greatest law enforcement agency blah-blah-blah.

Think about Peter Limone, and his three innocent co-defendants, Louie Grieco, Henry Tameleo and Joe "the Horse" Salvati. Fidelity, Bravery, Integrity — yeah, right.

Not only did the FBI know Limone et al. weren't guilty, they also knew who the real killers were. The morning after the hit on Teddy Deegan in a Chelsea alley in March 1965, the Boston FBI sent an "airtel" memo to J. Edgar Hoover naming the real triggermen.

But one of them was Joe "the Animal" Barboza, the first hood in the Witness Protection Program.

Barboza wanted to take some Mafia guys off the board, and so did the crooked agents in the Boston FBI.

Grieco and Tameleo died in state prison. The only one who survives is Salvati. In 2007 Limone and the others (or their estates) were awarded \$101.7 million by a federal judge, which sounds good for about two seconds until you remember the 33 lost years.

The frame was set up by two Boston G-men, ***H. Paul Rico*** and Dennis Condon. They wanted to protect their prize canary, Joe the Animal.

Finally, in 1997, hit man John Martorano began talking to the feds. He had been a friend of Barboza's. In 1967, while in protective custody as a rat, Barboza had called Martorano at a pay phone in Lynn and told him he was planning to lie on the witness stand.

## Mobster's life tells real story of the FBI

Before the trial began, Martorano had gone to the boss, Jerry Angiulo, and offered to tell the true story. But Angiulo figured it wasn't necessary. Even Angiulo couldn't imagine a jury believing Barboza, especially considering that Louie Grieco, a World War II hero, had been in Florida the night Deegan was murdered.

But the jury bought it, and Limone remained behind bars decade after decade until Martorano began cutting a deal of his own and a prosecutor probing FBI corruption in Boston got the old 1965 records proving the frame-up.

In 2003, at age 77, Rico was called before Congress and asked how he could frame four innocent men.

"What do you want?" Rico famously sneered. "Tears?"

A year later, Rico was dead in a prison hospital in Tulsa.

Limone at least died a free man, which is more than can be said of Rico. I called Martorano yesterday.

"He was a real man," Martorano said. "He was old-school, a good guy."

Forget James Comey. Peter Limone and **H. Paul Rico** — they are the real story of the FBI.

Buy Howie's new book, "Kennedy Babylon: A Century of Scandal and Depravity," at [howiecarrshow.com](http://howiecarrshow.com).

## Graphic

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TIME AND AGAIN: Peter J. Limone served 33 years in prison for a murder he didn't commit.

HERALD FILE photo

**Load-Date:** June 20, 2017



## [Mueller's FBI still mired in Hoover secrets](#)

The Boston Herald

December 13, 2006 Wednesday

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**Byline:** By PETER GELZINIS

### **Body**

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Robert S. Mueller III was a junior at Princeton in 1965, when Joe "The Animal" Barboza and Vincent "Jimmy The Bear" Flemmi led a failed thief named Edward "Teddy" Deegan down a Chelsea alley, whereupon they put several bullets in his head.

In 1967, the future director of the FBI was a grad student in New York, when G-man-turned-gangster **H. Paul Rico** protected his hit man snitch, Joe Barboza, by encouraging him to frame four innocent men for the Deegan murder.

Yesterday, as 33 members of Congress demanded the FBI come clean about its investigation into the anthrax attacks of five years ago, a furious U.S. District Court judge in Boston said she planned to file an order compelling the bureau's director, Robert Mueller, to explain why the FBI STILL was covering up on a nasty piece of domestic terrorism almost half a century old.

The task of defending the indefensible has fallen to a pair of young Department of Justice lawyers, Bridget Bailey Lipscomb and Keith Liddle. From the bench yesterday morning, U.S. District Court Judge Nancy Gertner looked at both with a big sister's rage.

"You've been asked to litigate this case with one hand tied behind your back," Gertner said, referring to the FBI's refusal to produce documents written by its own Washington lawyer. "In effect, you are arguing blind.

"The big picture of this case remains (locked up) at FBI headquarters with those unredacted documents," Gertner said. "I am directing Mr. Mueller to come into this court and explain to me how the FBI can defend itself (against a possible \$100 million civil suit) when the lawyers (who must work up a defense) haven't seen documents?"

It is impossible to see how the FBI intends to exonerate itself from the criminal arrogance of its past by relying on the white-gloved arrogance of today.

Joe Salvati and Peter Limone each survived more than 30 years in prison on a frame engineered by **H. Paul Rico**, but ultimately sanctioned by Mueller's megalomaniac predecessor of 41 years ago and the father of the FBI, J. Edgar Hoover.

## Mueller's FBI still mired in Hoover secrets

All those years ago, when Jack Zalkind was preparing to try the biggest case of his fledgling career as an assistant prosecutor for then Suffolk County DA Garrett Byrne, Zalkind's investigation never penetrated the self-contained world of the FBI.

He succeeded in sending four men to prison - three under a death sentence - on the strength of a star witness manipulated by a law enforcement agency he couldn't talk to.

Yesterday, after two days on the witness stand, Peter Limone's lawyer, Juliane Balliro, asked the white-haired Zalkind the only question at the heart of this case: "Do you think that Mr. Limone and Mr. Salvati got a fair trial?"

"No," Zalkind said emphatically, "they did not receive a fair trial."

Before Balliro brought Zalkind to that final answer, she referenced a list of FBI reports, written by **H. Paul Rico** and his partner Dennis Condon, that belied every word of Barboza's testimony.

They now are known by the plaintiffs lawyers as "The Durham Documents," in tribute to John Durham, the federal prosecutor from Connecticut who not only sent **H. Paul Rico**'s protege, John "Zip" Connelly, to jail, but unearthed the naked proof of the FBI's treachery and turned the memos over to Joe Salvati's lawyer, Victor Garo - with an apology.

Needless to say, Jack Zalkind never saw any of those documents four decades ago. After they were read by J. Edgar Hoover and used to bury four men alive in prison, they were buried under lock and key, so the FBI might better protect the killers it had christened "informants."

Robert Mueller may have been a Princeton lad 41 years ago, but he now looks a helluva lot like a Hoover man.

**Load-Date:** December 13, 2006



## *Simple revenge only motive for Salemme*

The Boston Herald

March 12, 2001 Monday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 757 words

**Byline:** By Howie Carr

### **Body**

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With apologies to Lesley Gore, it's Cadillac Frank Salemme's party and he'll cry if he wants to, cry if he wants to, cry if he wants to.

You would cry - or sing - too if it happened to you.

So here's Frank Salemme, age 67, convicted gangster and one-time boss of what used to be called the Patriarca crime family.

Now it turns out he's going to testify not only against bent ex-FBI agent John Connolly, but also his old gangland pals, Steve Flemmi and Whitey Bulger.

For this revelation he may be whisked out of the general population in the federal prison in Otisville, N.Y. He's suddenly a bad person for turning on people who spent 30 years trying to take him off the board. In the twisted logic of the dying Mafia, even though Salemme's not informing on a single made guy, he is no longer one of them. He is a rat.

"Frank always had a good reputation," said one source. "He was always a stand-up guy."

Yeah, and stand-up guys spend 23 of the last 28 years in prison, which are exactly Frank Salemme's statistics. Right now he's eligible for parole in 2004. After he testifies, he will be eligible for parole in 2004. You can see there is a big payoff in this for him.

What Salemme is looking for here is simple revenge. He wants to take down Flemmi, Connolly and Bulger, in that order.

Flash back to 1973, and Salemme is on the lam in New York. Suddenly, out of nowhere, FBI agent John Connolly makes the pinch. Recognizes him on the street. That's their story and they're sticking to it.

## Simple revenge only motive for Salemme

So Connolly is a big hero and he goes back to Boston to replace H. Paul Rico as the FBI's mobbed-up Mob handler. Salemme is packed off to state prison and Flemmi, his co-defendant, waits in Montreal until the heat dies down.

It's 1973. Salemme's family goes on welfare and Whitey and Stevie go on to make millions.

They did this, at least in part, by robbing Frank Salemme of his prime thieving years. He didn't get to steal a liquor store, or an apartment building in the Back Bay, or collect "rent" from dozens of bookies and coke dealers.

What Frank Salemme got was 17 years.

When he does get parole, the same old game starts all over again. Stevie and Whitey set up some Mafia rivals to get wiretapped by the FBI. Then, knowing the LCN crew is about to be indicted and permanently removed, the Irish guys invite the Italians to a sitdown in the West End and whisper, you'd better whack Frank Salemme pronto because he's coming after youse guys.

A few days later, Salemme gets machine-gunned in Saugus.

Of course, Steve Flemmi did go down to Sharon to tip off Salemme when the indictments came down in 1995. But Flemmi was just thinking ahead - he and Whitey liked to have an ace in the hole, some underworld pal they could deliver to the feds. In 1973, it was Frank Salemme. Later the FBI got equally reliable tips about Joe McDonald and Pat Nee.

Odds are, Frank Salemme was being set up to play the patsy the way he'd played it in Manhattan in 1973. His pinch was going to make some new crooked FBI agent a hero - someone who would then succeed John Connolly the way Connolly succeeded H. Paul Rico.

This could get interesting. There's a passing mention in the sealed document to the aforementioned FBI agent H. Paul Rico. The feds say Salemme "can provide significant additional assistance" in their probe of Rico.

Hmmmm. Salemme was never one of Rico's stoolies, but his partner Flemmi was. So does Frank perhaps know something about an ancient gang rubout?

When Salemme is cross-examined, it will surely be tempting for Flemmi's lawyer to ask about some of those unsolved murders - Wimpy and Walter Bennett in particular. Could the Bennett family finally get some "closure?"

But Salemme will be immunized on the witness stand. Flemmi won't be. Go ahead, make Frank's day. Ask him about Wimpy.

So now it's payback time for Frank Salemme. They ruined his life, and finally it's his turn to ruin what's left of theirs.

You would rat too if it happened to you.

Howie Carr's radio show can be heard every weekday afternoon on WRKO AM 680, WHYN AM 560 and WGAN AM 560.

Photo Caption: ON SALEMMIE'S HIT LIST: Stephen 'The Rifleman' Flemmi, left, and James 'Whitey' Bulger are among the targets of testimony by their former comrade Francis P. 'Cadillac Frank' Salemme. HERALD FILE PHOTO

Photo Caption: TAKING THE STAND: Documents viewed by the Herald show Francis P. "Cadillac Frank" Salemme has agreed to help prosecutors in their legal pursuit of ex-FBI agents H. Paul Rico and John Connolly. HERALD FILE PHOTO

**Load-Date:** March 12, 2001

Simple revenge only motive for Salemme

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## [How Whitey Bulger Bought Boston](#)

American Conservative

May 22, 2006 Monday

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**Section:** Pg. 29; Vol. 5; No. 10; ISSN: 1540-966X

**Length:** 2072 words

**Byline:** Grigg, William Norman

William Norman Grigg is the author of four books and Senior Editor of The New American magazine.

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At the time of Peggy Westcoat's murder, the head of security for World Jai Alai was retired FBI Special Agent **H. Paul Rico**. Rico had taken note of Whitey Bulger in the early 1950s, when the future head of the Irish mob was a small-caliber hoodlum working as a homosexual prostitute. Rico, writes Carr, "could justify his sojourns to the Bay Village gay clubs as reaching out to new 'sources.'"

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Whitey returned to Southie in 1965, just in time to benefit from three critical developments. First, the FBI-in keeping with Robert Kennedy's priorities-had decided to tear into La Cosa Nostra (better known as the Mafia). Special Agent Rico thus began to cultivate informants and allies within the Winter Hill mob, the Mafia's deadly rival.

Second, just days before Whitey's return, one of Rico's informants, Jimmy "The Bear" Flemmi, murdered an undistinguished thug named Edward Deegan. In order to protect their informant, the Boston FBI office conducted a cover-up, sending four admittedly unsavory men to prison for Deegan's murder, which they didn't commit. By collaborating in that murder and cover-up, the Boston FBI office effectively "made its bones" as a full-fledged ally of the Irish mob.

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But for Whitey Bulger the most propitious development was the emergence of his younger brother Billy as a rising political star in Bay State politics, which Carr describes as seamlessly integrated with the underworld.

In 1961, when the Kennedy family entered the White House and Billy Bulger made his debut as a state legislator, the informal rules of conduct on Beacon Hill "boiled down to three points: Nothing on the level; everything is a deal; no deal [is] too small," writes Carr. Massachusetts novelist Edwin O'Connor describes state politics as "a special kind of tainted, small-time fellowship" through which "even the sleaziest poolroom bookie managed, in some way, however obscure, to be in touch with the mayor's office or the governor's chair."

Billy Bulger would eventually become president of the state Senate, a post that allowed him to dispense patronage as he saw fit. Boston-born FBI agents like Paul Rico, who confronted mandatory retirement at 50, were eager to cultivate Billy Bulger's favor. By racking up arrests of Italian mobsters, the G-men could earn promotions and plaudits. By taking care of the Bulger family, they could supplement their federal paychecks and maybe arrange cushy post-retirement sinecures at Boston Edison or some other hack habitat.

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While Connolly and his ilk were living large, honest Southies were living in terror. Carr and Weeks both describe the plight of Steve "Stippo" Rakes, a Southie who in 1983 scraped together enough money to buy a small piece of commercial property that he turned into a liquor store—the only one on Old Colony Avenue with convenient parking. As Rakes's store began to prosper, anonymous death threats came spilling from his telephone. He soon fell prey to a Bulger protection racket and was forced to sell his business on concessionary terms. Renamed the South Boston Liquor Mart, the pilfered business soon became a favored hang-out of Bulger's political allies.

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**SIDEBAR**

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**Load-Date:** August 15, 2007



## [How Whitey Bulger Bought Boston](#)

American Conservative

May 22, 2006 Monday

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**Byline:** William Norman Grigg

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William Norman Grigg is the author of four books and Senior Editor of The New American magazine.

**Load-Date:** May 3, 2017





## *Feds betray Bennett family once again*

The Boston Herald

July 6, 2000 Thursday

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**Byline:** By Peter Gelzinis

### **Body**

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Any illusions Bill Bennett Jr. had about life being fair evaporated in 1967.

His two uncles, Edward "Wimpy," and Walter Bennett ran a gambling and loan sharking enterprise out of a bar called Walter's Lounge on Dudley Street, near Uphams Corner. They also served as mentors to an ambitious young Roxbury thug known as Stevie "The Rifleman" Flemmi.

In January of '67, Edward "Wimpy" Bennett disappeared. His brother Walter vanished three months later in April. Bill Jr. was a 17-year-old student at Dorchester High, old enough to remember how desperately his father, a bartender, wanted to avenge what had happened to his uncles.

Seven months later, William Bennett's crumpled body would be pulled off a snowbank, a bullet through his brain. The memory of watching his mother return from the morgue after identifying his father's body two days before Christmas, is one that's never dimmed in 33 years.

"She hadn't even taken off her coat when the phone starts to ring," the son recalls. "The voice on the other end tells her not to say a word about anything, or she'd be killed along with her whole family."

But this is far from the only scene carved into Bill Bennett's heart and soul. What he will forever carry with him is the memory of eavesdropping on a pair of FBI agents who paid his doomed father a chilling visit shortly before his death.

What the son says he heard was two agents of the government pressuring his father to surrender "the books" for the family operation.

In a prior interview two years ago, Bennett remembered the agents saying: " 'If you don't want the same thing happening to you that happened to your brothers, you'd better give us the books.' They weren't asking."

Yesterday, without a trace of doubt or hesitation, Bill Bennett Jr. identified one of those rancid G-Men as **H. Paul Rico**. A full two years before the Bennett brothers were wiped off the face of the earth, **H. Paul Rico** turned Stevie Flemmi into his No. 1 rat.

## Feds betray Bennett family once again

"(Paul) Rico was pushing my Dad pretty hard for the books," Bill Bennett said, yesterday afternoon, when contacted by phone. "I know, because I heard him. There's no doubt whatsoever in my mind that Paul Rico gave my Dad up to Stevie Flemmi . . ."

Consequently, there was more resignation than outrage in Bennett's voice yesterday when he learned that the government would not be charging Stevie Flemmi with the murders of his father and uncles. The official excuse handed down by a federal judge was improper use of a grand jury.

For Billy Bennett's son - it's about the government of the United States trying to save what little face it has left in its shameful alliance with the Boston underworld.

"No matter what they say, I believe the government is still trying hard to protect a guy like Rico," Billy Bennett said. "I know that some of the rocks will probably be pulled back on guys like Rico. Still, I don't think the government wants to see the whole mess come out. It goes too deep. And it gets too ugly.

"I don't believe our family will ever know any satisfaction," Bill Bennett said. "As for closure, I don't even think about it anymore. I'm a steelworker by trade, but I also love history. So often, I find myself wishing for the kind of satisfaction they knew back in the days when two men faced each other in a duel. At least they had a sense of honor."

Bill Bennett Jr. has never harbored any illusions about what his family was . . . and what it wasn't. Though he may never know what ultimately happened to his uncles, or if there are any remains left to be unearthed . . . he certainly knows how they exited this vale of tears.

The Bennett brothers were delivered by the forces of truth and justice into the hands of darkness. "In the end, what it comes down to," Bill Bennett said, "is that some people are more important than others." The ambitious, duplicitous thug will always be more important to the ambitious, duplicitous FBI.

"Maybe the only truth," the son said, "is that you can always kill some people and get away with it."

**Load-Date:** July 6, 2000



## *Frank-ly speaking, ex-don helped more than UMass prez*

The Boston Herald

January 28, 2003 Tuesday

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 756 words

**Byline:** By PETER GELZINIS

### **Body**

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Two months from now, Francis P. "Cadillac Frank" Salemme will be no more. The old mob chieftain will slip into the federal witness protection program to become the new retiree in the efficiency unit down the hall.

His reward for speaking the ugly truth under oath: A new name. A new Social Security number. And a little bit of pocket money.

Two months from now, William M. Bulger will still be president of UMass. Thanks to the taxpayers of this state, he will still be drawing a salary of roughly \$ 310,000 per year.

And if the federal trial of a crooked state trooper proceeds as scheduled in March, the loquacious Billy is certain to turn mute yet AGAIN behind his Fifth Amendment privilege.

Consider the perverse irony of a former Mafia don having more regard for truth and justice than the state's highest-paid public servant. In theory, Billy is supposed to preside over the moral, ethical and intellectual enrichment of young minds.

"Crazy, isn't it?" mused one local investigator, who sat in a courtroom last week and heard Frank Salemme apologize for all of his gangland sins. "Even now, I still find it hard to believe that we joined forces with a Mafia boss to pursue a higher enemy . . . the FBI.

"How could you ever imagine a set of circumstances that would lead to such an arrangement?" he wondered. "But, yes, that's what happened. And yes, Frank was very helpful."

Consider the work of the House Committee on Government Reform. Consider the discovery of thousands of documents that paint a harrowing picture of gangsters masquerading as FBI agents. Consider the scores of witnesses interviewed: some who inflicted pain and suffering, others who allowed it to happen, and those who were forced to endure it.

Of all the witnesses contacted by committee investigators, only two have pleaded the Fifth. One is a treacherous ex-FBI agent named **H. Paul Rico**. And the other is Billy Bulger, czar of our public university.

Frank-ly speaking, ex-don helped more than UMass prez

A coincidence? In the place where Billy comes from, there is no such word. For **H. Paul Rico** is hardly a stranger. Almost 50 years ago, it was this brash G-man who sent Billy's rabid brother Whitey away to Leavenworth and, ultimately, Alcatraz.

And it was Rico who promised Whitey that he would "watch over" his family, particularly the kid brother, Billy, who was already on his way to B. C. Law School.

This would hardly be the first or last time that Paul Rico's concerns would intertwine with those of the Bulger brothers. Through Rico, the Bulgers realized the usefulness, the power of having friends in the FBI to "watch over you.

These days, it's a dissipated Paul Rico who awaits the day a DA in Tulsa, Okla., may indict him in connection with the gangland execution of his former boss, World Jai Alai President Roger Wheeler. After one ill-fated session before the House Committee, Rico has since dummied up.

Billy, of course, has never spoken a word in public about all the murder and mayhem caused by the fugitive brother who used to live just down the street. In private, only immunity can pry his mouth open.

Even then, what Billy chooses to say is offensive to any notion of justice. The UMass prez has already told a grand jury he hopes his brother, charged with killing at least 21 people, evades any and all attempts to catch him. You could feel the proud defiance in Billy's words. And not a trace of shame.

In the world we once knew, gangsters talked like Billy Bulger. And witnesses who summoned the guts to give voice to their conscience . . . well, they spoke like Frank Salemme.

Last week, a federal prosecutor said Frank Salemme initially asked for nothing in return for testimony that sent Billy Bulger's sinister protege and favorite FBI agent, John "Zip" Connolly, to jail for 10 years.

What he wanted was to make sure his words were not part of some "government whitewash." What he got was 26 months shaved off a 136-month sentence.

For Billy Bulger, clinging to a \$ 310,000-a-year gig as "Mr. President," is the only incentive. And when the truth could take you down . . . silence becomes your only option.

A few weeks after serial killer Whitey Bulger fled, his brother, a lawyer and Senate President, enjoyed an illicit phone conversation with him. Billy said he was "comforted" to know that Whitey was in good health, and "advised" him to stay on the lam.

Frank Salemme has a brother, too, Jackie. Hardly a stranger to the dark side, Jackie Salemme no longer speaks to his older brother. As he told a friend recently, "Frankie's gone crazy."

**Load-Date:** January 28, 2003



## AGENT DIED ON OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW

The Miami Herald

February 14, 2004 Saturday FINAL EDITION

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**Section:** FRONT; Pg. 1A

**Length:** 1233 words

**Byline:** LARRY LEBOWITZ, [llebowitz@herald.com](mailto:llebowitz@herald.com)

### **Body**

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The life of legendary FBI agent **H. Paul Rico**, dead at 78, is an amazing contradiction of law and order.

The agent who revolutionized the way the bureau infiltrated organized crime died Jan. 16 in a Tulsa hospital while awaiting trial for fingering the victim of a 1981 mob hit.

Rico was a key figure in a massive scandal that tainted two generations of FBI organized-crime cases in New England and sparked congressional investigations.

One of his co-defendants in the Oklahoma murder is a fugitive Boston mobster so notorious that he ranks No. 2 - behind Osama bin Laden - on the FBI's Most Wanted list.

Family and friends gathered Friday at a Miami Shores Catholic Church for a memorial Mass to remember the agent who persuaded underworld figures to "flip" and supply crucial information the bureau used to prosecute rival New England crime factions.

But Rico's critics will remember him, and others, for giving informants carte blanche to commit murders that expanded their illicit power. In one case, a Rico informant framed four men for a murder they didn't commit. Two died in prison; two more served three decades before they were set free.

A congressional committee concluded in November that the Boston FBI scandal "must be considered one of the greatest failures in the history of federal law enforcement."

A frail cardiac patient before his arrest, Rico spent his final months behind bars in Miami and Tulsa, put there by one of the same informants who made his career. His lawyers briefly argued that Rico became paranoid, hallucinating snakes crawling the walls of his cell.

Rico's supporters, including some retired agents, say the accusations are flat-out wrong. They contend the murder conspiracy case against Rico is based on the testimony of two ruthless killers trying to avoid the death chamber.

## AGENT DIED ON OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW

"It's an amazing tale, if you can get through it all," said Miami-Dade cold-case homicide detective Ramesh Nyberg. "Absolutely amazing."

A native of Belmont, Mass., Rico joined the bureau in the mid 1950s after graduating from Boston College.

Over a 20-year career, Rico excelled at recruiting underworld informants in Boston. His prized sources included notorious enforcer Joseph "The Animal" Barboza and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi of the Winter Hill gang.

The Rico-Barboza relationship proved particularly damaging to the FBI. Congressional investigators unearthed documents indicating that Rico and others knew Barboza had framed four innocent men for the 1965 murder of a small-time hood, Edward "Teddy" Deegan.

## NO TEARS

At a 2001 hearing, Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Conn., accused Rico of feeling no remorse for an injustice that cost one of the men 30 years of freedom.

An unrepentant Rico replied: "What do you want, tears?"

Rico retired from the bureau in 1975, settling in Miami where he became chief of security at World Jai Alai, a five-fronton firm plagued by allegations of underworld ties.

The company board had forced out president John Callahan, a Boston accountant, due in part to his friendship with Winter Hill gang associates, headed by most-wanted federal fugitive James "Whitey" Bulger.

Roger Wheeler, a hard-charging Tulsa executive and father of five, ultimately bought the company for \$50 million - and kept Rico as his security chief.

A Massachusetts native, Wheeler had heard the rumors of mob influence. But his family said he had a lot of confidence that Rico and the coterie of former FBI agents working for the company would keep the gaming enterprise clean.

However, by early 1981, Wheeler had become increasingly concerned about large sums disappearing from his company. Audits were imminent.

## SHOT TO DEATH

In late May of that year, Wheeler was shot once between the eyes in the parking lot of Tulsa's prestigious Southern Hills Country Club after his regular Wednesday golf round.

Bodies continued to fall. In May 1982, Boston hoodlum Brian Halloran was gunned down outside a bar. Halloran had been talking to the feds. He said that Bulger, Flemmi and Callahan had talked about hiring him to kill Wheeler.

On Aug. 1, 1982, Callahan was shot and stuffed in the trunk of his silver Cadillac. A parking attendant at Miami International Airport noticed the stench a few days later. The killer left a dime on Callahan's chest - a mob warning to snitches not to "drop a dime" to authorities.

The murder cases foundered for years.

## KILLER'S DEFENSE

The break came when Flemmi tried a highly unusual defense to 1995 racketeering charges: Since he was a government informant, he said, the FBI had known and approved of his crimes.

A Boston federal judge conducted lengthy hearings that eventually laid bare decades of the bureau's pursuit of, and involvement with, New England gangsters.

## AGENT DIED ON OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW

The hearings set off a chain reaction of congressional investigations, new criminal charges, civil suits and fresh leads in dozens of cold homicide cases.

In 1999, another prolific hitman cut a deal, giving new life to the stalled Tulsa and Miami jai-alai murder cases. John Martorano confessed to 11 killings and agreed to testify against Bulger's gang and three FBI agents.

Martorano confirmed what detectives long suspected: Martorano whacked Wheeler because Callahan feared that an audit would uncover cash-skimming at World Jai-Alai.

Flemmi and Bulger not only approved the hit, Martorano said, they sent the murder weapon, by bus, to him in Oklahoma.

## SUPPLIED INFORMATION

Martorano told investigators Rico was the one who supplied the intelligence on Wheeler's routine, as well as business and home addresses.

Shortly after Flemmi cut his plea deal - and corroborated Martorano's version of Rico's role in the Tulsa hit - Rico was indicted in Oklahoma.

Flemmi pleaded guilty to 10 murders and racketeering in Boston, and will enter similar pleas to the Wheeler and Callahan murders. In return, Florida and Oklahoma won't pursue the death penalty.

Bulger disappeared in 1995, tipped off to the same racketeering indictment that named Flemmi. The tipster was Rico's former FBI colleague John Connolly, who is now serving 10 years in a federal prison for helping Flemmi and Bulger.

New England remains riveted with every new twist in the "Where's Whitey?" saga, fueled in part because Bulger's younger brother, William, was one of Massachusetts' most powerful political figures. He was president of the state Senate for many years and later president of the University of Massachusetts.

While Rico may be dead, a trail of litigation remains.

On Wednesday, congressional investigators released previously sealed transcripts of another New England mobster who also claims that Rico helped him set up a murder and warned him to skip town before an indictment.

Francis "Cadillac Frank" Salemme, who is in the witness-protection program, said Rico and other agents helped Barboza frame the four innocent men convicted in 1965 of Deegan's murder.

The two men who spent three decades behind bars, and the estates of the other two who died there are suing the FBI and Rico for malicious prosecution and wrongful imprisonment.

Wheeler's widow and four of his five children are pursuing a wrongful death and conspiracy lawsuit.

"It's a pretty hollow, incomplete feeling for them," said Wheeler family lawyer Frank A. Libby. "It's not over."

Tulsa District Attorney Tim Harris understands:

"We had more than enough evidence to make our case, but Mr. Rico expired before we could put it in front of a jury. This chapter is over."

## Graphic

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AGENT DIED ON OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW

photo: mourners leave St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Miami Shores (a), **H. Paul Rico** (a), Tulsa, Okla. police examine scene of Roger Wheeler murder (a);

CANDACE BARBOT, HERALD STAFF A VARIED LIFE: Mourners, above, leave St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Miami Shores Friday after service for **H. Paul Rico**, center. At top, Tulsa, Okla., police examine scene of Roger Wheeler murder in 1981. Rico is providing information to the hitman.

**Load-Date:** August 22, 2005

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And after it all, an aging mafioso finds 'redemption'



## *And after it all, an aging mafioso finds 'redemption'*

The Boston Herald

January 25, 2003 Saturday

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 829 words

**Byline:** By PETER GELZINIS

### **Body**

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After Joseph Salvatti, Peter Limone, Henry Tameleo and Louis Greco were sentenced to death for the gangland murder of a small-time hood, two FBI agents went straight to a Somerville garage where a notorious little band of hoodlums, called the Winter Hill Gang, held court. It was 1968.

Special Agent **H. Paul Rico** had a private message for Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi. The murder of Edward "Teddy" Deegan had been neatly disposed of. And Flemmi's brother, a stone killer nicknamed "Jimmy The Bear," had nothing to worry about. Four men would take his place on death row.

Francis P. "Cadillac Frank" Salemme was at Marshal Motors on that day 35 years ago. The aspiring wiseguy confronted Rico and his partner Dennis Condon. In a heated exchange, Salemme accused Rico of framing four innocent men, by allowing his informant, Joe "The Animal" Barboza, to lie on the witness stand.

Frank knew that Barboza and Jimmy The Bear had killed Deegan, just as Rico knew.

What Frank did not know all those years ago, however, was that his lifelong pal, Stevie Flemmi, along with his crazy brother, Jimmy The Bear, were also in bed with **H. Paul Rico**.

Fast forward some 30 years: Henry Tameleo and Louis Greco have died in prison. Joe Salvatti has prevailed in his epic struggle to be released. Limone soon followed him to freedom.

But their wrongful convictions would not be overturned until a special government prosecutor uncovered an internal FBI document that confirms what Frank Salemme has always known.

In federal court, yesterday, that prosecutor, John Durham, rose to say that Frank Salemme's cooperation was invaluable in exposing the FBI's treachery in the Deegan murder case.

The Byzantine landscape of this criminal case has been dotted with many historic moments. Yesterday was no exception.

And after it all, an aging mafioso finds 'redemption'

Frank Salemme, former boss of the New England Mafia, told U.S. District Judge Mark Wolf that his life as a gangster "was over."

"It was the life I chose," Salemme said to Wolf, "and I have no excuses . . . I don't have anything to convince you but my word. And I give you my word . . . that life is over."

He is nudging 70. Bullet fragments lodged in his gut from a failed assassination attempt have added another 20 years to his internal organs. What the last eight years in prison have imparted on this old, star-crossed mafioso is something beyond rehabilitation.

Frank's lawyer, Tony Cardinale, used the word "redemption." In 25 years of defending some of the most infamous mobsters, Cardinale said this was the first time he's ever used such a word to describe a client.

"He's made the journey from arch criminal to . . ., I don't know, a truly decent guy," Cardinale said. "He is not the same man."

Cardinale didn't have to work very hard yesterday to convince Judge Wolf. The judge not only seized the moment to reduce the remaining 2 1-2 years of Salemme's sentence to time served, he also made it quite clear that he'd grown to admire him across the sprawl of a case that's spanned years.

"I think Mr. Salemme has a profound understanding it's not just wrong to commit crimes," Wolf said. "It's really dumb."

What Frank Salemme undoubtedly knows better than anyone else is that he owes a large part of his redemption to the sustained treachery of his "friend" Stevie Flemmi.

Shortly after Frank got in **H. Paul Rico's** face in that Somerville garage, Stevie Flemmi would conspire with his FBI handler to put Salemme in jail for 15 years over a car bombing.

In expressing his remorse for the lives he helped to take, along with the lives he might have saved, Salemme said:

"If I had known what my friend (Flemmi) is and was . . . and what he was capable of, there'd be a couple of girls still alive today."

The "girls" Frank was talking about were the girls Flemmi and Whitey Bulger strangled . . . Debra Davis, Stevie's girlfriend, and his stepdaughter, Deborah Hussey.

Salemme admitted that he could not bring them back, as he could not undo all the distant gangland murders he participated in. Still, it's not often you hear a mobster articulate regret in a way that moves a judge to wish him well, and the federal prosecutors to shake his hand.

Faced with starting a new life at 70 with a new name, in a new place, Frank Salemme told his wife to leave him. "It was his decision, not hers," Tony Cardinale said. "He loved her too much to subject her and her children to the life he's now going to live," Tony Cardinale said.

Frank Salemme will spend the next two months being "processed" into the witness protection program. In a time when no one begrudges those witnesses who've ratted out Whitey Bulger, you have to wonder if Frank Salemme has anything to worry about.

"That chance he really can't take," Cardinale said.

Before leaving his courtroom yesterday, Judge Wolf smiled at this redeemed gangster and offered a kind of benediction.

"I hope for your sake at the age of 70, you finally live whatever time you have left in peace."

And after it all, an aging mafioso finds 'redemption'

**Load-Date:** January 25, 2003

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## *Blind devotion to Hoover was the bile in Deep Throat*

The Boston Herald

June 3, 2005 Friday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 016

**Length:** 612 words

**Byline:** By PETER GELZINIS

### **Body**

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Have we all gone deaf and dumb?

The moment a 91-year-old man in California stuck his head out the front door and said he was Deep Throat, we started hearing bizarre phrases like ``defending the integrity of the FBI" or ``protecting the incorruptability of the FBI."

And we've swallowed them whole . . . as if we're stuck in TV Land, watching another dreadful Agent Lew Erskine adventure.

W. Mark Felt's family, bolstered by the joint imprimatur of Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, has already begun selling us on the next hot property - ``Deep Throat, an American Hero."

But all you need to know about the darker aspects of Special Agent Deep Throat is he believed his boss, J. Edgar Hoover, walked on water . . . and never, in a cocktail dress and high heels.

In Boston, thanks to gangster agents like *H. Paul Rico* and John ``Zip" Connolly, we've been exposed to a different FBI - one that has zero integrity and is completely and thoroughly corruptible.

``If Hoover had been alive and kicking when those guys bungled their way into the Watergate," said one Washington source, ``there'd be no Deep Throat, because Mr. Felt would've been inside the tent, trying to squelch the thing along with his boss . . . while bleeping on all those people outside looking for information."

But J. Edgar Hoover died a month before Watergate, which allowed Richard Nixon to neuter the G-Men by sticking L. Patrick Gray ahead of Mark Felt. And in the words of my informed friend: ``Once Felt found himself outside the tent, it was easy for him to start bleeping on the people Nixon had placed inside."

``If Hoover had lived, Nixon would have served out his presidency," said Victor Garo, the Medford lawyer whose 30-year crusade on behalf of Joe Salvati, the client framed by the FBI, revealed the treachery of another Hoover apostle named *H. Paul Rico*. ``You can bet a deal would've been struck."

## Blind devotion to Hoover was the bile in Deep Throat

Some 40 years ago, Rico chose to protect his murderous informant by arranging to have Joe Salvati and several other innocent men sent off to jail for the rest of their lives. Rico put the whole rancid story in reports he sent off to Hoover and a select circle of agents, like Mark Felt, who formed his inner sanctum.

**H. Paul Rico** and W. Mark Felt were much more than G-Men contemporaries; they were Hoover zombies who believed the best justice was the kind you could twist to fit "a greater good." If psychopaths like Whitey Bulger or Steve Flemmi could serve up an Italian gangster or two, then you sanctioned their bloodshed. If surveillance meant illegal wiretaps, forced entries and a host of other "Black Bag" operations, so be it.

Two years ago, Rico was indicted for the murder of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler and then, conveniently, died. Less than two months ago, Rico's protege, Connolly, was indicted for the murder of an accountant who betrayed Wheeler. John got the word in his federal prison cell, where he's doing 10 years for obstruction of justice.

It took a crook like Richard Nixon to transform a seasoned Black Bag Hooverite like Mark Felt into a legendary journalistic icon . . . the ultimate anonymous source. Without Hoover around to extract a quid pro quo out of Nixon, the "greater good" for Felt was helping two Washington Post reporters topple an administration out to screw Hoover's FBI . . . AND mess up his career trajectory.

It is ironic, and more than a little unsettling, to think that but for the twists of fate, and a few bureaucratic moves, Rico could very well have been Deep Throat. What a pair of G-Men like Felt and Rico shared was their blind devotion to an insidious tyrant with a badge, who was allowed to play by his own rules for way too long.

**Load-Date:** June 3, 2005

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## *Dad's execution mystery no more to anxious son*

The Boston Herald

May 12, 1998 Tuesday

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**Section:** NEWS;

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**Byline:** By PETER GELZINIS

### **Body**

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Two nights ago on "60 Minutes," America saw what happens when a legitimate businessman balks at having Whitey Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi as "silent partners."

Ed Bradley ran the homicide photo of Tulsa, Okla., entrepreneur Roger Wheeler slumped across the front seat of his Cadillac, a bullet between his eyes.

But what you did not hear Roger Wheeler's son, David, tell Bradley was that some time after his father's murder, he went on TV in Tulsa to say the FBI was the reason the murder remained a mystery.

"The next day," David Wheeler recalled, "the IRS was trying to call me in Tulsa. They were looking all over town for me. I never was audited before in my life. Suddenly, they were in an awful hurry to do it."

The IRS didn't know David Wheeler lived in Austin, Texas. It took these geniuses a while to figure it out. When they did, Wheeler was indeed audited and came up squeaky clean.

Keep in mind, while Big Brother was breaking David Wheeler's bleeps, he had no idea G-men like Johnny Connolly and John Morris were sipping wine and trading Christmas gifts with Whitey and Stevie.

All Wheeler knew was that his murdered father wouldn't dare turn his back on **H. Paul Rico**. This retired old G-man had signed on as "Security Chief" of Roger Wheeler's Miami-based World Jai Alai corporation.

"It got to the point where my Dad was checking his (private) plane for bombs each trip he made to Miami," his son said yesterday. Such was the kind of stench Roger Wheeler could smell coming off **H. Paul Rico**.

Rico, as you may recall, was Stevie Flemmi's FBI mentor, the agent who recruited The Rifleman to the dark side of the government more than 30 years ago.

David Wheeler has always believed Rico facilitated his father's delivery into oblivion. But only recently has Wheeler discovered that oblivion may well have had names like Whitey and Stevie . . . the "sons" of **H. Paul Rico**, so to speak.

## Dad's execution mystery no more to anxious son

Yesterday, another manicured former G-man with a shade of orange hair not to be found in nature was wrapping up his stint in the confessional. James F. Ahearn, once the Special Agent-in-Charge of the Boston FBI office, was made to revisit a five-page memo he wrote to then FBI director William Sessions nine years ago.

In it, Ahearn says he was "deeply disappointed" that the DEA would "embargo" an investigation of Whitey Bulger's coke dealing operation from the FBI.

If, in fact, Jim Ahearn was ever "deeply disappointed" nine years ago, it had to be the last time. For yesterday, Jim Ahearn just looked bronzed . . . as if he showered with QT, or got out of a tanning bed to come to court.

"Ahearn was compromised the first week he got here," a source said. "Johnny Connolly hooked him up with a very well-oiled golfing partner. He was in Johnny's satchel from then on.

"As for the whining memo to the FBI director about the DEA?" the source added. "Who the bleep do you think approved of the embargo in the first place? William Sessions, that's who. Shows you the kind of special agent-in-charge Jim Ahearn was."

After his father's execution, David Wheeler thought the FBI was merely incompetent. Almost 20 years later, he sees more clearly. What he sees is corruption and treachery. And it has changed his life.

On the day a "60 Minutes" crew was scheduled to visit his home, Wheeler thought he'd been shot at entering his front door. He jumped in his car, raced a dozen blocks to cutoff a carload of teens with a paintball gun. It was a prank.

"I was never that aggressive or suspicious before my father's death," David Wheeler said. "Now, the world is far more complex place to me. A place where trust is a casualty. I felt sorry for those kids. They didn't know how close they came to getting hurt."

**Load-Date:** May 12, 1998

FLEMMI DEAL SPURS ARREST OF EX-AGENT GANGSTER LINKS RICO, FORMER FBI MEMBER, TO '81  
SLAYING**FLEMMI DEAL SPURS ARREST OF EX-AGENT GANGSTER LINKS RICO,  
FORMER FBI MEMBER, TO '81 SLAYING**

The Boston Globe

October 10, 2003, Friday

THIRD EDITION Correction Appended

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Notorious gangster Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi has cut a deal with the government, leading to the arrest yesterday of a retired FBI agent in Florida for an alleged role in the murder of a Tulsa businessman 22 years ago, according to law enforcement officials.

Flemmi, 69, whose federal trial on charges that he killed 10 people was set to begin Oct. 20, will instead plead guilty next week to all charges in exchange for a recommendation that he spend the rest of his life in prison. As part of the deal, state prosecutors in Oklahoma and Florida have agreed not to seek the death penalty against Flemmi for two murders he committed in those states, officials said.

Under the plea agreement, which federal prosecutors have not yet announced, Flemmi has agreed to provide information on law enforcement and public officials who helped him and his criminal cohort James "Whitey" Bulger, both longtime FBI informants, as they ran a murderous criminal organization that controlled many of Boston's illegal rackets from the 1970s to the 1990s.

The first person to be charged as a result of Flemmi's cooperation was **H. Paul Rico**, 78, a retired FBI agent who was arrested at his home in Miami Shores, Fla., and charged with the May 27, 1981, slaying of Roger M. Wheeler, the chairman of Tulsa-based Telex Corp. and owner of World Jai Alai. Rico was jailed, pending rendition proceedings to send him to Oklahoma.

Flemmi may be able to implicate other FBI agents and law enforcement officials in corruption. During the trial in May 2002 of Flemmi's former handler, John J. Connolly, former Bulger deputy Kevin Weeks said that Bulger used to joke that "Christmas is for cops and kids" as he shopped each year for gifts for FBI agents and stuffed envelopes with \$100 to \$500 cash for some 20 Boston police officers.

The money came from a special fund that the gang used to pay for criminal expenses, such as buying getaway cars and paying off people, Weeks testified.



## FLEMMI DEAL SPURS ARREST OF EX-AGENT GANGSTER LINKS RICO, FORMER FBI MEMBER, TO '81 SLAYING

Rico, who became head of security at World Jai Alai after retiring from the FBI in 1975, was charged in state court in Tulsa with murder and conspiracy to commit murder. He's accused of helping Bulger and Flemmi set up the ambush of Wheeler, who suspected Bulger's gang of skimming profits from World Jai Alai's gambling frontons and was poised to go to police. Page Kelley, a federal public defender who represents Flemmi, declined to comment yesterday.

Tulsa District Attorney Tim Harris released a brief statement yesterday saying he wouldn't comment at this time about "the ongoing criminal investigation" into Wheeler's murder.

E. Peter Parker of Boston, one of Rico's lawyers, said, "Mr. Rico had absolutely nothing to do with the death of Roger Wheeler."

Rico recently had multiple heart bypass surgery and has a pacemaker, said Parker. He said his client's arrest and jailing "potentially jeopardizes his already poor health."

Court officials in Miami said that Rico was scheduled to appear this morning at a hearing in Metro-Dade County Bond Court, via closed-circuit television from jail. Rico is entitled to the bond hearing under Florida law, even though he is not eligible to be released, court officials said.

If Rico does not fight his extradition to Oklahoma, he could be transferred there almost immediately, officials said. If he does, however, he could remain in Florida for as long as six weeks while the issue is decided, officials said.

Wheeler's son, Larry Wheeler, said yesterday, "I personally am thrilled to see continued progress in this case. It's the best thing that has happened in the 20 years since my father's death. I don't know whether to get excited, open a bottle of champagne, or cry, or what."

In March 2001, Bulger, Flemmi, and hitman-turned-government witness John Martorano were indicted in Wheeler's slaying. Although investigators revealed at the time that they were targeting Rico, they didn't have enough evidence to charge him until now, according to law enforcement officials.

Officials said Flemmi has corroborated Martorano's allegation that Rico provided the gang with a description of Wheeler and his work habits, leading Martorano and a now-dead accomplice to gun Wheeler down on May 27, 1981, when Wheeler was getting into his Cadillac after golfing at the Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa.

Martorano told federal investigators that weeks before the slaying, he met in Miami with John Callahan, who had been fired as president of World Jai Alai because company officials suspected he had ties to Bulger's gang and was allegedly involved in an operation to skim money from the company, law enforcement officials said.

During the meeting, according to Martorano, Callahan allegedly slipped a piece of paper to Martorano that provided a description of Wheeler and his work habits, and said it had been written by Rico.

Martorano pleaded guilty to killing Callahan in Miami in August 1982, also on orders from Bulger and Flemmi, who feared Callahan was planning to cooperate with authorities investigating Wheeler's slaying.

Martorano also pleaded guilty to second-degree murder charges in Oklahoma and Florida for killing Wheeler and Callahan under a deal that resulted in a 15-year prison term.

Parker, Rico's lawyer, said he hadn't been advised that Flemmi was cooperating and would testify against Rico, but said, "If Flemmi corroborates Martorano in any way, shape, or form, two times zero still equals zero."

The deal with Flemmi, to be announced next week, comes as he was scheduled to stand trial on charges that he killed 10 people between 1974 and 1985, including Wheeler, Callahan, and two young women - one a longtime girlfriend, the other the daughter of another longtime companion.

## FLEMMI DEAL SPURS ARREST OF EX-AGENT GANGSTER LINKS RICO, FORMER FBI MEMBER, TO '81 SLAYING

Flemmi has been in prison since January 1995, when he was indicted on federal racketeering charges along with Bulger, who was warned to flee by Connolly and remains a fugitive. Flemmi has been held in solitary confinement at the state prison at Walpole while awaiting trial and was recently in ill health.

After Flemmi's arrest, he revealed that he and Bulger were longtime FBI informants and claimed they had been given immunity from prosecution in exchange for information about local Mafia leaders. As that case appeared to be unraveling amid allegations of FBI misconduct, investigators from the State Police and the US Drug Enforcement Administration persuaded some of Bulger's cohorts to cooperate with the government - leading to three unmarked graves, long-buried bodies, and the new charges of murder several years ago. Bulger is charged with 19 murders.

Flemmi's victims also include James Sousa in 1974; Edward Connors and Thomas King in 1975; Richard Castucci in 1976; Debra Davis in 1981; Arthur "Bucky" Barrett in 1983; John McIntyre in 1984, and Deborah Hussey in 1985.

Martorano and Weeks were expected to testify at Flemmi's trial, giving graphic accounts of some of the victims' deaths.

Davis, who was 26 when she vanished on Sept. 17, 1981, after planning to leave Flemmi for another man, was strangled by Bulger and Flemmi inside the South Boston home of Flemmi's mother, according to investigators.

Flemmi and Bulger are charged with killing Hussey, who had a sexual relationship with Flemmi, in early 1985. She was just a toddler when Flemmi began romancing her mother, Marion Hussey, who lived with Flemmi for years at his home in Milton and had two sons and a daughter by him. Flemmi killed her because he thought she was a threat to his criminal organization, according to investigators.

US Representative William Delahunt, a Quincy Democrat who listened to Rico testify during a congressional hearing into the FBI's mishandling of informants, particularly in Boston, said yesterday that Rico's arrest for murder "dramatically underscores problems that have beset the operations of this office of the FBI for decades."

### Correction

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BECAUSE OF AN EDITING ERROR, A PAGE ONE STORY YESTERDAY ON THE ARREST OF FORMER FBI AGENT **H. PAUL RICO** GAVE THE WRONG NAME FOR THE COURT WHERE HE IS SCHEDULED TO APPEAR FOR A HEARING. IT IS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY BOND COURT.

**Correction-Date:** October 11, 2003, Saturday

### Graphic

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PHOTO, 1. **H. PAUL RICO** Conspiracy, murder charges 2. STEPHEN FLEMMI To plead guilty in 10 killings

**Load-Date:** October 18, 2003



## [FLEMMO SINGS TO SAVE HIS LIFE; Rats out FBI agent, admits to murders](#)

The Boston Herald

October 10, 2003 Friday

ALL EDITIONS

Copyright 2003 Boston Herald Inc.

**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 797 words

**Byline:** By J. M. LAWRENCE

### **Body**

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Ailing gangster Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi will admit to racketeering and murder charges in exchange for life in prison after linking his former FBI handler to the 1981 murder of a Tulsa millionaire, sources said yesterday.

Flemmi, 69, is expected to plead guilty in Boston next week to three decades of murder and mayhem with James "Whitey" Bulger, including killing his own step-daughter and former girlfriend.

Federal authorities today will begin notifying the families of Flemmi's victims that there will be no trial for Flemmi.

Flemmi's decision to avoid a parade of evidence about the killings of Deborah Hussey and Debra Davis has sent shock waves through law enforcement circles connected to the Winter Hill Gang.

"Flemmi could croak a lot of people," said one source.

In poor health but suffering from no diagnosed disease, Flemmi bargained to avoid the death penalty in Oklahoma by fingering retired FBI agent **H. Paul Rico** in the Winter Hill Gang's 1981 execution of Roger Wheeler, 55, the owner of Florida-based World Jai Alai.

Massachusetts U.S. Attorney Michael J. Sullivan and a spokeswoman for the Boston FBI office would not comment yesterday on the arrest of Rico. Flemmi's attorney Charles P. McGinty did not return calls for comment.

Police arrested Rico, 78, just after dawn yesterday at his home in Palm Beach. Rico was charged with one count of first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder. Sources said the Tulsa County District Attorney's Office will be seeking the death penalty.

Rico, who retired from the Boston FBI in May 1975, was head of security for Wheeler's World Jai Alai corporation based in Miami.

The former agent was taken into custody by officers including Tulsa Sgt. Michael Huff, who has pursued Wheeler's killers since his first year on the police force.

## FLEMMO SINGS TO SAVE HIS LIFE; Rats out FBI agent, admits to murders

"Mike Huff finally gets his man," said Wheeler's son Lawrence Wheeler in Tulsa yesterday. Lawrence Wheeler fought back tears as he described Huff's quest to bring his father's killers to justice.

"I cannot express it in words. He is honest and unique and special. He should probably be the head of the FBI. That might help," he said.

The Tulsa County District Attorney's Office declined comment.

Huff, who met with Flemmi recently in Boston, told a Congressional committee last year that he received no help from FBI agents in Boston as he tried to unravel Wheeler's murder.

Rico's attorneys called the arrest of the elderly ex-agent unnecessary after years of headlines regarding Tulsa authorities' investigation of Rico.

"If they would have called us, we would have produced him pursuant to a summons in Oklahoma," said Boston attorney Peter Parker.

Rico maintains his innocence. "He flat out categorically denies this," said his Florida attorney William Cagney. "He never assisted the Winter Hill Gang in trying to get inside information so they could. . . do away with people."

The Wheeler family and the families of 13 other Winter Hill Gang victims are suing Rico in federal court in Boston for wrongful death over his handling of Flemmi and James "Whitey" Bulger.

U.S. District Court Judge Reginald Lindsay threw out the Wheelers' \$ 860 million lawsuit this year on grounds they filed too late and should have known about Rico's involvement earlier.

The judge's ruling combined with Rico's arrest is "all very confusing," Lawrence Wheeler said. "We were supposed to have known before?" The family is appealing the ruling.

Roger Wheeler, a Reading native, was executed on May 27, 1981, in the parking lot of the Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa. He built his fortune on magnesium and oil before investing in World Jai Alai in 1977 with backing from the First National Bank of Boston.

Winter Hill Gang hit man John Martorano has admitted to killing Wheeler. Martorano claims Rico provided him information about Wheeler's habits and business addresses for the hit but he never had direct contact with Rico.

Martorano claims Rico funnelled the information through World Jai Alai executive John B. Callahan, who also was a Winter Hill Gang associate and partied with the gangsters in Boston bars.

In August 1982, Callahan turned up dead in the trunk of his car on Aug. 2, 1982, at Miami International Airport. Callahan, 45, had brought Rico to Jai Alai.

As part of a plea agreement to 20 murders, Martorano has admitted to carrying out the hit on Callahan.

Caption: DONE FOR: Former Boston FBI agent **H. Paul Rico** appears before a congressional committee in 2001, where he refused to answer questions about a Boston gangland murder. STAFF FILE PHOTO BY MARK GARFINKEL

Caption: DOGGED: Sgt. Michael Huff of the Tulsa Police Department pursued the case against Rico for decades. STAFF FILE PHOTO BY MATTHEW WEST

Caption: **H. PAUL RICO**

**Load-Date:** October 10, 2003

FLEMMO SINGS TO SAVE HIS LIFE; Rats out FBI agent, admits to murders

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End of Document



## [Foley mess just another Gay State-linked scandal](#)

The Boston Herald

October 4, 2006 Wednesday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 017

**Length:** 567 words

**Byline:** By HOWIE CARR

### **Body**

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Ex-Rep. Mark Foley (R-Hot Stud) was born in Newton and lived there as a child.

Rep. Barney Frank (D-Hot Bottom) now lives in Newton.

Coincidence? OK, of course it is, but why is it that every single homosexual scandal (and a large percentage of the hetero ones as well) seems to have a direct connection to Massachusetts?

Welcome to the Gay State. Now entering Sodom and Begorrah.

You want to play Six Degrees of Massachusetts Gay Scandal? Let's start with Mitt Romney. I kid you not, Mitt Romney has a family connection to the first (as far as we know) elected pervert in Massachusetts - Sen. David I. Walsh.

Walsh was a confirmed bachelor from Clinton and an America Firster who was well-known even back in the 1920s for chasing young boys around Capitol Hill. In 1942 Walsh was picked up in a raid on a male brothel on the Brooklyn waterfront run by a Nazi spy named Gustav Beekman. The Boston papers suppressed the story, and Walsh's close friend J. Edgar Hoover made the FBI case against Walsh go away - go figure.

What, you ask, could possibly be the Romney connection to Walsh?

Time magazine's edition of April 6, 1959, featured a cover story on Mitt's dad, George Romney, then the head of AMC. It mentioned how as a youth George Romney headed to Washington where he was hired by Sen. Walsh ``as a speedwriter. When his speedwriting turned out to lack speed, Walsh kept him on anyway, put him to work keeping track of legislative matters."

How about John Kerry? Before Yale, he went to St. Paul's School in Concord, N.H., and guess who used to be a teacher there, from 1965 to 1969? None other than ex- U.S. Rep. Gerry Studds, the worst of the worst, who plied a teenaged male page with Cape Codders and then sodomized him.

## Foley mess just another Gay State-linked scandal

That, of course, was played in the mainstream media as a ``personal" matter. But then Studds, like Frank, was a liberal. Foley is not, so the liberals feel free to gloat and make jokes and not be accused of homophobia.

By the way, according to his biography, Foley is a Roman Catholic. The bishop down there in Palm Beach used to be Bishop Thomas Daily, who was reassigned to PB from Boston, where he was an adviser to Bernard Cardinal Law when his sordid Lake Street crew was shuffling around gay pervert priests.

And how about the Democrat congressman who split much of Palm Beach County with Foley - Rep. Alcee Hastings.

Hastings used to be a crooked federal judge, until he was bagged in an FBI sting operation by an ex-FBI agent impersonating a gangster - **H. Paul Rico**. You remember **H. Paul Rico**? He was the G-man who met Whitey Bulger back in the days when Whitey was a gay hustler, and Rico was likewise hanging out in the gay bars of Bay Village.

A decade later, Rico arranged for the murder of gangster Punchy McLaughlin. Punchy's sin? He was recorded on an FBI wire describing Rico and J. Edgar Hoover as a couple of ``fags."

And **H. Paul Rico**'s good gay friend Whitey Bulger - he had ties to Florida, too, a safe-deposit box in Clearwater, for one. And one of his girlfriends had a brother who was a sheriff, a Republican sheriff, but unlike Foley, this sheriff was straight, and a straight arrow. Whitey hated him.

Whitey, of course, liked to dress up as a priest, and one of his boyfriends was actor Sal Mineo, who before his murder by a gay hustler in 1976, played a priest in at least one movie, but never, apparently, a congressman.

Has anyone seen Dave Scondras lately?

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2006



## **FORMER AGENT OF FBI HELD IN MOB KILLING**

The Miami Herald

October 10, 2003 Friday FINAL EDITION

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**Section:** METRO & STATE; Pg. 3B

**Length:** 415 words

**Byline:** CHARLES RABIN, [crabin@herald.com](mailto:crabin@herald.com)

### **Body**

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A 22-year murder mystery involving jai alai, the mob and FBI conspiracies has snared a former FBI agent living in Miami Shores.

Miami-Dade police arrested ***H. Paul Rico***, 78, of 1700 NE 105th St., on an Oklahoma warrant charging him with conspiracy to commit the murder of Roger Wheeler, a Tulsa businessman who owned Miami-based World Jai-Alai, which operated several frontons in the state. Rico faces extradition to Oklahoma. Investigators said Wheeler was killed because he suspected someone was skimming money from the business. In 2001 three men, including the alleged hit man, were indicted in Tulsa for the May 27, 1981, murder of Wheeler, who was shot in his car after a round of golf.

At the same time, a Miami grand jury indicted the same men for the murder of former World Jai-Alai president John B. Callahan, who was found shot in the head Aug. 2, 1982, and stuffed into a trunk of a Cadillac left at Miami International Airport.

Rico worked as head of security for World Jai-Alai after retiring from the FBI. Oklahoma authorities would not discuss Rico's alleged role in Wheeler's killing or why they only now are charging him. But a Tulsa detective has said he believes Rico was involved in setting up the hit.

Rico's lawyer denied he was involved. "He couldn't have. He's been down here since 1969 or so," said Rico's attorney, William Cagney III. "He was down here when all this went on."

Rico spent 24 years with the FBI, specializing in organized-crime cases in Boston in the 1960s and 1970s.

Cagney said Rico retired from the FBI in 1975 and is married with five children and 11 grandchildren. At one time Rico came out of retirement and worked undercover trying to nab U.S. District Judge Alcee Hastings for taking bribes in 1981. Hastings, now a congressman, was later acquitted.



## FORMER AGENT OF FBI HELD IN MOB KILLING

In recent years, the FBI's Boston office has been blamed for letting its informants continue to commit crimes, including murders, because they were snitching on other figures in organized crime. One former FBI agent, John J. Connolly Jr., is serving a prison term, and mobster James "Whitey" Bulger is a fugitive.

In 2000 Rico appeared before a congressional committee probing FBI ties to the Boston mob, but he invoked his right against self-incrimination.

In another hearing this year, Indiana congressman Dan Burton spoke of Rico's "sordid conduct as an FBI agent and his subsequent career as an organized-crime facilitator at World Jai-Lai, where some have testified he helped murder Roger Wheeler."

## Graphic

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photo: Former Boston FBI agent **H. Paul Rico** (a);

JOHN TLUMACKI, BOSTON GLOBE FILE, JAN. 13, 1998 EXIT: Former Boston FBI agent **H. Paul Rico** leaves federal court after testifying about his ties to underworld figures.

**Load-Date:** August 17, 2005



## [Rico's daughter asks for investigation into her father's death in jail](#)

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

October 31, 2004, Sunday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 570 words

**Dateline:** TULSA, Okla.

### **Body**

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The daughter of a former FBI agent who died in the Tulsa County jail while awaiting trial on murder charges has asked the state jail inspector to investigate the quality of care her father received while in jail.

**H. Paul Rico**, 78, died at Hillcrest Medical Center on Jan. 16, about a week after he was brought to Oklahoma from Florida by air ambulance to face prosecution in the 1981 mob slaying of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler.

Authorities say Wheeler suspected that Rico and three other men were skimming gambling profits from his World Jai Alai business in Miami, Fla.

Officials say Rico worked with two three other members of a New England mob group to plan Wheeler's death.

An autopsy report showed that Rico died of natural causes linked to internal bleeding, which "was a complication" associated with therapeutic use of blood-thinning medication in Florida and Tulsa.

M. Joyce Rico, a physician from Glencoe, Ill., said her father had a long cardiac history for which he was receiving drugs that help prevent blood clotting.

But Rico said precautions should have been heeded in the extended use of those drugs, especially the use of Lovenox, after her father became dehydrated and his kidneys stopped working. She says he became ill after he was transferred to the Tulsa Jail.

Records show the two blood-thinning medications her father was taking in Florida, coumadin and Lovenox, were continued at the jail.

Rico said the package warnings for Lovenox urge caution in administering the drug to the elderly and patients with impaired kidney function.

"The medical records from the jail I've reviewed clearly show he had evidence of renal compromise," she said.

Rico said jail authorities told her father was transferred to the hospital "to establish a baseline condition."

Rico's daughter asks for investigation into her father's death in jail

"If you read the medical records from the hospital, that is not a true statement. He was admitted with dehydration and kidney failure," she said. "I think it's important for the state to determine if they are doing what they should be doing to ensure that all inmates at the facility receive appropriate care."

The autopsy report indicates **H. Paul Rico** was transferred to Hillcrest on Jan. 14 due to a change in mental status. Records show his admitting diagnosis at Hillcrest was dehydration and acute renal failure.

Corrections Corporation of America spokesman Chris Howard would not comment on Rico's care at the jail because of medical confidentiality. CAA operates the Tulsa jail.

Rico's daughter has not filed a civil lawsuit.

"My concern is that all inmates in Tulsa deserve to have good and appropriate care, and I'm sure that all other families who have loved ones in the Tulsa County jail would want care that's within the standard of care," she said. "This care was below the standard of what should be expected."

At the time of her father's death, **H. Paul Rico** had dropped 55 pounds from his 225 pound frame in the 100 days leading up to his death.

State Health Department jail inspector Don Garrison said he forwarded Rico's letter to one of the department's doctors for review.

"If there was something wrong with the medication they gave him, I couldn't tell you that," Garrison said. "That may be beyond the scope of me and my inspector. We don't normally have a doctor do any kind of inspection for us, but this is an unusual situation."

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Information from: Tulsa World

**Load-Date:** November 1, 2004



## [Roy gets his Christmas gift of freedom](#)

The Boston Herald

December 20, 2001 Thursday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 657 words

**Byline:** By Peter Gelzinis

### **Body**

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For the past 34 years, Wilfred Roy French was right where he was supposed to be - in prison.

Yesterday, this old hood became a free man on a technicality . . . better known as the FBI. To be more specific, Roy was able to walk down Congress Street thanks in large part to the rancid deeds of former agents, **H. Paul Rico** and Dennis Condon.

Back in 1968, these two feds allowed Joe (Barboza) Baron, a stone killer who moonlighted as their confidential rat, to hang one of his gangland hits on four innocent men.

But Roy French was not among those with clean hands. In fact, the state has always believed Roy was holding one of the guns that killed Deegan.

As one lawyer who's immersed himself in the legendary murder case of Edward "Teddy" Deegan put it yesterday, "Everybody knew Barboza was lying on the stand back then," he said. "Ironically, perhaps the only person he told the truth about was Roy French."

Upon his return to polite society, the best Roy could muster was a hurried, "Merry Christmas." Roy knew he'd caught a break. His family wasn't much in a talking mood either, as they hustled dear old Dad back home.

Indeed, it was a far cry from the tone of jubilation and vindication that surrounded the liberation of Joe Salvati and Peter Limone after their respective prison stints of 30-plus years for the Deegan murder.

Ah, but then, Salvati and Limone were victims of a duplicitous FBI. Roy French was something of a beneficiary. In a perfect world, he probably should have done a minimum of 20 years for second-degree murder.

But this is an imperfect world, where crooked FBI agents took care of gangsters nicknamed "The Animal" and "Jimmy The Bear." To be a low-level thug like Roy, a bouncer in a Revere Beach blood bucket called the Ebb Tide, was to be oblivious to federally sanctioned treachery.

## Roy gets his Christmas gift of freedom

Back in 1965, if you were Roy French, you were completely swallowed up by the likes of Joe "The Animal" Barboza, or Vincent "Jimmy The Bear" Flemmi. The penance you paid for placing yourself at their mercy was an extra 14 years in a jail cell.

Roy French wasn't much for words yesterday. His lawyer, Phil Tracey, a close personal friend of **H. Paul Rico**'s protege, the indicted ex-G-man John Connolly, said the old bouncer was in need of a new hip. After spending half his life in jail, Roy just wanted to get home for Christmas.

Before too long, however, people expect to hear Roy tell the world just how Teddy Deegan did exit this vale of tears. Who was there in that Chelsea alley. And who wasn't.

Yet just when the truth of this grotesque case finally appears to be coming full circle, no less authority than George W. Bush has ordered that Congress quit chasing after those "evil-doers" who used to work for J. Edgar Hoover.

Last week, our hang-'em-high president invoked executive privilege to close the closet door on one of the FBI's most grotesque skeletons. Bush claimed with a straight face that congressional requests for more FBI documents regarding the Deegan case could somehow have a negative effect on the prosecution of other cases.

Yeah, right.

What Bush and John Ashcroft actually want is to buy the FBI a lot more red, white and blue face time. Nothing like a war on terrorism, coupled with executive privilege, to throw a blanket on more embarrassing televised hearings by the House Government Reform Committee.

Better we get fed stories about steadfast FBI agents heading into the maw of Afghanistan to interview Taliban laggards, than see a return appearance of a Jabba The Hut in a Palm Beach suit, otherwise known as **H. Paul Rico**.

Funny how a tough-talkin', law-and-order cowboy like George Bush tightens up when it comes to laying out the past sins of the FBI.

Soon, I half expect the president to tell us that if we persist in more lawsuits against the FBI, if we question why innocent men were allowed to rot and even die in prison, then we are giving in to the terrorists.

**Load-Date:** December 20, 2001



## *The truth sets Cadillac Frank free - at last*

The Boston Herald

October 26, 2003 Sunday

ALL EDITIONS

Copyright 2003 Boston Herald Inc.

**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 610 words

**Byline:** By Peter Gelzinis

### **Body**

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Back in March, a gaggle of lawyers stared across a conference table at Francis P. Salemme. Once the star-crossed boss of the local La Cosa Nostra franchise, "Cadillac Frank" was 69 and just three days away from a rebirth - better known as the witness protection program.

A lawyer in the service of Dennis Condon - the long retired FBI agent and former commissioner of Public Safety who could soon join his decrepit partner, ***H. Paul Rico***, in jail - wanted to know how many government perks it took to transform a career mobster into a cooperating witness.

"There was none," Salemme answered. "Absolutely none. And you're not going to believe it. Nobody is going to believe it. But that's a matter of record.

"All I wanted," he added, "was to make sure the truth (sic) come out. Only if there's no whitewash, I said."

To underscore the point, Salemme looked at all the lawyers in the room and said he'd received personal assurances from both Janet Reno and Louis J. Freeh, former attorney general and director of the FBI, respectively, that there would be no "whitewash" of the truth.

"She (Reno) said words to me that she would appreciate it," Salemme said. No, Reno did not whisper her promise to Salemme through a bulletproof window. Rather, her words were conveyed to Special Prosecutor John Durham, who relayed them to Salemme's lawyer, Anthony Cardinale.

"That's true," Tony Cardinale said yesterday. "All Frank asked for in return for his cooperation was that the lid be pulled back on 40 years of this stuff. And the government agreed."

At the deposition in March, Condon's lawyer seemed incredulous: "And by 'whitewash,' " he huffed, "you mean really stick it to the FBI?"

"Stick it to the truth," Salemme countered, "and get the truth out here . . . that's when I agreed."

## The truth sets Cadillac Frank free - at last

We all know what's happened as a result, don't we? John "Zip" Connolly is doing 10 years in jail. But the truth is, he may very well die there. Connolly's FBI mentor, **H. Paul Rico**, has just landed in a Miami cell, on his way back to Tulsa to face a murder charge, pacemaker in his chest and all.

Because of all the ugly truths Frank Salemme has forced to the surface, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, the childhood friend who betrayed him several times and the fellow gangster whose murders were allegedly both sanctioned and protected by **H. Paul Rico**, is now unloading all the dark secrets of his sordid life.

Somewhere in Waltham, or perhaps a retirement bungalow down the Cape, Dennis Condon is hearing the footsteps of two ghosts named Louis Greco and Henry Tameleo. Half a lifetime ago, Rico's lanky partner walked into a courtroom and, to quote Salemme, "bore false witness" against two guys who eventually died in prison.

Condon was a 4th degree Knight of Columbus at the time, a super Catholic if you will. Salemme, whose father was also a 4th degree Knight, looked deep into Dennis Condon's eyes nearly 40 years ago and told him he would burn in hell for the lies he told in that courtroom, according to a court transcript.

Salemme recalled for the lawyers how Condon's face got "redder and redder," how he stood up ranting and raving. "You can't get by the pearly gates if you break the Ten Commandments," Salemme reminded the FBI agent, who had entered his garage laughing about dispatching innocent men to prison.

Today, Dennis Condon's fear of being locked out of paradise has to be trumped by the very real fear of dying in jail.

Late in life, Frank Salemme realized the truth - ugly as it is - could indeed set him free. This ex-Mafia boss is also honest enough, however, to know it's too late for the truth to buy him a ticket into heaven.

**Load-Date:** October 26, 2003



## [U.S. Lets \\$101 Million Verdict Stand For FBI Frame in Mob Slaying Case](#)

TalkLeft the Politics of Crime

May 2, 2010 Sunday 9:21 AM EST

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Newstex Web Blogs

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**Length:** 830 words

**Byline:** Jeralyn

### **Body**

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May 2, 2010 ([TalkLeft: the Politics of Crime](#) delivered by Newstex) --

Solicitor General Elena Kagen has let the time pass for appealing a historic \$101 million verdict for civil rights violations in a lawsuit against the FBI for framing four men from Boston for a mob slaying.

[The government will pay up.](#)

Joseph Salvati, now 77, served 29 years in prison. He will get \$31 million, plus another \$2 million in interest.

DOJ tried to get Kagen to appeal but she refused, siding with the wrongfully convicted men. The verdict was rendered by U.S. District Court Judge Nancy Gertner, following a 22 day bench trial. [More....]

In a dramatic ruling on July 26, 2007, Gertner found the FBI responsible for the framing of four innocent men in the 1965 murder of a small-time criminal, Edward "Teddy" Deegan, in a Chelsea alley.

She concluded after a 22-day bench trial that the FBI deliberately withheld evidence of the four men's innocence and helped conceal the injustice for decades.

The other men are Peter J. Limone of Medford and the families of Louis Greco and Henry Tameleo, who died in prison after serving decades of their sentences. Their convictions were set aside posthumously.

This case is especially outrageous because the FBI knew the real killer likely was one of their informants, Vincent "Jimmy the Bear" Flemmi, and allowed another informant to frame the four innocent men, even though they believed he was lying to protect Flemmi. There is a lot of evidence the [FBI knew Flemmi intended to make the hit](#) days before it happened and still accepted him as an informant two days before Flemmi killed Deegan.



## U.S. Lets \$101 Million Verdict Stand For FBI Frame in Mob Slaying Case

On March 10, 1965 H. Paul Rico filed a report quoting an informant as saying that Vincent was going to murder Edward Deegan and that a "dry run has already been made and that a close associate of Deegan's has agreed to set him up." Two days later, despite their knowledge of the impending murder of Deegan, the Boston FBI office approved Vincent as an informant and assigned him to the agent who had recruited him, H. Paul Rico.

And that the night of the hit, the FBI had pictures of the shooters and still allowed the four innocent men to be charged.

Judge Gertner found the FBI protected their informants to keep getting info on the mob. Our [first post on the case](#) was in 2002, and all are accessible [here](#).

Flemmi died of a heroin overdose in prison in 1979 while serving a sentence related to another murder.

Another twist: Flemmi's brother was Stephen Flemmi, also a member of Boston's Winter Hill Mob and an FBI informant. In 2004, the FBI agent who reported Jimmy did the Boston hit, H. Paul Rico, retired and aged 78, was [charged in a 20 year old Tulsa murder case](#). The hit was allegedly committed by Stephen Flemmi and another informant from the gang, who had been working for Rico at the time. Rico was arrested in Miami, extradited to Tulsa where he arrived in very bad shape (practically incoherent and in a wheelchair) and his lawyer said he had been attacked while in the Miami jail awaiting extradition. He had a bad heart. His lawyer asked for bail.

Tulsa prosecutors pooh-pooed the beating claim, and argued he was probably bruised from his medication. The judge put the case on hold, ordered Rico held pending a psych evaluation to determine if he was fit to stand trial. A few hours later, Rico was dead.

Ultimately, two of the three informants charged in the Tulsa case pleaded guilty. (The third is still a fugitive.) One was Stephen Flemmi, who pleaded guilty to racketeering charges [related to 10 murders](#), not just the Tulsa one. In a package deal, he got life. The DOJ announcement is [here](#).

The second FBI informant who pleaded guilty to carrying out the Tulsa murder (and 19 others), got 15 years and served 12 before being released. Then, the pair cooperated again, [testifying against FBI Agent John Connolly](#) who was charged with [in another murder case](#). Connolly insisted he was innocent. What did Flemmi get for saying otherwise? It's not clear, but he's in the witness protection protection at whatever prison he's in. Maybe conditions are nicer there. He's now 76.

Connolly got 40 years, on top of 10 for racketeering, which he is now serving. (Even though [the statute of limitations had expired for Murder 2](#), the crime he was convicted of, another bizarre twist to this tale.)

Snitching is a dirty business and as these three cases show, it's not just the snitches who are morally bankrupt, the whole system is infected. And we, the taxpayers, will be footing the \$101 million bill our government pays to the four framed men (and yes, they totally deserve the money.) Too bad jurors don't get to hear about these cases when prosecutors justify their snitch testimony with trite lines like "Crimes committed in hell don't have angels as witnesses." The truth is more like "Lie down with dogs and get up with fleas."

Newstex ID: TALK-0001-44526444

## Notes

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## U.S. Lets \$101 Million Verdict Stand For FBI Frame in Mob Slaying Case

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**Load-Date:** May 2, 2010

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## *Bureau's dirty star founded original trenchcoat mafia*

The Boston Herald

January 18, 2004 Sunday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 723 words

**Byline:** By TOM MASHBERG

### **Body**

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They say **H. Paul Rico** was one of J. Edgar Hoover's favorite G-men - a law enforcement hellion who had it in for the Mafia and could turn an informant like a flapjack.

But the real Harold Paul Rico was in evidence in 1968, the day after a group of four Italian-Americans from Boston were sent up for life for knocking off a small-potatoes Irish-American thief and gungel, Edward "Teddy" Deegan.

The prosecution of the four - Joseph Salvati, Peter Limone, Henry Tameleo and Louis Greco - was a trumped-up case allegedly set in motion by Rico and his key hand-picked turncoat hood, murderous Joseph "the Animal" Barboza.

Of the four Italian fall guys sentenced, only Greco - a double Bronze Star recipient for his World War II heroics at Bataan in the Philippines - had a bronze-clad alibi: Multiple witnesses put him in Florida the night of Deegan's killing.

Rico and his FBI confederate, agent Dennis Condon, showed up at the Central Auto Body Shop in Boston, where local Mafia kingpin Frances "Cadillac Frank" Salemme held court, to gloat about how easily they sent the four pigeons up the river.

Rico, according to law enforcement documents reviewed by the Herald, began to chuckle to Salemme about Greco in particular - about how funny it was that Greco was on death row when he in fact had been tanning in Miami when the hit went down.

Salemme, the documents show, "blew his top" at the two feckless G-men, Rico in particular, whom he saw as a "rackets guy" and a "rogue agent" who indulged in booze and horse racing and "on one occasion wrecked his FBI vehicle while at the track" - a wreck Salemme arranged to have fixed for no charge on the q.t.

Salemme was legendary for never ratting on his cohorts - and was foolish enough to include on that list informants James J. "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "the Rifleman" Flemmi, two of the criminals who spent years conspiring with Rico and others to let some thugs prevail over others in Boston.

## Bureau's dirty star founded original trenchcoat mafia

But even Salemme drew a line at Rico - a man he described as venal and arrogant, a man who sought revenge against gangsters when he heard them on wiretaps joking that Rico was a homosexual partner to J. Edgar Hoover himself.

Rico may have written his own epitaph in October 2003, when he was asked to justify the wrongful jailing of Greco, et al. by a U.S. House Judiciary Committee looking into the Boston FBI's corrupt past. Greco died in prison and as a result his conviction remains in place. "What do you want, tears?" Rico, 78, said with a smirk.-

Rico and convicted former FBI agent John J. Connolly were later named in a lawsuit accusing the FBI of withholding evidence that would have freed all four men.

Rico grew up like a typical Boston suburbs kid. A degree in history from Boston College in 1950 led to a career start with the FBI.

He was legendary among his fellow crewcuts for bringing mobsters in from the cold - even though it has been claimed his two top informants, Flemmi and Bulger, were given license to extort, peddle heroin and kill so long as they helped bust up the Italian Mafia and helped Rico look good.

Rico still has fans. Yesterday, John F. Kehoe, an ex-Bay State Public Safety commissioner and an FBI special agent in Boston for 29 years, defended him as "a very capable and tremendous agent who was very adept at developing informants.

"I don't think he ever did anything that went over the line," Kehoe said. "He stayed within the bounds of the bureau and the regulations that we all lived by."

But the family of Roger Wheeler has a different view. They believe Rico led Bulger and Flemmi to Wheeler in Tulsa, Okla., in 1981 so Wheeler could be killed for trying to get the two goons out of his Miami-based World Jai Alai pari-mutuel wagering company.

Yet attorney John Cavicchi of East Boston, who has spent decades trying to clear Greco, said even his client -- would have felt sympathy for the ailing Rico at the end of his days.

"I might be in the minority but I felt sorry for him when I saw how sick he looked," Cavicchi said. "And I'm sure if Louis Greco were alive today, he'd have felt sorry for him and for his family, too."

Caption: THE RATS: Stephen 'the Rifleman' Flemmi and James J. 'Whitey' Bulger worked with **H. Paul Rico** as informants to gain supremacy in the Hub's gang wars. HERALD FILE PHOTO

Caption: BARBOZA

**Load-Date:** January 18, 2004



## [Ex-Agent Charged In 1981 Mob Hit](#)

Newsday (New York)

October 12, 2003 Sunday

QUEENS EDITION

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**Section:** NEWS,

**Length:** 546 words

**Byline:** THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### **Body**

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Boston - Boston's FBI scandal was already disturbing enough: agents taking bribes, shrugging off gangsters' crimes, and shielding informants from police. Now, it has turned almost unthinkable: A retired agent is charged with aiding a mob hit on a reputable businessman.

"I think this does take things a step further, despite all the problems the FBI has had," said Ronald Kessler, a well-known investigative reporter and historian of the FBI. "I think murder is the ultimate crime."

The arrest of the former agent, **H. Paul Rico**, last week is likely to complicate FBI efforts to shake off its legacy of missteps with violent mob informants in Boston, said several experts on the bureau. The arrest could further dent the agency's reputation and supply more fodder for roughly **\$2 billion in lawsuits accusing the government of wrongdoing in the scandal.**

"This is an ugly affair in the FBI's history, probably the worst," said Allan May, who writes for the Web site Americanmafia.com.

While the FBI has had its scandals in the past, this is the first time a former agent "is charged with colluding with the wiseguys in a murder," said Robert Fitzpatrick, a former assistant chief of the FBI's Boston office. "That doesn't happen - and that's shocking."

One of the architects of the FBI's mob informant program, Rico helped the agency make some of its first Mafia cases in New England in the 1960s - with the help of violent informants.

When he retired in 1975, he did not entirely abandon his old collaborators: He went to work instead for a mob-connected company that sponsored jai alai games, where players fling balls at high speeds with wicker baskets.

## Ex-Agent Charged In 1981 Mob Hit

A new company head there, Roger Wheeler, wanted to root out the mob influence. In their charge against Rico, Oklahoma prosecutors say he fed information that helped his old mob sources in Boston's Winter Hill Gang find and kill Wheeler in 1981.

Rico was arrested on the first-degree murder charge Thursday at his home near Miami. He remains jailed pending a hearing Tuesday on sending him back to Oklahoma to face the charge.

"He flat-out categorically denies this," said Rico's attorney, William Cagney III. "He never assisted the Winter Hill Gang in trying to get inside information so they could ... do away with people."

Bureau representatives in Washington and Boston downplayed the significance of the arrest. They said the agency has already taken steps to control corruption since the scandal broke.

"No one in this office has ever worked with Paul Rico. They don't even know him," added Gail Marcinkiewicz, a spokeswoman for the FBI office in Boston, where Rico has been gone for a generation.

Kessler said, "You have to blame in part ... the FBI's supervision in Boston, which let all this seamy corruption go on for so long."

"I think this guy will be seen as a retired FBI agent who just went beyond some of the other agents ... who did corrupt things," said Robert Bloom, a Boston College law professor who has studied informant abuses.

**Victor Garo, a lawyer for a man wrongly imprisoned in a mob case that Rico helped build, said the ex-agent's arrest may open new dimensions in the Boston scandal, which has been unfolding since one of Rico's old mob informants was arrested in 1995 and began ratting on his former FBI protectors.**

## Graphic

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AP Photo- **H. Paul Rico**

**Load-Date:** October 12, 2003



## **EX-FBI AGENT ACCUSED IN KILLING; WORKED IN TROUBLED BOSTON OFFICE**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

October 11, 2003 Saturday Five Star Edition

Copyright 2003 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 20

**Length:** 644 words

**Byline:** Jeff Donn The Associated Press

**Dateline:** BOSTON

### **Body**

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\* The long-retired agent is now 78. He has been charged in a killing in Oklahoma in 1981.

Boston's FBI scandal was already disturbing enough: allegations of agents taking bribes, shrugging off gangsters' crimes and shielding informers from police. Now, it has turned almost unthinkable: A retired agent is charged with aiding a mob hit on a reputable businessman.

**H. Paul Rico**, 78, who retired from the FBI in 1975, was arrested at his home near Miami Thursday and charged first-degree murder in connection with the 1981 slaying of Roger Wheeler, who was shot in the head at a Tulsa, Okla., country club after a round of golf.

"I think this does take things a step further, despite all the problems the FBI has had," said Ronald Kessler, a journalist and historian of the FBI. "I think murder is the ultimate crime."

The arrest of Rico is likely to complicate FBI efforts to shake off its legacy of missteps with violent mob informers in Boston, said several experts on the bureau. The arrest could further dent the agency's reputation and supply more fodder for roughly \$2 billion in lawsuits accusing the government of wrongdoing in connection with the scandal.

In 1990, FBI agent Mark S. Putnam in Kentucky pleaded guilty of strangling a woman tipster to stop her from exposing their affair - another case of an agent corrupted by an informer relationship. The FBI said then it was the first time an agent was charged with murder.

Putnam's case, as sad and awful as it was, sprang from "an emotional situation," said Robert Fitzpatrick, a former assistant chief of the FBI's Boston bureau.

Rico's arrest is something different.

"What ... hasn't happened in the past is a (former) FBI agent that is charged with colluding with the wiseguys in a murder. That doesn't happen - and that's shocking," Fitzpatrick said.

## EX-FBI AGENT ACCUSED IN KILLING;WORKED IN TROUBLED BOSTON OFFICE

Rico is described as one of the architects of the FBI's mob informer program. He helped the agency make some of its first Mafia cases in New England in the 1960s - with the help of violent informers. When he retired in 1975, he did not entirely abandon his old collaborators, authorities no w say: He went to work instead for at a mob-connected company that ran jai alai events. A new company head there, Roger Wheeler, wanted to root out the mob influence.

In their charge against Rico, Oklahoma prosecutors say he fed information that helped his old mob sources find and kill Wheeler in 1981.

A brief bond hearing for Rico was held Friday as a technical requirement, since he could not have been released on bail for the charge. Another hearing was set for Tuesday.

FBI leaders and many outside experts on the bureau said the vast majority of agents are honest and well-intentioned.

An FBI official in Washington, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said, "It is in very rare instances where we have individuals who have participated in criminal activity. The vast majority of our employees have a high integrity level."

"No one in this office has ever worked with Paul Rico. They don't even know him," added Gail Marcinkiewicz, a spokeswoman for the FBI office in Boston, where Rico has been gone for a generation.

However, Kessler, who has written widely about the FBI and its history, said, "It certainly turns your stomach to think that someone who spent his life in the FBI would be allegedly involved in murder, and you have to blame in part ... the FBI's supervision in Boston, which let all this seamy corruption go on for so long."

Victor Garo, a lawyer for a man wrongly imprisoned in a mob case that Rico helped build, said the ex-agent's arrest may open new dimensions in the Boston scandal, which has been unfolding since one of Rico's old mob informers was arrested in 1995 and began ratting on his former FBI protectors.

"I would imagine that right now, many people are concerned about what he knows and what he will say," the lawyer said of Rico.

## Notes

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NATION / WORLD

## Graphic

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PHOTO; Photo Headshot - (**H. Paul Rico**), Left FBI in 1975

**Load-Date:** October 11, 2003



Ex-FBI agent: Flemmi only gave 'weak' info



## *Ex-FBI agent: Flemmi only gave 'weak' info*

The Boston Herald

January 10, 1998 Saturday

ALL EDITIONS

Copyright 1998 Boston Herald Inc.

**Section:** NEWS;**Length:** 604 words**Byline:** By RALPH RANALLI

### **Body**

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A former FBI agent admitted yesterday he told internal Justice Department investigators that gangster-informant Stephen Flemmi - perhaps the most valuable mob snitch in New England history - provided only "non-consequential" information.

But Former Special Agent ***H. Paul Rico*** blamed the long time span between the interview this summer and the period when he retired from the bureau in the mid-1970s for his apparent memory lapse about Flemmi's contributions to FBI investigations.

He was interviewed on Cape Cod by federal investigators after allegations surfaced that Flemmi had been tipped off to indictments against him and other mobsters.

"That was a statement based on recollections from over 30 years ago and I had not had a chance to review the documents," Rico said yesterday in federal court.

The controversial ex-agent took the stand yesterday as the third witness in ongoing hearings into the FBI's relationship with Flemmi and fellow informant James J. "Whitey" Bulger, the South Boston crime boss.

Defense lawyers for Flemmi, reputed New England mob boss Francis P. "Cadillac Frank" Salemme and wiseguys Robert DeLuca and John Martorano are trying to get a 1995 federal racketeering case thrown out of court on a variety of legal arguments - including that the FBI gave Flemmi and Bulger "immunity" from prosecution for their crimes.

Now in his 70s, Rico is credited with establishing the bureau's relationships with some of its all-time best mob informants, including Bulger, Flemmi and Mob hitman Joseph "The Animal" Barboza.

Rico admitted recruiting Flemmi, who he said seemed to have great "potential" as an informant. Flemmi's attorney, Kenneth Fishman, then read from an assessment of the Quincy gangster's possibilities written by Rico.

"Did you write that Mr. Flemmi 'appears to be emotionally stable and if he survives the gang war he will be an important figure in Boston organized crime?' " Fishman asked.

Ex-FBI agent: Flemmi only gave 'weak' info

"That was my forecast, yes," Rico said.

Fishman also suggested that Flemmi gave the FBI intelligence on defense strategy in a case in which Barboza was a witness - the Chelsea murder of Edward "Teddy" Deegan in 1965.

Fishman said documents from Flemmi's secret informant files indicate he told the FBI that Boston attorney Joseph Balliro, who represented one of the defendants in the Deegan case, had gone to see his brother, Vincent J. "Jimmy the Bear" Flemmi in prison.

Balliro had tried to recruit Jimmy Flemmi as a defense witness to discredit Barboza, Fishman said.

"You used Steve Flemmi as a source to find out what was going on in the (defense) camp?" Fishman asked.

"I understand your question, but I can't answer that," Rico said.

Also, in a seeming contradiction to secret FBI documents released this week, Rico denied signing on Bulger as an informant.

A former head of the Boston FBI office, Lawrence Sarhatt, wrote in a report released earlier this week that Bulger said his "intention to help the FBI stems from the favorable treatment received by his family from SA Paul Rico after Rico was responsible for his incarceration." Bulger served time in several prisons, including Alcatraz, on bank robbery charges investigated by Rico.

"His family indicated to him that . . . Rico was such a gentleman and was so helpful that he, (Bulger) changed his mind about his hate for all law enforcement," the 1980 memo states.

Rico's testimony is expected to continue Tuesday when hearings in the case resume.

Art Caption: IN COURT: Francis Salemme, far left, talks with Robert DeLuca as H. Paul Rico, above, testifies. Staff illustrations by Kathleen Geosits

**Load-Date:** January 10, 1998



## *FBI blasted - Judge rips 'cover-up' culture at Flemmi's sentencing*

The Boston Herald

August 22, 2001 Wednesday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 1155 words

**Byline:** By J.M. Lawrence

### **Body**

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A federal judge yesterday blasted the FBI and the former head of its Boston office for engaging in a culture of "covering up" for Hub gangsters who were also longtime informants.

"Contrary to the suggestions of some, the evidence in this case indicates this culture is enduring and exists today," U.S. Judge Mark L. Wolf said as he sentenced one of those informants, Stephen "the Rifleman" Flemmi, to 10 years on charges of extorting bookies and obstructing justice.

Flemmi helped run South Boston's Winter Hill Gang with James "Whitey" Bulger from the 1970s through the mid-1990s. Both men also worked as FBI informants for more than two decades, supplying information that helped the FBI bring down the Italian Mafia in New England. Bulger is still a fugitive.

In a later hearing before Judge Joseph L. Tauro, Flemmi was sentenced on conspiracy and obstruction of justice charges in a case that also charges his FBI handler, John J. Connolly Jr., with warning him and Bulger that they were about to be indicted in 1995. Connolly is still awaiting trial.

"The evidence in this and other reported cases indicates that the FBI's relationship with Bulger and Flemmi was not an isolated, aberrant occurrence attributable to anybody's South Boston roots," Judge Wolf said, referencing ex-agent Connolly's shared childhood with Bulger.

"Rather, while hopefully extreme in degree, it may have been typical of the relationship that the FBI had with a number of its top echelon informants," Wolf said.

"If Mr. Flemmi has committed any of the crimes with which he remains charged, he was able to do so because of the protection of the Federal Bureau of Investigation," Wolf said.

The judge accused former Boston FBI Agent in Charge Barry Mawn of hampering Wolf's 1998 hearings on Flemmi's informant status - landmark proceedings held after the gangster unsuccessfully argued the government had promised him immunity from prosecution.

## FBI blasted - Judge rips 'cover-up' culture at Flemmi's sentencing

Wolf said Mawn sat on documents relating to low-level gangster Brian Halloran's claim that Flemmi and Bulger took part in the 1981 murder of World Jai Alai owner Roger Wheeler.

"That is the farthest thing from the truth there is," said Mawn, who left the Boston office last year to become assistant director of the FBI and head of the New York bureau.

Halloran sought protection from the FBI in exchange for his cooperation but was denied help and wound up executed in his car on the Southie waterfront.

Mawn did not hand over the Halloran reports until it was too late for prosecutors to cross examine former FBI agent **H. Paul Rico** and FBI supervisor John Morris during the 1998 hearings, Wolf said.

Mawn yesterday said the reports were misfiled and were handed over immediately after they were found.

"The judge doesn't give us much credit, but the FBI was involved in bringing the original indictment that led to this case along with other agencies," Mawn said.

Wolf said the bureau also dragged its feet on producing documents concerning John McIntyre, who was murdered after offering authorities information on the Bulger gang.

But U.S. Attorney James B. Farmer yesterday defended the FBI's role in the prosecution of Flemmi and said there has been "prodigious disclosure" in the case.

Wolf also criticized former U.S. Attorney Donald K. Stern, saying Stern learned about the gangsters' informant status the night before the indictment came down in January 1995 but did not tell his prosecutors until six months later.

Yesterday Stern said, he withheld the information so "those indictments would not be influenced or affected by any knowledge of Bulger and Flemmi's informant role." Stern called his actions a temporary "Chinese wall."

"It was a mistake for the bureau not to have told me sooner. But it was my view then, and is still my view, that if an informant commits a serious crime, they ought to be indicted along with anyone else," added Stern.

Federal prosecutors, who were more interested in clearing the way to prosecute Flemmi on murder charges, opted to drop racketeering charges and accept his plea to extortion and obstructing justice.

"I want to thank the court, your honor," said Flemmi, 67, in a brief statement in which he said his plea was the best resolution in the case.

The pale, thin gangster, who has already served almost seven years of his sentence, could now be moved from his solitary confinement at Walpole to a federal prison, sources said.

Flemmi was sentenced by Tauro to 41 months for obstruction of justice, and that will run concurrent with the 10-year sentence he received from Wolf.

"The plea agreement allows the government to salvage something from this long and costly case," said Wolf, whose ruling allowing Flemmi to argue that agents promised him immunity was overturned by a federal appeals panel.

FBI spokeswoman Gail Marcinkiewicz acknowledged past abuses by former agents but said the bureau now abides by new informant guidelines drafted by the Justice Department. The guidelines require agents to tell federal prosecutors about their informants.

"It's important to point out these incidents are isolated and the vast majority of FBI employees are dedicated public servants," she said.

FBI blasted - Judge rips 'cover-up' culture at Flemmi's sentencing

State Police Maj. Tom Foley, who is part of Organized Crime Strike Force investigating Flemmi and Bulger, said "everyone did their job" to win Flemmi's prison sentence.

"The system does work," Foley said. "I see the glass as half full instead of half empty in this case."

From the bench

U.S. District Court Judge Mark L. Wolf's remarks from the bench during the sentencing of Stephen Flemmi:

On retired Boston FBI agent ***H. Paul Rico*** and Flemmi: "It is clear to me that Mr. Flemmi would have either been killed or in prison like Frank Salemme if (FBI agent) Paul Rico had not in 1969 tipped him off and encouraged him to flee just before Mr. Flemmi was indicted for the bombing of John Fitzgerald and the murder of Walter Bennett."

On former U.S. Attorney Donald K. Stern: "Despite repeated requests, the FBI refused to inform the United States Attorney whether Bulger or Flemmi was an informant until the day before the original indictment was returned. Then the United States Attorney, Donald Stern, did not tell the prosecutors in this case that fact for six months."

On the FBI's handling of informants: "The evidence in this and other reported cases indicates that the FBI's relationship with Bulger and Flemmi was not an isolated, aberrant occurrence attributable to anybody's South Boston roots. Rather, while hopefully extreme in degree, it may have been typical of the relationship that the FBI had with a number of its top echelon informants."

"The evidence in this case has persuaded me, as I wrote in my decision, that more than a dozen officials of the FBI in Boston and Washington engaged in various forms of misconduct to protect Mr. Flemmi and Mr. Bulger."

Staff illustration by Kathleen M.G. Howlett

**Load-Date:** August 22, 2001



## **LATEST SCANDAL FURTHER SULLIES FBI REPUTATION**

The Commercial Appeal (Memphis, TN)

October 12, 2003 Sunday Final Edition

Copyright 2003 The Commercial Appeal, Inc.

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A13

**Length:** 749 words

**Byline:** Jeff Donn The Associated Press

**Dateline:** BOSTON

### **Body**

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Boston's FBI scandal was already disturbing enough: agents taking bribes, shrugging off gangsters' crimes and shielding informants from police.

Now, it has turned almost unthinkable: A retired agent is charged with aiding a mob hit on a reputable businessman.

"I think this does take things a step further, despite all the problems the FBI has had," said Ronald Kessler, a journalist and historian of the FBI. "I think murder is the ultimate crime."

The arrest of **H. Paul Rico** is likely to complicate FBI efforts to shake off its legacy of missteps with violent mob informants in Boston, said several experts on the bureau.

The arrest could further dent the agency's reputation and supply more fodder for roughly \$2 billion in lawsuits accusing the government of wrongdoing in the scandal.

"This is an ugly affair in the FBI's history, probably the worst," said Allan May, who writes for the Web site Americanmafia.com. "I think the most important thing for the FBI to do is to deal with this and get this thing behind it."

The nation's leading police agency has suffered embarrassments in the past when agents were exposed as wrongdoers.

They have broken into homes of social activists in programs like the discredited COINTELPRO, and they have occasionally acted as enemy spies, most notoriously in the case of Robert Hanssen. In Boston and elsewhere, agents have let violent informants run amok in exchange for their tips.

In 1990, FBI agent Mark S. Putnam in Kentucky even pleaded guilty to strangling a woman tipster to stop her from exposing their affair - another case of an agent corrupted by an informant relationship.

The FBI said then it was the first time an agent was charged with murder.

## LATEST SCANDAL FURTHER SULLIES FBI REPUTATION

Putnam's case, as sad and awful as it was, sprang from "an emotional situation," said Robert Fitzpatrick, a former assistant chief of the FBI's Boston bureau.

Rico's arrest is something different.

"What . . . hasn't happened in the past is a (former) FBI agent that is charged with colluding with the wiseguys in a murder. That doesn't happen, and that's shocking," Fitzpatrick said.

One of the architects of the FBI's mob informant program, Rico helped the agency make some of its first Mafia cases in New England in the 1960s - with the help of violent informants.

When he retired in 1975, he did not entirely abandon his old collaborators: He went to work instead for a mob-connected company that ran jai alai events.

A new company head there, Roger Wheeler, wanted to root out the mob influence. In their charge against Rico, Oklahoma prosecutors say he fed information that helped his old mob sources find and kill Wheeler in 1981.

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FBI leaders and many outside experts on the bureau said the vast majority of agents are honest and well-intentioned.

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However, Kessler, who has written widely about the FBI and its history, said, "It certainly turns your stomach to think that someone who spent his life in the FBI would be allegedly involved in murder, and you have to blame in part . . . the FBI's supervision in Boston, which let all this seamy corruption go on for so long."

"I think this guy will be seen as a retired FBI agent who just went beyond some of the other agents . . . who did corrupt things," said Robert Bloom, a Boston College law professor who has studied informant abuses.

Victor Garo, a lawyer for a man wrongly imprisoned in a mob case that Rico helped build, said the ex-agent's arrest may open new dimensions in the Boston scandal, which has been unfolding since one of Rico's old mob informants was arrested in 1995 and began ratting on his former FBI protectors.

"I would imagine that right now, many people are concerned about what he knows and what he will say," the lawyer said of Rico.

They include members of the House Government Reform Committee, which has been investigating Boston's FBI scandal.

However, U.S. Rep. John Tierney, a Massachusetts Democrat on the committee, said he hopes Rico's arrest, in the end, "will be part of the path toward . . . good credibility by the FBI."

## Graphic

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photo; **H. Paul Rico**

LATEST SCANDAL FURTHER SULLIES FBI REPUTATION

**Load-Date:** October 16, 2003

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## **MANY SQUIRM AS FLEMMI MAKES DEAL**

The Boston Herald

October 11, 2003 Saturday

ALL EDITIONS

Copyright 2003 Boston Herald Inc.

**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 1059 words

**Byline:** By JONATHAN WELLS

### **Body**

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Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi's stunning decision to cooperate with federal prosecutors could place dozens of current and former FBI agents, police officers and politicians in legal jeopardy, law enforcement and legal sources said yesterday.

Flemmi cut a deal to avoid the death penalty in two murder cases in Oklahoma and Florida just weeks before he was to go on trial in Boston on federal racketeering charges which included those murders and eight others, sources confirmed.

Now, Flemmi, a partner of fugitive crime boss James J. "Whitey" Bulger and a longtime FBI informant, is in position to blow the lid off 30 years of cozy dealings between cops and criminals in Massachusetts.

"This guy right now is the Rosetta Stone in this case," said Frank Libby, a lawyer for the family of Oklahoma businessman Roger Wheeler, who was murdered in 1981 in Tulsa, allegedly on the orders of Flemmi and Bulger and with the help of Flemmi's former FBI handler, **H. Paul Rico**.

According to sources familiar with the negotiations between Flemmi and the government, the jailed gangster will be required to cooperate on all matters of interest to the government and already has been told investigators will be seeking information about corrupt law enforcement officials.

Presumably, Flemmi knows the names of the FBI agents and police officers who were on the Winter Hill gang's payroll, as well as which members of law enforcement participated in organized crime activities.

At the trial last year of former FBI agent John J. Connolly Jr., who was convicted and sentenced to 10 years in prison for protecting Flemmi and Bulger, two Winter Hill associates, John Martorano and Kevin Weeks, said they knew of payoffs to local law enforcement. For the most part, their accounts were anecdotal and in some cases based on secondhand knowledge.

Rico, once a star FBI agent in Boston adept at developing organized crime informants, became the first casualty of Flemmi's new cooperation agreement Thursday.

## MANY SQUIRM AS FLEMMI MAKES DEAL

The 78-year-old ex-agent, who retired in 1975, was arrested by Oklahoma and Miami police at his Miami Shores home, charged with murder in the first degree and conspiracy to commit murder in the Wheeler case.

It was Flemmi's account of the Wheeler hit, given recently to federal and state authorities, which prompted the Tulsa District Attorney's Office to charge Rico. Sources said Flemmi's statements corroborated information authorities already had compiled.

Rico was being held yesterday at the Pretrial Detention Center in Miami, awaiting an extradition hearing scheduled for Tuesday.

E. Peter Parker, Rico's lawyer in Boston, said a decision has yet to be made on whether Rico will fight extradition to Oklahoma. He also said he has no information on what role Flemmi played in the indictment of his client.

"I don't have any understanding about what Flemmi has said or done or what prompted the Oklahoma authorities to do this," Parker said. "Paul Rico had nothing whatsoever to do with the death of Roger Wheeler."

On Tuesday, Oklahoma authorities, including Tulsa District Attorney Tim Harris and Tulsa homicide Detective Michael Huff, the lead investigator on the Wheeler case, are expected to hold a press conference in Tulsa.

There were rumblings yesterday that for some in the FBI, Flemmi's decision to cooperate and the resulting murder indictment against Rico were unwelcome developments.

"The news of Rico's arrest is quite shocking," said retired FBI agent Robert Fitzpatrick, who was second in command in Boston in the 1980s. "There are repercussions throughout the ranks of FBI agents. Flemmi might turn out to be the biggest snitch of all."

Law enforcement sources suggested Flemmi may provide investigators with new insight into the relationship between Bulger and his younger brother William M. Bulger, the former Senate president and University of Massachusetts president.

William Bulger abruptly resigned from his UMass post last month after Gov. Mitt Romney and Attorney General Tom Reilly suggested he had chosen not to help authorities capture his fugitive brother.

For years, William Bulger lived next door to Flemmi's mother's house in South Boston, where, over the years, Flemmi and Whitey Bulger allegedly huddled with FBI agents, stashed weapons and murdered one of Flemmi's girlfriends, Debbie Davis.

Lawyers for the families of alleged Flemmi-Bulger murder victims who are familiar with the dark complexities of the FBI scandal in Boston said Flemmi's cooperation could be bad news for some members of law enforcement.

"Mr. Flemmi's going to break a logjam here," Libby said. "He goes back 40 years, and he has got to be hoarse from all the talking he's doing."

Michael Laurano, the lawyer representing the family of Richard J. Castucci, a Revere bar owner and FBI informant murdered in 1976 by the Winter Hill gang, said Flemmi's agreement to cooperate provides a direct window into the crime and corruption linking law enforcement officials with the mob.

"It might shed more light on the relationship they had with John Connolly or other FBI agents," Laurano said.

Flemmi, who has been in prison since his arrest in 1995, is scheduled to plead guilty at noon Tuesday before U.S. District Court Judge Richard G. Stearns. His debriefing by investigators is likely to last months.

His lawyer, Charles P. McGinty, declined comment yesterday, saying only that Flemmi will go forward with his guilty plea Tuesday.

One law enforcement source familiar with the government's case against Flemmi said the gangster apparently saw the handwriting on the wall as his trial approached.

MANY SQUIRM AS FLEMMI MAKES DEAL

"We were in a position of strength," the source said. "It would have been a total massacre if he went on trial."

Jack Meyers contributed to this report.

TWIST OF FATE: Ex-FBI agent **H. Paul Rico**, above, was booked into jail in Miami after a long pursuit by Tulsa, Okla., police Detective Mike Huff, at left in photo at right, and David Wheeler, whose father was allegedly killed by Rico's associates. PHOTO BY CHARLES TRAINOR JR.-MIAMI HERALD; STAFF FILE PHOTO BY MATTHEW WEST

Caption: BAD GUYS: Mobsters and FBI informants Stephen 'The Rifleman' Flemmi, left, and James 'Whitey' Bulger have cooperated with federal authorities and fled, respectively, to save their skins. Flemmi turned on his former FBI handler this week.

**Load-Date:** October 11, 2003

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## *Mob survivor can tell where true evil lies*

The Boston Herald

January 18, 2001 Thursday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 677 words

**Byline:** By PETER GELZINIS

### **Body**

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He is not in prison, but he is not free. Not really. When he pulls down the steel curtain on the storage unit he's been living in, "I might as well be in a bleeping jail cell." At least then, he points out, "I'd have my own toilet."

He hasn't answered to his real name in years. And when he takes stock of his life, regret pulls him in opposite directions.

First, there is contrition: "Sometimes, I wish I never got messed up in the whole goddamn (crime) scene. I dunno, everybody thinks you end up with a lot of money. Some people, maybe. Not me."

Then, a touch of bitterness: "One or two people I shouldah killed, when I had the chance. Lotta things might've been different."

He remembers Edward "Teddy" Deegan as a "true friend," who always found time to visit him when he was in jail. No, he won't be in a Cambridge courtroom today when Joe Salvati is finally cleared of having anything to do with Deegan's murder. But, of course, that was something he knew almost 36 years ago, when Joe Salvati was first hauled into court - a framed man.

"On the street, everybody knew that (Joe) Barboza and The Bear (Vincent "Jimmy The Bear" Flemmi) did Teddy. Like his buddy Vinny Teresa, Joe was always such a liar."

Back then, he knew about all the local cops "on the pad." Every wiseguy did. He assumed that Peter Limone, Joe Salvati, Louis Greco and Henry Tamelo had the misfortune of being jammed up by those cops who were paneling their basements with tax-free detail money from Joe "The Animal."

It would take several more years before he received his own education in the finer points of crime-fighting as practiced by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"These days," he says ruefully, "I don't worry about the Mafia. Uh-uh. It's the guys in the suits who scare the bleep outta me. When a guy in a suit says, 'It's my job to take you to this safe house.' Believe me, that's when you know you're really bleeped."

## Mob survivor can tell where true evil lies

Like Peter Limone and Joe Salvati, he is also a survivor of a shadow justice system, where malignant federal agents like **H. Paul Rico** and John Connolly were hailed as true crime fighters and reigned as princes of the city. He has experienced just enough of the FBI's dark side to remain firmly convinced that its culture of treachery goes a good deal deeper than two rogue agents.

"There's no way those two guys (Rico and Connolly) could've acted the way they did for all those years without lots of other people knowing about it . . . and saying, 'That's great, fellas.' You gotta have guys going along with it. When they finally get to the bottom of all this - if they ever do - I'd be interested to see how many other guys they hook for all the bleep that went down. I hope they nail a bunch. I know you're gonna think this is probably a funny thing, coming from someone like me, but there's some decent people working for the government right now.

"I really think they deal straight up . . . and they'll take this thing wherever it goes. Still, I worry. Different people have different agendas . . . if you know what I mean. You're never sure just who you can REALLY trust."

From the depths of his storage-cell exile, he offers his own educated guess on the whereabouts of our favorite fugitive gangster. "You wanna know where Whitey is?" he asks rhetorically. "Ask Paul Rico. Ask John Connolly. With all the millions they helped Bulger make, my guess is they know. Or they got a REAL goddamned good idea. Like Stevie's (Flemmi) brother running those offshore accounts, there's just too much money for those two guys to stay indifferent."

"Preposterous" was how **H. Paul Rico**'s protege, John Connolly, fended off the latest accusations hurled his way - more accusations of betrayal and bodies buried in a Nova Scotia field. Not all that long ago, the agents of justice, those guys in the suits, guys like John Connolly, used the same wordover 30 years to silence Peter Limone and Joe Salvati's cries of innocence.

So, who's the real crook? One old wiseguy in a storage box. Or one old G-man in a plush Lynnfield colonial?

**Load-Date:** January 18, 2001



## Across the Nation

The Seattle Times

January 18, 2004, Sunday

Fourth Edition

Copyright 2004 The Seattle Times Company

**Section:** ROP ZONE; News;; Across the Nation; Digest

**Length:** 572 words

### **Body**

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Man linked to mob killing dies at 78

TULSA, Okla. A retired FBI agent accused of helping his former mob informants arrange the murder of a Tulsa businessman died a week after he was extradited to Oklahoma to face charges, a hospital spokeswoman said yesterday.

**H. Paul Rico**, 78, died late Friday, a few hours after a Tulsa County judge put the murder case on hold pending a psychological evaluation to determine if Rico was competent to stand trial.

The cause of Rico's death was not immediately released. He had been hospitalized since Wednesday.

His family said he had congestive heart failure and had lost 53 pounds since his Oct. 9 arrest in Florida, where he had been living.

Rico was accused of helping arrange the 1981 murder of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler, chairman of Telex and owner of World Jai Alai in Florida, where Rico worked as security chief after leaving the FBI.

Single-engine plane crashes into Lake Erie

SANDUSKY, Ohio A single-engine plane carrying at least nine people crashed in snowy weather yesterday, shortly after taking off from an island in Lake Erie, the Coast Guard said. The airline's president said there did not appear to be any survivors.

The pilot radioed a frantic call for help shortly after taking off about 5 p.m., but controllers then lost contact with the plane, Coast Guard Lt. j.g. Christopher Pasciuto said.

A helicopter found the wreckage about 7:30 p.m. about one mile west of Ontario's Pelee Island, Pasciuto said.

The wreckage of the Georgian Express Cessna 208 was nose-down in the water with ice around it, airline president Paul Mulrooney said.

## Across the Nation

Helicopters were using searchlights to look for survivors in the water, U.S. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Mark Freeman said. The cutter Neah Bay was headed from the Detroit area to join the search, as was a Canadian Coast Guard ship.

## Brooklyn apartment fire difficult to fight, kills 2

NEW YORK A rampaging, five-alarm fire tore through a six-story waterfront apartment building in Brooklyn yesterday morning, killing two men, injuring dozens of people, displacing scores more and bringing a broad swath of Sheepshead Bay to a frozen standstill.

More than 300 firefighters were called to the populous and oddly shaped building, officials said.

Fire marshals were investigating the cause, but they did not suspect arson, said Jim Long, a Fire Department spokesman.

Witnesses and officials said firefighters were thwarted by frozen fire hydrants and had to run hoses from blocks away.

## Maverick scientist claims to have cloned human embryo

A maverick Kentucky scientist yesterday said he successfully made a cloned human embryo and transferred it to the womb of a 35-year-old woman.

The scientist, Panos Zavos, who operates several businesses that deal with fertility products and frequently has sought publicity for his interest in human cloning, refused to say who the woman is or where the procedure was performed. Nor did he offer evidence of having made such an embryo, raising immediate suspicions that his announcement is but the latest in a series of cloning-related hoaxes in recent years.

Zavos made his announcement at a news conference in England.

Also ...

Two gunmen opened fire in a Brooklyn, N.Y., diner yesterday morning, wounding eight people before pistol-whipping a patron and fleeing with cash and jewelry, police said. ... On the heels of strong earnings reports, IBM announced yesterday that it will add 15,000 jobs worldwide.

## Graphic

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photo; ***H. Paul Rico*** (0393543978)

**Load-Date:** January 22, 2004



## **ADRIAN WALKER; SNAGGED BY THE PAST**

The Boston Globe

October 13, 2003, Monday

THIRD EDITION

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**Section:** SPORTS;

**Length:** 626 words

**Byline:** BY ADRIAN WALKER

### **Body**

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"WHAT DO YOU WANT, TEARS?"

Those were infamous words from an infamous man. Retired FBI agent **H. Paul Rico** uttered them before a congressional committee a few years ago, a committee looking into the wrongful imprisonment of four men who were convicted of murders they didn't commit.

Rico's day of justice may finally be coming. He was indicted on murder and conspiracy charges Thursday in a crime he had long been suspected of having a hand in, the 1981 slaying of Tulsa, Okla., businessman Roger Wheeler.

It's probably safe to say Rico's incredibly callous performance before Congress played a role in the hugely unsympathetic reception that greeted his indictment. For years, Rico was responsible for recruiting and managing organized crime informants in the Boston FBI office, a duty that Rico seemed to relish.

Wheeler allegedly was killed for figuring out that the Mob was skimming profits from his jai alai business. Rico, then head of security for World Jai Alai, allegedly furnished the details on Wheeler's schedule. The businessman was murdered after a golf game at his Tulsa country club.

Fittingly, Rico's arrest came on the word of one of his most celebrated informants, Stephen Flemmi. Flemmi, who's no dummy, decided that life in prison sounded a lot better than facing the death penalty in Florida or Oklahoma, two states in which he has been charged with murder. Unlike Massachusetts, Florida has no ambivalence about the death penalty.

Rico's alleged involvement in Wheeler's slaying had been suspected for years, and even disclosed to federal investigators. Apparently the feds were understandably reluctant to indict him on the testimony of a confessed Mob hitman, John Martorano. Flemmi's statement gave them the corroboration they needed.

Organized crime is such a spent force in this city that we need regular reminders of the menace the Mob once represented. Rico's accusers, Martorano and Flemmi, are implicated in dozens of killings. At least one former FBI agent has already gone to jail for his involvement with the Mob. The victims left countless grieving relatives, only



## ADRIAN WALKER;SNAGGED BY THE PAST

recently getting the justice that was long their due. Wheeler's son called Rico's indictment "the best thing that has happened in the 20 years since my father's death."

Whitey Bulger is the common denominator in all these cases. Fortunately, his folk hero aura has taken a beating in his years on the lam. As that silly image - "Whitey keeps the drugs out of Southie" - has receded, so has the invincibility of his former associates. Turns out these murderers prefer not to face death themselves.

Rico's lawyer, E. Peter Parker, has said that incarceration would jeopardize Rico's fragile health. Rico has had multiple bypass surgery and wears a pacemaker.

I have no reason to question Parker's ability, if not his qualifications, to make medical predictions. Still, isn't it interesting that these guys seem to fall horribly ill in the face of arrest? You just know that when Whitey surfaces he will be far too infirm to stand trial, much less go to prison.

Peter Limone was one of the four men who wrongly spent the bulk of his adult life in prison thanks to the Boston FBI office. I interviewed him last year about two of the others, Henry Tameleo and Louis Greco, both of whom died in prison.

"They were exonerated," he said then. "The FBI's own records exonerate them." So true.

***H. Paul Rico*** sneeringly deflected justice for a long time, mocking his oath to uphold justice. At 78, he may not ever stand trial, or face conviction. But the trail of tragedy he allegedly helped to sow is irreversible.

So, yes, Mr. Rico, I think tears are in order.

Yours this time, instead of those of victims.

Adrian Walker is a Globe columnist. He can be reached at [walker@globe.com](mailto:walker@globe.com).

**Load-Date:** October 15, 2003



## [ANALYSIS; Hit man says Connolly helped protect mob](#)

The Boston Herald

May 14, 2002 Tuesday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 1107 words

**Byline:** By JONATHAN WELLS

### **Body**

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When a legitimate Oklahoma businessman named Roger Wheeler was murdered gangland-style at his Tulsa country club in 1981, then-FBI agent John J. Connolly Jr. allegedly sprang into action.

But it was not the kind of action one would expect. According to the hit man who murdered Wheeler, instead of trying to solve the crime and bring the perpetrators to justice, Connolly set out to protect the men responsible for the murder - crime bosses James J. "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi and their associates.

In matter-of-fact testimony befitting a remorseless mob contract killer, John V. Martorano placed Connolly right in the middle of the plots to murder two men - Brian Halloran and John Callahan - who both might have successfully fingered Bulger and Flemmi for the cold-blooded execution in Tulsa.

In addition, Martorano testified another retired FBI agent, **H. Paul Rico**, was a co-conspirator in Bulger and Flemmi's original plot to kill Wheeler.

Martorano's testimony on the fourth day of Connolly's trial on federal racketeering, bribery and obstruction of justice charges appeared to deal a devastating blow to Connolly, who remained stone-faced as he sat with his wife in the public gallery section of the courtroom.

Surprisingly, during more than three hours of cross-examination, Connolly's defense attorney, Tracy Miner, did not directly challenge Martorano's allegations of her client's involvement in the murders.

Instead, Miner hammered away at the deal Martorano cut with the government - admitting to 20 murders in exchange for his cooperation and a sentence of 12 1-2 to 15 years - and his penchant for using aliases while he was a fugitive in Florida for 16 years. When court adjourned, however, Miner said she planned to continue her cross examination of Martorano today.

Martorano's testimony about the Halloran and Wheeler murders centered on a meeting he had in the spring of 1982 with Bulger and Flemmi. He was called to the sit-down by Flemmi, he said, and it took place at the Marriott Hotel at

## ANALYSIS; Hit man says Connolly helped protect mob

La Guardia Airport in New York just a few weeks after Halloran and his unwitting friend were shot to death outside a bar in South Boston.

At one point, Martorano said the conversation turned to why Halloran was killed and what role was played by "Zip" - a Bulger and Flemmi nickname for Connolly.

"At this meeting, Bulger was doing most of the talking," Martorano testified during direct examination by prosecutor John Durham. "And he told me that his friend 'Zip' informed him that Halloran went up and made a statement to the FBI."

Later, Bulger and Flemmi got to the main purpose of the meeting - what to do about Callahan, the Winter Hill Gang-connected Boston businessman who also participated in the plot to murder Wheeler and was being sought for questioning by the FBI.

According to Martorano, Bulger and Flemmi said they had spoken with Connolly about Callahan.

"They were trying to convince me that their friend John (Connolly) said that we're all going to go to jail for the rest of our life if something doesn't happen to John Callahan, because the FBI is going to put so much pressure on him," Martorano said.

By the time the meeting ended, Bulger and Flemmi had convinced Martorano that Callahan was a serious liability, that he should be killed, and that Martorano should do the killing. Martorano said he murdered Callahan on Aug. 2 of that year in Florida with the help of his crime partner, the now-deceased Joseph McDonald.

Martorano testified he killed Callahan despite the fact that the two men were friends. He said Callahan visited him regularly in Florida while Martorano was a fugitive and sometimes brought him money that represented Martorano's share of ongoing illegal activities by the Winter Hill Gang in Massachusetts.

In addition, Martorano said he was twice tipped by Flemmi that the FBI had information on his whereabouts in Florida and that both times, Flemmi received the inside information from Connolly.

Martorano also provided another detail of the Callahan hit that could haunt Connolly. He said as part of the plan to "send the blame in different directions" after the murder, he and McDonald disposed of Callahan's watch in the Cuban section of Miami.

That ploy matches an internal FBI report filed by Connolly on July 7, just weeks before Callahan was murdered. In that "209" informant report, which was reportedly based on a conversation with either Bulger or Flemmi, Connolly wrote, "Source advised that Callahan is supposed to be trying to avoid going to Florida too often on business. Callahan was close to a Cuban group who he was impressed with as being very bad. Source added that lately Callahan's relationship with this group had cooled and Callahan is supposed to be avoiding them."

That report, coupled with Martorano's testimony, strongly suggests Connolly not only endorsed the murder of Callahan, but also may have helped the crime bosses throw investigators off their trail - all before the contract killing even took place.

According to Martorano, the so-called "Jai Alai murders" were set off in part by ex-FBI agent Rico.

Callahan had been the president of World Jai Alai, a company that owned legalized betting facilities in Florida and Connecticut, in the mid-1970s, until his ties to the Winter Hill gang were exposed and he was forced to resign. Rico worked at World Jai Alai as head of security under Callahan and remained with the company when it was purchased by Wheeler in the late 1970s.

Martorano said yesterday that Callahan and Rico, along with the then-president of the company, Richard Donovan, put together an offer to buy World Jai Alai from Wheeler for between \$ 60 million and \$ 90 million.

ANALYSIS; Hit man says Connolly helped protect mob

After Wheeler rejected the offer, Callahan told Martorano there was a new plan: murder Wheeler, and then purchase World Jai Alai from the business tycoon's widow. As part of the deal, Martorano said, once Callahan, Rico and Donovan took over the company, they would pay the Winter Hill gang \$ 10,000 a week for protection.

Shortly before he and McDonald flew to Oklahoma in May 1981 to murder Wheeler - on Bulger and Flemmi's orders - Martorano said Callahan gave him a note hand-written by Rico that provided what the prosecutor described as "identifying information on Mr. Wheeler."

KILLED: John Callahan, former owner of World Jai Alai, was slain, allegedly because John Connolly told reputed mob members that he was a liability. FILE PHOTOS

Caption: VICTIM: Below, John V. Martorano, right, testified that ex-agent **H. Paul Rico**, left, was in on the plot to kill Roger Wheeler, above. FILE PHOTOS

**Load-Date:** May 14, 2002

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Arnold Markowitz reported from Miami. Material from the Associated Press was also used in this report.; JUDGE POSTPONES EX-AGENT'S EXTRADITION HEARING



**Arnold Markowitz reported from Miami. Material from the Associated Press was also used in this report.;**  
**JUDGE POSTPONES EX-AGENT'S EXTRADITION HEARING**

The Boston Globe

October 15, 2003, Wednesday

THIRD EDITION

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**Section:** NATIONAL/FOREIGN;

**Length:** 476 words

**Byline:** By Ralph Ranalli, Globe Staff, and Arnold Markowitz, Globe Correspondent

## **Body**

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MIAMI - Citing concerns about the health of former FBI agent and alleged murder conspirator **H. Paul Rico**, a judge in Miami yesterday ordered an extradition hearing postponed until Friday while Rico's heart and pacemaker are evaluated in the jail ward of a local hospital.

State prosecutors in Tulsa, Okla., have charged Rico, 78, with murder and conspiracy to commit the 1981 killing of Roger Wheeler, a prominent Tulsa businessman and owner of the Miami-based parimutuel wagering company where Rico was a top executive in charge of security.

Rico, who left the FBI in 1970, was arrested at his ocean-front condominium in suburban Miami Shores on Thursday.

In his first public comment about the case since the arrest, Tulsa County District Attorney Timothy Harris said prosecutors believe Rico conspired with two of his former FBI underworld informants, Boston gangsters James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen Flemmi, in Wheeler's murder.

The break in the case, Harris said, was Flemmi's recent decision to plead guilty yesterday in federal court in Boston to 10 murders.

"It was not until we received this new evidence that I was convinced in my heart that I, in good faith, could present this to a judge and ultimately a jury," Harris said.

According to documents released by Harris's office yesterday, Flemmi has told authorities that former World Jai Alai president John Callahan wanted to buy the company back from Wheeler and that he wanted Flemmi and Bulger's gang to provide him with "muscle" to fend off other organized crime groups.

Arnold Markowitz reported from Miami. Material from the Associated Press was also used in this report.;JUDGE  
POSTPONES EX-AGENT'S EXTRADITION HEARING

In return, Callahan offered a \$10,000 a week "skim" off World Jai Alai's parking concessions when he regained control of the company, Flemmi said, according to an affidavit filed yesterday by Tulsa police Detective Sergeant Michael Huff.

Callahan also said he wanted Wheeler murdered, Flemmi said.

Flemmi has told authorities that shortly after meeting with Callahan, he called Rico at his office using his old FBI code name, "Jack from South Boston." Rico confirmed that he also wanted Wheeler killed, Flemmi stated, according to Huff's affidavit.

Both Flemmi and his longtime associate, notorious hitman John Martorano, have said that Callahan provided the details of Wheeler's schedule and movements prior to his murder after a round of golf at Tulsa's Southern Hills Country Club, and both said Callahan told them that Rico gave him the information.

Rico has denied any involvement in Wheeler's murder.

Rico's lawyer in Miami, William Cagney III, said yesterday that he had not had adequate time to consult with his client and is unsure whether he will contest Rico's extradition to Tulsa. "I have not made any decision," he said. "The client should be consulted on these issues."

Cagney did say, however, that Rico would probably waive extradition if Harris's office would agree to release his client on reasonable bail terms.

## Graphic

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PHOTO, **H. PAUL RICO** Health problems cited

**Load-Date:** October 16, 2003



## ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

The New Yorker

September 21, 2015

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**Section:** A CRITIC AT LARGE; Pg. 94; Vol. XCI; No. 28; ISSN: 0028-792X

**Length:** 4346 words

**Byline:** PATRICK KEEFE

**Highlight:** The mobster Whitey Bulger secretly worked for the F.B.I. Or was it the other way around?

### **Body**

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Joseph (the Animal) Barboza was a murderer for hire from New Bedford, Massachusetts, who came by his nickname after an altercation with a minor mafioso which he elected to settle with his teeth. Barboza ultimately confessed to seven murders, and bragged to associates that he had committed many more, but he had the good fortune to be employed by the Mafia at a moment when authorities were trying desperately to better understand organized crime. In 1961, J. Edgar Hoover stressed, in a memo, the imperative to develop "live sources within the upper echelon of the organized hoodlum element."

Barboza became a prized informant: he served as a government witness, helping to convict members of the Patriarca crime family. In fact, he was so valuable that when authorities began looking into a 1965 murder that Barboza had participated in, his contacts at the F.B.I. engineered a scheme to protect him. Barboza was never prosecuted for this crime; instead, he took the stand as the government's star witness and implicated four innocent men in the murder. His F.B.I. handler, an agent named ***H. Paul Rico***, boasted afterward about the ease with which the bureau had set up four "pigeons" for a crime they did not commit. All four men ended up with life sentences. (They were cleared of the murder in 2001, by which point two of them had died in prison.)

In 1969, the government placed Barboza in witness protection, relocating him to California. But in his new identity he killed a man, and when local prosecutors sought to try him for the murder, the F.B.I. concocted a second coverup, maintaining that the killing was an effort by the Mob to frame the Animal and dispatching federal agents to appear in court as witnesses for the defense. After prosecutors agreed to reduce the charge, Barboza served only four years. Upon his release, in 1975, he was promptly murdered. But the Boston F.B.I. continued to enjoy a relationship with one of his associates, Stephen Flemmi, a member of the Winter Hill Gang. Flemmi had recently become affiliated with another up-and-coming gangster, a cunning and disciplined South Boston hood named James Bulger, who was known, owing to his platinum hair, as Whitey. Bulger was an armed robber who had done a stretch in Alcatraz in the nineteen-fifties, which counted, in the underworld, as a badge of achievement. Kevin Cullen, the co-author, with Shelley Murphy, of the excellent 2013 biography "Whitey Bulger," once pointed out that

## ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

whereas in normal life we might be impressed to learn that somebody had gone to Harvard, "if you're a wiseguy, you say, 'Ooh, you went to *Alcatraz*.' "

Bulger exercised every day, lived with his elderly mother, and cultivated a mystique of righteous criminality. In 1975, he began cooperating with the government, joining Flemmi as what was known, in the taxonomy of the F.B.I., as a Top Echelon Informant. This defection amounted to a breach of street protocol, which was generally punishable by death. But Bulger had few worries about exposure. Even if the truth came out, he once explained to an F.B.I. official, his reputation as a ruthless but standup guy was such that nobody would believe it. "It would be too incredible," he said.

In 2000, the Boston *Globe* journalists Dick Lehr and Gerard O'Neill published a book about Bulger's years as an informant, "Black Mass: The Irish Mob, the F.B.I., and a Devil's Deal." Bulger was not wrong: it was incredible. A film adaptation, directed by Scott Cooper and also called "Black Mass," has just been released; it dramatizes the story as a lethal minuet between the wily criminal Bulger (played by Johnny Depp) and the flashy, jocular F.B.I. agent named John Connolly (Joel Edgerton), who handles him. The film conveys the degree to which the relationship between informant and handler is indeed a relationship: bureaucrats can formalize the transaction in a mountain of paperwork, but in the end it hinges on two people binding their destinies together, navigating treacherous territory hand in hand.

Depp's fine-boned beauty might seem ill-suited to the role, but he captures, with chilling precision, Bulger's preening tough-guy narcissism. With his mortuary pallor, ice-water eyes, and swept-back yellow-white coiffure, Depp looks as if he'd climbed into the makeup chair each morning and allowed himself to be struck by lightning. He performs Whitey's lip service to gentility as the elaborate pose that it was, assisting the old ladies of Southie with their groceries, while his squinty eyes and carnivorous smile flash hints of the monster underneath.

John Connolly once said that, for law enforcement, running criminal informants was a bit like the circus: "You need to have a guy in there with the lions and the tigers." In a new book, "Where the Bodies Were Buried: Whitey Bulger and the World That Made Him" (Morrow), the journalist T. J. English makes clear that most F.B.I. agents do not excel in the role. It takes a certain personality type: the garrulous, glad-handing street guy. These agents are often indifferent to official protocol, English points out, and their paperwork can be atrocious. But on a barstool they're Mozart. In "Black Mass," Edgerton plays Connolly as a man who thrives on informality. His idiom consists exclusively of backslap and bluster. He's the guy to see about Red Sox tickets.

Snitching was reviled in Bulger's Irish-American neighborhood. He thought of himself as a strategist or a liaison, not an informant.

The film plausibly depicts the bond that developed between Connolly and Bulger as predicated on neighborhood loyalty. Connolly grew up in Southie and was childhood friends with Whitey's younger brother, Billy Bulger (Benedict Cumberbatch, in the film), who by the nineteen-eighties had become the president of the Massachusetts State Senate. Vocational options were circumscribed for men who came of age in Southie during the mid-twentieth century: if you couldn't get a job at the Gillette plant or a utility, your career choices were neatly captured by Connolly (law enforcement), Billy (politics), and Whitey (crime). "Southie kids, we went straight from playing cops and robbers on the playground to doing it for real on the street," one of Whitey's underlings says in the movie, adding, "And, just like on the playground, it wasn't always easy to tell who was who." Tribalism is a recurring theme in the Bulger saga, but the film suggests that the tribe allegiance of scrappy neighborhood kids transcends any subsequent pledge they might make to a criminal gang, or to the feds. "I grew up with him in Southie," Connolly says of Whitey. "That is a bond that doesn't get broken."

Few activities were more reviled in this Irish-American milieu than snitching. "We loathed informers," Billy Bulger wrote in a 1996 memoir. "Our folklore bled with the names of informers who had sold out their brethren to hangmen and worse in the lands of our ancestors." In deference to Whitey's sensitivities on this point, Connolly never referred to him as an informant. Whitey preferred terms like "strategist" or "liaison." He told Connolly that he would furnish information about his rivals in the Italian Mafia-but not his friends. And he had another condition: his brother Billy couldn't know.



## ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Imagine you work at the Central Intelligence Agency. Your objective right now is the fight against the so-called Islamic State, or ISIS. In the past, U.S. intelligence had a difficult time penetrating jihadist groups, because they were bound by ideology, which is stronger than a mutual interest in a shared criminal enterprise, and because they were careful about operational security. But ISIS is different: it actively recruits young Westerners to join its ranks. For the C.I.A., that is a critical opportunity.

In order to infiltrate ISIS, you handpick the perfect operator, then game out, in advance, how he should respond in a variety of situations. Suppose your infiltrator has crossed into Syria and been accepted by ISIS as a new recruit. He is taken to a house one day where somebody hands him a carving knife and instructs him to behead a hostage. Should he? If he refuses, his cover may be blown, and he could be taken hostage or killed himself. If he commits murder, he will solidify his bona fides as a member of the group, which could have real intelligence value. What if beheading the hostage might save a hundred lives? How about a thousand? How about just two?

This conjectural arithmetic of means and ends is what makes the handling of informants so fraught. An effective inside man in a criminal organization is also, necessarily, a criminal in good standing-and therefore a dangerous person with whom to be in business. After the attacks of September 11th, the Drug Enforcement Administration worked closely with a confidential informant named David Headley, a Pakistani-American who ran a video store in Manhattan. The agency sent him to Pakistan to gather intelligence on terrorism. But, when he arrived there, Headley became a terrorist himself, training with Lashkar-e-Taiba and eventually helping to plan the 2008 Mumbai bombing, in which a hundred and sixty-six people were killed.

In the reassuring argot of the bureaucracy, confidential informants like Headley or Bulger are often referred to as "assets"-a term that implies not just control of the source but outright ownership. Yet, if the asset is going to persist in the behavior that you are ostensibly combatting, how much control do you really exert? With Bulger, as with Barboza, the asset came to seem so valuable that the government did more than tolerate his bad behavior; it began to enable that behavior, even to engage in criminal activity itself. Suddenly, the government had lost control, and the asset had acquired it. Whitey Bulger knew that his friend Stephen Flemmi had cooperated with the F.B.I. and was still committing crimes with impunity. He also knew the story of Barboza. So his decision to cooperate makes a lot of sense. As T. J. English puts it, "If you were willing to sign on as a player in this ongoing conspiracy, you could not be touched."

For John Connolly, Bulger and Flemmi represented a lesser evil: the chief priority for the F.B.I. was to eradicate the Italian Mafia, and, Connolly claimed, his informants were indispensable in that effort. Years later, he described the bargain in terms of return on investment. "We got forty-two stone criminals by giving up two stone criminals," he says in the biography "Whitey Bulger." "Show me a businessman who wouldn't do that." But, as Connolly and his colleagues were dismantling La Cosa Nostra, Bulger and Flemmi were quietly consolidating control of Boston's criminal landscape. The F.B.I. never brought cases against them, and when other agencies, like the Massachusetts State Police, tried to target them, the gangsters always seemed to get tipped off. In one terrifying sequence of events that is depicted in the film "Black Mass," Bulger and his gang were dismayed when World Jai Alai, a sports betting operation, appointed a new C.E.O., Roger Wheeler. Several Bulger cronies were employed by World Jai Alai, and they regularly skimmed money from its huge gambling revenues. But Wheeler wanted to audit the books. In the film, when Whitey is told that Wheeler cannot be persuaded to sell the company, he announces his intentions with a question: "Would his widow sell?"

To execute Wheeler, Bulger dispatched a schlubby assassin named John Martorano. As Wheeler finished a round of golf at his country club, in Tulsa, Martorano approached his car and shot him in the face. The hit was coordinated with the assistance of World Jai Alai's head of security-***H. Paul Rico***, Barboza's former handler, who had retired from the F.B.I. so that he could devote more time to criminality.

After the murder, a junior member of Bulger's gang, Brian Halloran, approached the F.B.I. in Boston and said that he had information about the execution of Roger Wheeler: it had been ordered by Whitey Bulger. The bureau responded by questioning Halloran's credibility. Fearing for his life, Halloran insisted that the authorities place him in witness protection. They refused. Instead, John Connolly informed Bulger that Halloran had betrayed him, and Bulger tracked Halloran down at a waterfront bar and shot him to death in the parking lot.

## ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

When I was growing up in Boston during the nineteen-nineties, the myth of Whitey Bulger as a standup criminal, a "good bad guy," was still remarkably strong. It was an appealing idea, rooted in tribal solidarity, and you could see how it might have been a tempting archetype for Hollywood. But, to the credit of the film "Black Mass," Johnny Depp plays Bulger as a bloodless psychotic, and does not stint on depicting his savagery. Deborah Hussey was the daughter of Stephen Flemmi's common-law wife. A damaged young woman whom Flemmi had been molesting since she was a teen-ager, she fell into prostitution to support a heroin addiction, and Bulger worried that she might talk to the police. So they took her to a small house on East Third Street in South Boston. The property was just down the street from the home of Billy Bulger, but Whitey went there mainly to kill people. He called the house the Haunty. There were bodies buried in the basement. Inside, Bulger choked Deborah Hussey to death. She was twenty-six. Bulger derived much of his income by controlling bookies and vending machines, and it was part of his mythology that he kept drugs out of South Boston (though in fact he was bringing them in). It's useful to remember that he was also, effectively, a serial killer.

For a 1999 study in the *Fordham Law Review*, Ellen Yaroshefsky interviewed former federal prosecutors about the tendency to grow close to a criminal informant and the perils of losing objectivity. It is possible, Yaroshefsky suggested, to "fall in love with your rat." Something like this happened not just with Connolly but also with Connolly's F.B.I. supervisor, John Morris. Flemmi and Bulger would go to Morris's suburban house and indulge in long evenings of bonding. Morris was from the Midwest and lacked Connolly's common touch. (His paperwork, T. J. English notes, "was impeccable.") He liked wine, so Bulger gave him a case, and then another. On a separate occasion, the gangsters supplied a plane ticket so that Morris's mistress could join him on a getaway to Georgia. For security reasons, relationships with informants are often carried out in secret, with little oversight; the usual temptations become hard to resist.

Much like the earlier F.B.I. agents who had handled Barboza, Connolly and Morris continued to cover for Bulger's and Flemmi's criminal activities. One reason is that Bulger compromised his handlers. A case of wine. A plane ticket. The gifts added up. Connolly reportedly took a quarter of a million dollars over a decade. But a subtler power shift was also in play: when Connolly and Morris broke the law to protect Bulger, they were furnishing him with grounds for blackmail. In 1994, despite the F.B.I.'s best efforts, a Massachusetts grand jury began to hear evidence about Bulger and Flemmi. A furious Whitey later telephoned Morris and said, "If I'm going to jail, you're going to jail. I'm taking you with me." Morris had a major heart attack. It was a vivid snapshot of Bulger's leverage. As Lehr and O'Neill write, "Bulger had nearly killed him with a phone call." The gangster was finally indicted, but before he could be arrested he fled. Connolly had tipped him off.

That is where the movie ends, and the Bulger story, too, might have ended there, with the man vanishing, forever untouchable. But in 2011, after a decade and a half on the lam, he was finally apprehended. For years, the F.B.I. had been unable to track him, and many people speculated that officials did not really want to find Whitey, for fear of the revelations about F.B.I. complicity that might emerge if he ever stood trial. John Connolly had

eventually been prosecuted for his corruption, and for his involvement in yet another murder committed by John Martorano, on Bulger's orders, in Florida. Connolly is serving forty years in prison; John Morris received immunity and testified against him. Bulger sightings were reported in Ireland, Italy, and all over the United States. But when Whitey was finally discovered, at the age of eighty-one, he was living a quiet life with his girlfriend, Catherine Greig, a few blocks from the boardwalk in Santa Monica. Their apartment was modest and unremarkable, except for the eight hundred and twenty-two thousand dollars in cash that investigators found hidden in the wall. Bulger had not shed his native hauteur. When the agents told him to kneel, he said, "I ain't getting down on my fucking knees." He didn't want to dirty his trousers.

Bulger had been an avid reader as far back as his years in Alcatraz, and on his shelves in Santa Monica agents found a collection of true-crime books. Among them was "Paddy Whacked," a 2006 book by T. J. English, about Irish-American gangsters. When Bulger was prosecuted in federal court in Boston, in 2013, English attended the trial, and his book offers a detailed account of the proceedings. Despite the underworld prohibition on snitching, everybody seems to snitch eventually. With Bulger in exile, his former associates negotiated bargains of one sort or another. Just as the F.B.I. gave a pass to Bulger in the interest of prosecuting the Mafia, the Justice Department gave a pass to the killers from Bulger's gang in the interest of prosecuting Bulger. Stephen Flemmi, who avoided

## ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

capital punishment by making a plea deal, testified about how Bulger murdered Deborah Hussey. A Bulger protégé named Kevin Weeks testified about burying Hussey's body. "We killed people that were rats, and I had the two biggest rats right next to me," Weeks said.

"You suck!" Bulger hissed.

Weeks, still on the witness stand, responded, "Fuck you, O.K.?"

"Fuck you, too," Bulger shot back.

For all its drama, English argues, the trial was a sideshow. He begins his book not with Whitey but with Joseph Barboza, and he insists that any narrative that hews too closely to the relationship between Bulger and the "rogue agent" John Connolly overlooks a more systemic problem. It wasn't just that Connolly introduced Bulger to his boss, Morris; he eventually introduced Bulger to Jeremiah O'Sullivan, a senior official in the U.S. Attorney's office in Boston. (The two were, Connolly told English, "quite impressed with one another.") When Brian Halloran walked into the F.B.I. and implicated Bulger in the Jai Alai hit, it was O'Sullivan who ultimately refused to put him in witness protection.

Federal law enforcement is no less a tribe than a Southie street gang is, and, English argues, it will always look after its own. This may simply be a lamentable feature of institutional culture: the Catholic Church covered for the predators in its midst. But one oddity of the Bulger case is that the prosecutors who brought the thirty-two-count indictment worked in the very office that Jeremiah O'Sullivan used to occupy. Their challenge, English argues, was how to "convict Bulger without collaterally tarnishing the reputation of the system they represented."

The notion that Whitey Bulger's pact with the F.B.I. represented not a gross aberration but something like business as usual is almost too bleak to contemplate. It suggests, as English writes, that "the entire criminal justice system was a grand illusion; a shell game presided over by petty bureaucrats more concerned with promoting their careers and protecting their asses than anything else." Nobody knows how many confidential informants are working for the F.B.I. at any time, but in a 2008 budget request the bureau put the number at fifteen thousand. After the degree of official complicity in Bulger's crimes was revealed, the Department of Justice ordered the F.B.I. to track any crimes committed by its informants. In a 2013 letter, the bureau disclosed that in the prior year it had authorized informants to break the law on 5,939 occasions. "Stone killers," Connolly once remarked. "That's who you're trying to recruit. Then you're supposed to tell them 'You can't do that anymore'? Are you shitting me?" To English, the cautionary tale of "one very crafty psychopath who had corrupted the system" obscures the "preexisting corrupt system" that created him.

Bulger mounted a surprising defense. His lawyers acknowledged that he had been a major organized-crime figure in Boston, and was guilty of racketeering, loan sharking, gambling, drug dealing. What he had never been, however, was a rat. "James Bulger was of Irish descent, and the worst thing an Irish person could consider doing was becoming an informant," his lead lawyer, Jay Carney, explained. Whitey did not take the stand during the trial, but, in a documentary that later aired on CNN, he elaborated. "I asked the questions, I got the answers," he said. "I was the guy that did the directing. They didn't direct me." In Bulger's telling, he never gave any information to the feds; he only collected information from them. Connolly may have thought he was the handler, but in reality he was the informant.

On its face, this claim was laughable, belied by numerous witnesses and corroborating F.B.I. documents. Yet there is no disputing that the federal government gave Whitey a great deal more than it got in exchange. Indeed, one mystery of Bulger's rapport with the F.B.I. had always been why the agents were so devoted to him. Connolly claimed that the bureau got "forty-two stone criminals" because of Bulger, but Bulger's actual contributions to the work of the bureau were often exaggerated. Bulger's defense pointed out that he was never deeply tied to the Mafia. In fact, in a bureaucratic sleight of hand that is dramatized in the film "Black Mass," Connolly and Morris routinely padded Bulger's official dossier by extracting tidbits from the files of other confidential informants and attributing them to Bulger.

## ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

So why did the agents stick with him? Once Connolly and Morris began to bend the rules for Bulger and Flemmi, they became bound to their sources. Part of the answer, too, is that the culture rewarded agents who landed top informants; throughout the years that Connolly was handling Bulger, he was promoted and given performance bonuses. But relationships can become pathological, and the more intimate the relationship the more it will assume a logic of its own.

Bureaucracies, like people, are also given to path dependency. The original rationale behind recruiting Whitey Bulger was that he would help take out the Italian Mob. But by the late nineteen-eighties the Boston Mafia had more or less disappeared, and the new locus of criminal power was Whitey Bulger and Steve Flemmi. A colleague of John Connolly, an F.B.I. supervisor named Bob Fitzpatrick, met with Bulger at one point and concluded that he enjoyed too much of a free hand. Besides, Fitzpatrick argued, the whole logic of informants is that you flip criminals on the lower rungs of an enterprise so that you can target the top of the hierarchy. "You can never have the top guy as an informant," Fitzpatrick said. "If you have the top guy, he's making policy, and then he owns you." According to Fitzpatrick, he said he recommended that the bureau jettison Bulger as a source. He was overruled.

Whitey was convicted on thirty-one counts, including involvement in eleven murders, and received multiple life sentences. But T. J. English is not alone in feeling that the system got away without scrutiny. In a statement, David Wheeler, the son of Roger Wheeler, the murdered Jai Alai executive, cautioned that the verdict should not overshadow the "gross institutional misconduct" of the F.B.I. If the word "asset" implies ownership, then perhaps the government should bear some responsibility for the violent actions of criminals whom it shelters and protects. One of the men Barboza fingered for murder was released from prison after thirty years. He sued the F.B.I., and was awarded twenty-nine million dollars. Many relatives of Bulger's victims (including David Wheeler) have launched similar suits, though a number of them have been thrown out on the ground that the statute of limitations has expired—a cruel technicality, given that it was through the contrivance of government officials that Bulger's informant status remained secret for so long.

On the day that Whitey was arraigned, a diminutive, fastidiously groomed man appeared in the spectators' gallery. It was Billy Bulger, the former senate president. The original tribal allegiance is blood, and Billy had never abandoned his older brother. "I could have tried to influence him," Billy said, in a rare interview on the subject, in *Boston* in 2007. "But you know, you couldn't get a conversation going."

After two decades in the state senate, Bulger became president of the University of Massachusetts, but he was forced to step down seven years later when it was revealed that he had lied to the F.B.I. Billy told investigators that he had not been in contact with his fugitive brother; in truth, they had spoken on the phone. "I told him I cared about him deeply and that I still do," Billy later told a grand jury. He made no suggestion that Whitey should turn himself in.

When John Connolly left the F.B.I., he threw a retirement party in the North End. Billy Bulger had remained close to Connolly and helped him arrange a cushy new appointment as director of security at Boston Edison. There were speeches, and Bulger said a few words. He cited the philosopher Seneca, who held that loyalty is the "holiest good" in the human heart. "John Connolly is the personification of loyalty," Bulger said. "Not only to his friends and not only to the job that he holds but also to the highest principles. He's never forgotten them."

**NEATEST TRICK OF THE WEEK**

*From the Toronto Globe and Mail.*

Her slim legs are crossed elegantly at the knee and at her neck, a colourful scarf is arranged artfully over her shoulder.

**Load-Date:** September 24, 2015



## Attorney of former FBI agent seeking competency determination

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

December 24, 2003, Wednesday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 517 words

**Dateline:** TULSA, Okla.

### **Body**

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A lawyer for a former FBI agent accused in the 1981 death of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler wants an evaluation of his client's mental competency.

**H. Paul Rico** has been confused, hallucinating, paranoid and disoriented while in custody in Florida, attorney Garvin Isaacs said in an application for a determination of competency filed in Tulsa County.

Isaacs "witnessed Mr. Rico talking about snakes on the wall of his cell" earlier this month, according to the motion filed Friday.

First Assistant District Attorney Doug Drummond contends that Rico "needs to be physically in Tulsa County" before the matter is heard.

It appears that Rico "wants a competency determination done in Florida - not Oklahoma. There is simply no provision under Oklahoma law for such a request," prosecutors argued in a response filed Tuesday by Drummond.

Florida Circuit Judge David Miller ordered corrections officers there last week to report to him "with an update on **H. Paul Rico's** condition" on Wednesday.

Miller last week ordered Rico to be placed in a cardiac care unit of a Florida hospital and that all appropriate steps be taken to ensure his security.

The Tulsa County Sheriff's Office has requested that it be allowed to use a commercial flight to bring Rico to Oklahoma but said Rico "can be transported on a private medical air ambulance," if necessary, a document filed by Drummond said.

A defendant is considered competent if he or she can appreciate the nature of the charge, consult with a lawyer and assist in a legal defense.

Nancy Zerr, Isaac's co-counsel, contends that Rico's "mental status and competency must be evaluated by a qualified forensic examiner" and that criminal court proceedings should be suspended.

## Attorney of former FBI agent seeking competency determination

Rico, 78, was charged in October with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder in the mob-related 1981 killing of Wheeler.

A Florida resident, Rico was placed in the Miami-Dade County Jail after his Oct. 9 arrest. A Florida judge signed an extradition order in early December.

A document filed by Isaacs said Rico was hospitalized Dec. 7 "after suffering severe injuries from an assault or beating."

But Drummond said a Dec. 18 report from the jail said Rico's ailments were "not in any way a product" of any trauma-related "altercations."

Investigators believe Wheeler suspected that money was being skimmed from his World Jai Alai business by Boston gangsters who had fed information to Rico when he was an FBI agent. He retired from the bureau in 1975.

At the time of Wheeler's death, Rico was employed by him as head of security for World Jai Alai, which had operations in Florida.

Wheeler, who also was chairman of Tulsa-based Telex Corp., was shot in the head May 27, 1981, after playing golf at Southern Hills Country Club.

A murder charge was filed in March 2001 in Tulsa County against Boston's Winter Hill Gang members James "Whitey" Bulger, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi and John Martorano.

Martorano, a confessed hit man, pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and received a 15-year prison term for killing Wheeler.

**Load-Date:** December 25, 2003



## **Boston FBI chief angry at being left out of loop**

The Boston Herald

October 11, 2003 Saturday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 292 words

**Byline:** By MAGGIE MULVIHILL

### **Body**

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A seething head of the Boston FBI office said yesterday he was kept in the dark about gangster Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi's plea agreement with the U.S. Attorney's Office, not learning about it until Flemmi's information led to the arrest of a former FBI agent on murder charges Thursday.

"I was not apprised of any of it," said Ken Kaiser, the special-agent-in-charge of the Boston FBI office.

"There should have been a courtesy call to the head of this agency. I should have been advised that this was going to happen."

Kaiser's office is leading the hunt for Flemmi's gangster partner, James J. "Whitey" Bulger, who vanished in 1995. The U.S. Attorney's Office in Boston negotiated the plea deal with Flemmi, who is charged with 10 murders.

Kaiser said he only learned **H. Paul Rico**, a former Boston agent who developed Flemmi as an informant in the 1960s, had been charged with a 1981 mob murder after Rico's arrest at his Florida home early Thursday.

Kaiser also expressed concern that federal prosecutors may have suspected Flemmi's deal would have leaked out if it was circulated to other agencies - something he found insulting.

"There would be no leak," he said. "What doesn't bode well for me is that I've got the mission here to restore the faith in the FBI and do the right thing up here. I certainly should be kept in the loop on some of these things. When it comes out of left field, then how can I make a difference."

A spokeswoman for U.S. Attorney Michael Sullivan could not be reached for comment.

Caption: STEAMING MAD: Ken Kaiser, Boston's FBI special-agent-in-charge, is not happy after learning about Stephen Flemmi's deal with prosecutors just before **H. Paul Rico**'s arrest. STAFF FILE PHOTO BY FAITH NINIVAGGI

**Load-Date:** October 11, 2003

Boston FBI chief angry at being left out of loop

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## BOSTON GANGSTER FINGERS FBI AGENT IN PLEA BARGAIN;FLEMMI PLEADS GUILTY IN 10 MURDERS

**BOSTON GANGSTER FINGERS FBI AGENT IN PLEA BARGAIN;  
FLEMMI PLEADS GUILTY IN 10 MURDERS**

South Florida Sun-Sentinel

October 15, 2003 Wednesday Broward Metro Edition

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**Section:** NATIONAL; Pg. 2A**Length:** 425 words**Byline:** Denise Lavoie The Associated Press**Dateline:** BOSTON**Body**

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Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, a gangster at the center of a scandal over the cozy relationship between the Boston FBI and its mob informants, pleaded guilty Tuesday to racketeering charges involving 10 murders.

In a plea deal allowing him to get life in prison instead of the death penalty, Flemmi accused his former FBI handler of helping to set up a murder.

Relatives of the murder victims packed into federal court Tuesday, many visibly shaken as they listened to grisly details. Some sobbed as they heard how their loved ones were strangled or shot in the head, then dumped into shallow graves by Flemmi or other members of the notorious Winter Hill Gang.

Steve Davis, whose sister Debra was one of the victims, had to be removed from the courtroom after hearing gruesome details of the slaying. He repeatedly shouted expletives at Flemmi and said, "You make me sick."

The 69-year-old Flemmi, a leader in the gang that ran loan-sharking, drug and gambling rackets in the Boston area, listened impassively as a prosecutor described the killings. After pleading guilty to 17 separate charges, Flemmi apologized.

"I'd like to extend my deepest apologies to the families, the victims, my family, the public at large and the court," Flemmi said. "I truly am sorry. I hope they forgive me."

Flemmi's sentencing was set for Jan. 27.

He cut the deal with prosecutors earlier this month after fingering his former FBI handler, ***H. Paul Rico***, for allegedly helping to set up the 1981 murder of Oklahoma businessman Roger Wheeler. Flemmi admitted to his role in the murder of Wheeler.

## BOSTON GANGSTER FINGERS FBI AGENT IN PLEA BARGAIN;FLEMMI PLEADS GUILTY IN 10 MURDERS

Rico, 78, who retired from the FBI in 1975, was arrested in Florida last week in Wheeler's killing. An extradition hearing for Rico to face the charges in Oklahoma is scheduled for Friday in Miami.

On Tuesday, the voice of federal prosecutor Fred Wyshak Jr. choked with emotion as he described the killings.

Wyshak said Flemmi and gang leader James "Whitey" Bulger decided to kill Debra Davis, Flemmi's longtime girlfriend, because they felt she knew too much about their criminal activities and was aware they were FBI informants.

Flemmi also admitted to planning and helping in the 1985 murder of Deborah Hussey, the daughter of his common-law wife, Marion Hussey. Wyshak said Hussey was killed after she accused Flemmi of sexually abusing her, and her mother then ended their relationship.

U.S. Attorney Michael Sullivan called the Bulger-Flemmi reign "one of the darkest chapters in the history of law enforcement."

"There are going to be additional chapters spinning out of this."

### Graphic

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PHOTO DRAWING; IN COURT: FBI mob informant Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, left, with his attorney Charles McGinty in U.S. District Court in Boston, pleaded guilty to racketeering charges Tuesday and implicated his FBI handler, **H. Paul Rico**, at left, in a 1981 murder. Families of victims listened to graphic details of 10 murders carried out by Flemmi and other members of the Winter Hill Gang. AP artist's drawing, Jane Flavell Collins

**Load-Date:** October 15, 2003



## *Brothers' murders lost in legal shuffle*

The Boston Herald  
May 15, 2001 Tuesday  
ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 743 words

**Byline:** By PETER GELZINIS

### **Body**

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Normally, it would be absurd to think that three cold-blooded murders could be considered so redundant, they actually gummed up the wheels of justice.

But when it comes to a geriatric maniac, who once thought of himself as "The Rifleman," very little is normal.

When you are charged with killing as many men - and women - as Steve Flemmi, not only is it possible for some murders to get lost in the shuffle of indictments and appeals . . . apparently it's necessary.

In the space of just nine months, all three Bennett brothers - Edward, known as "Wimpy," Walter and Billy - were systematically executed some 34 years ago. In the name of legal expediency, and to shove Flemmi's byzantine case further along the rails of justice, the Bennett murders now become a kind of giant asterisk . . . for which no one will answer. Not soon, anyway.

The Bennett brothers controlled a substantial gaming and loan-sharking enterprise throughout Dorchester and Roxbury.

Stevie Flemmi apprenticed under Wimpy and Walter Bennett, until he allegedly decided it was in his best interest to kill them. Their two bodies have yet to be found, though word has it they were hauled off to Vermont and buried vertically in a deep, narrow hole, to disguise any suggestion of a mongrel grave.

Billy Bennett was not a leg breaker. But he did tend bar in Walter's Lounge, the family joint on Dudley Street. And he was the last Bennett brother shot to death. The only reason he doesn't rest somewhere in Vermont is that he ran from a car and collapsed in a snowbank.

Two weeks before Billy was killed, his son recalls Special Agent *H. Paul Rico* asking his father to surrender the family books.

Steve Flemmi, and the lifelong friend he would betray at least twice, Francis P. "Cadillac Frank" Salemme, were charged with the Bennett murders in the first of many indictments. But that was seven years and a lifetime ago.

## Brothers' murders lost in legal shuffle

Before Stevie could screw him one more time, Frank settled his affairs with the feds. A few days before Christmas he walked into a grand jury room and confirmed that the man who gave James "Whitey" Bulger his head start into the fugitive life was John Connolly, a former FBI agent, a surrogate brother to Billy Bulger and a hack who liked to get his nails manicured, just like his favorite wiseguys.

As far as Salemme was concerned, the Bennett murders vanished.

Eventually, U.S. District Judge Mark L. Wolf would toss them out of Stevie's first indictment on a technicality. Ironically, just as the skeletons of other Bulger and Flemmi victims were being pulled from sandpits and marshes in Dorchester and Quincy.

Meanwhile, Flemmi and Bulger get themselves indicted for killing people in Oklahoma and Florida, two state jurisdictions all too willing to kill them.

Across the bitter span of 34 years, Billy Bennett Jr. and his brother, Walter, came to believe that their uncles' and father's lives did not count in the eyes of the government. Their anger had eaten away at their lives. Still, they were heartened last winter when prosecutors returned to the federal Appeals Court and won their fight to have the Bennett murders reinstated against Flemmi.

Yesterday, they were both silent and somewhat philosophical after a lengthy meeting with the feds in the U.S. Attorney's Office.

"I don't want to take the grease off the wheel," Billy Bennett said, "just let them turn. If the final outcome is what they're hoping for, it'll be all right. They're doing the best they can."

Billy Bennett knows his father's murder will remain in judicial limbo. But he also knows the best Stevie Flemmi can hope for is to die very old and crazy in prison, rather than in the electric chair, or strapped to a gurney.

Three murders are set aside so that Flemmi can begin the process of trading for his life. Billy Bennett Jr. said nothing about what the federal government told him, yesterday.

But it's likely they apologized to the Bennetts, not only for what a gangster did to their family, but what a few malignant G-Men did as well. And in the end, that's where Stevie Flemmi may truly answer for his crimes . . . by giving up old, dear friends like John Connolly, **H. Paul Rico** and Dennis Condon.

Photo Caption: WHEELS OF JUSTICE: William Bennett Jr., whose father and uncles were allegedly gunned down by mobsters some 34 years ago, is trusting that federal prosecutors will make sure Stephen 'The Rifleman' Flemmi pays for his crimes. HERALD FILE PHOTO

**Load-Date:** May 15, 2001



## [Cops say ex-agent had role in Okla. murder](#)

The Boston Herald

January 12, 2001 Friday

ALL EDITIONS

Copyright 2001 Boston Herald Inc.

**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 1482 words

**Byline:** By J.M. LAWRENCE

### **Body**

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TULSA, Okla. -- After more than 20 years of investigation, Tulsa police contend a former Boston FBI agent played a role in the Winter Hill gang murder of an innocent businessman after he discovered the gangsters skimming his profits, the Herald has learned.

**H. Paul Rico**, a celebrated agent for 24 years whose close relationship with the Bulger gang helped the government bring down the Mob in Boston, is named in investigators' affidavits now under review by the Tulsa County district attorney.

Under Oklahoma law, DA Tim Harris could file charges in the 1981 murder of Telex CEO Roger Wheeler without presenting evidence to a grand jury.

"He'd be absolutely foolish," Rico's attorney William Cagney said yesterday from his Florida office. "They don't have very good sleuths out there."

But other sources said the Tulsa investigation, coupled with an internal probe into FBI corruption led by federal prosecutor John Durham, has stolen the peace from the 73-year-old Rico's Florida retirement.

Rico left the FBI in the 1970s to head security for a legalized gambling operation known as World Jai Alai - an organization linked to three organized-crime murders, including Tulsa businessman Wheeler's execution outside a country club here on May 27, 1981.

Rico's attorney accused Winter Hill gang gunslinger John Martorano of trying to frame the retired FBI agent for Wheeler's murder.

As part of a recent plea agreement that saved him from a life sentence, Martorano has confessed to pulling the trigger on 21 people, including Wheeler, and claims Rico helped order the hit from his post at World Jai Alai. U.S. marshals have brought Martorano to Tulsa to retrace his steps and prove his story.

"Rico's never been to Oklahoma," Cagney said. "So I hope (Martorano) didn't rely on (Rico) for directions to the country club. He would have missed it by a couple of cities."

## Cops say ex-agent had role in Okla. murder

Pit a professional killer turned cooperating witness against Rico, an agent whom the government called out of retirement twice in the 1970s to aid investigations, and the Tulsa DA has no case, Cagney said yesterday.

A jury, Cagney said, "would side up with (Rico). If they don't, we'd all be in trouble."

A former Tulsa County prosecutor who investigated Wheeler's murder, however, said the county must prosecute to bring justice to Wheeler's family and send a message to organized crime.

"This is a case, in my opinion, that warrants the death penalty for all participants," said Jerry Truster, who is now in private practice. "All persons responsible ought to be concerned about a bill of particulars being filed in this case."

Circumstances necessary to bring a charge of aggravated murder in Oklahoma include proving the murder "was committed for the purpose of avoiding or preventing a lawful arrest or prosecution," according to state law.

If the DA filed charges, the state would hold a preliminary hearing before a magistrate judge who would rule on whether there is probable cause to hold a trial.

Boston gangsters James "Whitey" Bulger and Steven "The Rifleman" Flemmi already have been indicted in U.S. District Court in connection with Wheeler's murder. Bulger has been a fugitive for six years while Flemmi is awaiting trial.

Harris, a Republican elected in 1999, said his office is reviewing the evidence closely and deciding how to proceed. "Whether that will happen now or ever I can't tell you," he said.

Tulsa Police Sgt. Michael Huff, who has been chasing Wheeler's killers his entire career, refused to discuss the case saying only that he has delivered his evidence to Harris.

"It's like giving birth," he said. "You put it out there and hope it does well."

Harris would face the challenge of explaining a complicated crime web to a Tulsa jury. Wheeler was the first of three murders connected to World Jai Alai.

Winter Hill gangster Brian Halloran was killed in 1982 after he went to the FBI with a story claiming the gang killed Wheeler. Halloran also implicated Rico in his talks with FBI agents who were already using Flemmi and Bulger as informants.

Then John Callahan, World Jai Alai's chief accountant and a Winter Hill associate, turned up dead in his trunk in 1982 in Miami. Callahan had been instrumental in bringing former agent Rico into World Jai Alai, according to sources.

Martorano has told investigators he was ordered to pull the trigger on Callahan, who had been his drinking buddy, he confessed.

Florida investigators now are making progress in the once cold case.

"We certainly have made more progress than I ever thought we would," a law enforcement source said yesterday.

Art Caption: PROBES: Ex-FBI agent **H. Paul Rico**, depicted in this courtroom sketch, is being eyed in a murder probe.

**Load-Date:** January 12, 2001

Defendant in mob slaying dies; The ex-FBI agent had been extradited to Tulsa for trial, then sent to hospital.



***Defendant in mob slaying dies;  
The ex-FBI agent had been extradited to Tulsa for trial, then sent to hospital.***

The Oklahoman (Oklahoma City, OK)  
January 18, 2004 Sunday CITY EDITION

Copyright 2004 The Sunday Oklahoman

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 1A

**Length:** 435 words

**Byline:** Larry Levy; State Correspondent

**Dateline:** TULSA

## **Body**

---

Former FBI agent **H. Paul Rico**, charged in the 1981 suspected mob slaying of business executive Roger Wheeler, has died.

Rico had been taken to Hillcrest Medical Center from the Tulsa County jail on Wednesday and was placed in an intensive-care unit Friday afternoon. He died about 11:45 p.m. Friday.

Cause of death for Rico, 78, who had a cardiac condition and a pacemaker, was not immediately announced. District Attorney Tim Harris said an autopsy would be performed.

The autopsy is "just to make sure for all parties that no foul play" was involved, he said.

Special Judge Carlos Chappelle ruled Friday in a hearing that Rico should undergo a mental exam to determine whether he was competent to stand trial and aid attorneys in defense of the charges against him, first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit that murder.

Don Stewart, warden for the county jail operated by Corrections Corporation of America, said Rico was unshackled and members of his family visited him for three to four hours Friday evening. The request was made by Rico's attorney, Garvin Isaacs.

The visits were allowed "with a certain amount of compassion" by Corrections Corporation of America, which "felt it was the right thing to do" because of his age, condition and that family members had come from Florida, Chicago and Germany, Stewart said.

Rico's wife, Constance, and daughters Melissa Ferrari and Dr. M. Joyce Rico testified Friday and were critical of the care Rico had received at the jail since being extradited from Florida on Jan. 8.

Efforts to reach Isaacs and the Rico family were unsuccessful Saturday.

Defendant in mob slaying dies; The ex-FBI agent had been extradited to Tulsa for trial, then sent to hospital.

Corrections Corporation of America "went above and beyond the call" required in caring for Rico and assisting the family, Stewart said.

Rico was taken to the hospital Wednesday because his medical "records did not arrive from Florida as quickly as possible," Stewart said. The jail wanted to "know exactly where we were" in terms of his health.

Harris said Rico's death was "not the closure desired." The state wanted to go to trial, he said.

Harris said he talked with Wheeler's sons Friday after the competency hearing and planned to notify them about Rico's death. Wheeler was shot in the head in his car after playing golf.

In addition to serving as chairman of Tulsa-based Telex Corp., Wheeler had bought World Jai Alai in Miami, Fla. The game includes pari-mutual betting.

Rico was head of security for World Jai Alai, a position he had taken after retiring from the FBI's Boston office. Wheeler suspected money was being skimmed from the game by members of Boston's Winter Hill organized crime gang, investigators said.

## Graphic

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**H. Paul Rico**: Cause of the former FBI agent's death not immediately known.

**Load-Date:** January 21, 2004



Defendant in mob slaying dies; The ex-FBI agent had been extradited to Tulsa for trial, then sent to hospital.



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The Oklahoman (Oklahoma City, OK)  
January 18, 2004 Sunday CITY EDITION

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 1A

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**H. Paul Rico**: Cause of the former FBI agent's death not immediately known.

**Load-Date:** January 21, 2004



## *Editorial; A death penalty benefit*

The Boston Herald

October 15, 2003 Wednesday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** EDITORIAL;

**Length:** 227 words

### **Body**

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Gov. Mitt Romney need look no further than the federal courthouse on the South Boston waterfront for persuasive proof that reinstating the death penalty will advance the cause of justice in STATEcourts.

Yesterday, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi pleaded guilty to 17 separate federal racketeering charges related to his role in 10 murders.

The guilty plea was part of a deal Flemmi struck with prosecutors to avoid death penalty charges in Florida and Oklahoma.

Just the POSSIBILITY of being sentenced to die in the electric chair led Flemmi to cooperate with investigators looking into the wrongdoing of the Winter Hill Gang led by James "Whitey" Bulger and its corrupt ties to the Boston FBI office and other local law enforcement officers.

Flemmi's "cooperation" has already led to a first-degree murder charge against former Boston FBI agent **H. Paul Rico**. What Flemmi might reveal about convicted FBI agent John Connolly, among others, is not yet known. It may never have been known had prosecutors not had the advantage of this killer desperate to save his own skin.

As Romney arrays his arguments for the death penalty, he should file the Flemmi example away. If not for a death penalty law in Oklahoma and Florida, Flemmi's victims' families would still face the trauma and uncertainty of his prosecution and **H. Paul Rico** would be a free man.

**Load-Date:** October 15, 2003



## **Editorial; Letters to the Editor**

The Boston Herald

January 15, 2001 Monday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** EDITORIAL;

**Length:** 720 words

### **Body**

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A trust betrayed

Kudos to Pete Gelzinis ("Federal agent's acts of treachery go way back," Jan. 9). Justice will only be served if retired agent **H. Paul Rico** is stripped of his pension and spends the rest of his life in jail. Ruining four men to protect other criminals is abominable. Who knows how many others were incarcerated due to withheld or perjured testimony from this agent. After this incident, the Bulger-Connolly debacle, Ruby Ridge and Waco, it is hard to discern who the real bad guys are. - Joe Genevich, Dorchester

Bring G-men to justice

Can someone explain why citizens are not screaming for the collective heads of the law enforcement officials who let four innocent men languish in prison for 30-plus years, including several years on death row? Why isn't retired FBI agent **H. Paul Rico** charged with obstruction of justice and perjury, for starters? Although these men cannot be given their lives back (indeed two died in prison) hopefully they and their families will at least be compensated. I hear often that we the people have lost respect for law enforcement. Is it any wonder?

To Louis Greco and Henry Tameleo, may you rest in peace. To Joseph Salvati and Peter Limone, may you enjoy the rest of your days with your families in peace. - David Varno, Townsend

Union leader responds

Contrary to the Herald's characterization of the massive demonstration ("Firestorm," Jan. 10), the working families of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO turned out at Tuesday night's demonstration to do much more than confront Mayor Thomas M. Menino before his "State of the City" address.

The firefighters and the labor community at large are deeply committed to the future of this city. Many donate their time and skills to the city on a regular basis in a variety of ways - as school volunteers, construction workers on community projects, United Way donors, etc.

## Editorial; Letters to the Editor

We feel our volunteer contributions speak for themselves and clearly illustrate the respect and high regard we have for this city and its leaders. In return, we expect the same respect be afforded to the firefighters who put their health in jeopardy every day.

In that vein, we ask Mayor Menino to sit down in good faith and fairly negotiate a contract. - Robert J. Haynes, President

Mass AFL-CIO, Boston

He feels Menino's pain

So now Tom Menino knows what it's like to be accosted by union thugs - the same people he and the Democrats call their "key constituents." He should have called Sen. Ted Kennedy as these are the same people who harass and heckle anyone who opposes him. I know, I was one of those people holding a sign for Mitt Romney a few years ago. So how does it feel, Mr. Mayor? - Bob Connolly, Tewksbury

Let's lighten up, all

Regarding your feature story on Irish stereotyping, why didn't you get an Irishman to write it ("Blarney-free zone," Jan. 8)? We Irish don't mind being the brunt of stories about us. We love to laugh at ourselves and are not offended as much as other races seem to be. We even make fun and joke about ourselves; remember the old Pat and Mike jokes?

Everyone should lighten up and get a life for themselves and leave other ethnic groups alone. - Lila Langis, Barrington, N.H.

Divided we fall

Sen. John Kerry is quoted as concerned about this "divided nation" based on the presidential election ("Congress opens amid bipartisan sentiment," Jan. 4). He isn't the only politician making this error in addition.

About 50 percent of the eligible voters cast votes. Half voted for Gore and half voted for Bush.

When will the other 50 percent be considered? Why didn't they bother to vote? Is it because they feel left out of the system? Have they lost confidence in government to represent their interests? Do they perceive various special interest groups in business, industry and labor unions calling the shots in their relations with the Democrats and Republicans?

A night in the Lincoln Bedroom could be bought by those with money and influence. Are members of Congress up for sale to the highest bidder?

Yes, Sen. Kerry may be right that the nation is divided, but not for the reasons he articulates. Fifty percent of the people didn't bother to vote for any candidate and that should worry those who cherish our system of government. - James P. Kelley, Royalston

**Load-Date:** January 15, 2001

Ex-agent arrested in killing;22 years after the death of a Tulsa businessman, an ex-mob informant handler for the FBI is arrested in his death.



***Ex-agent arrested in killing;  
22 years after the death of a Tulsa businessman, an ex-mob informant  
handler for the FBI is arrested in his death.***

Daily Oklahoman (Oklahoma City, OK)

October 10, 2003 Friday CITY EDITION

Copyright 2003 The Daily Oklahoman

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 1-A

**Length:** 782 words

**Byline:** Larry Levy; State Correspondent

**Dateline:** TULSA

## **Body**

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A former FBI agent was arrested and charged Thursday in the 1981 mob-related slaying of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler in the Southern Hills Country Club parking lot.

**H. Paul Rico**, 78, who handled high-profile mob informants in the Boston area, was arrested about 8:45 CDT at his 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.

Rico is suspected of shielding the three triggermen in the Wheeler homicide because they were informants and also providing them information on Wheeler's schedule.

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

Jimenez said the warrant charged Rico with murder and conspiracy to commit murder.

He will be held for extradition without bail.

The retired FBI agent, now in his 70s, still was being processed into the department's jail late Thursday afternoon, Jimenez said.

Wheeler, 55, was shot in the head as he was entering his car after playing golf at Southern Hills.

Tim Harris, the Tulsa County district attorney, issued a media advisory Thursday afternoon that said: "The office of the Tulsa County District Attorney has no comment at this time regarding the ongoing criminal investigation into the murder of Roger Wheeler, who was slain in Tulsa on May 27, 1981."

Ex-agent arrested in killing; 22 years after the death of a Tulsa businessman, an ex-mob informant handler for the FBI is arrested in his death.

Sgt. Mike Huff, who heads homicide investigations for the Tulsa Police Department, said he could not make any comments and referred inquiries to senior officers.

He speculated that a conference was possible next week.

Sgt. Wayne Allen, a spokesman for the Tulsa Police Department, referred all calls to the Massachusetts attorney general.

A spokesman for that department referred all calls to the federal prosecutor in Boston.

Samantha Martin, a spokesman for the U.S. attorney in Boston, said: "We did not file any charges against him. Look in your own back yard. It is not a case we are handling."

Investigators have 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.

After retiring from the FBI, Rico was head of security for World Jai Alai.

Investigators have said Rico provided the information to John Martorano, a hit man for the Boston-based Winter Hill Gang, with information on Wheeler's schedule.

"He never assisted the Winter Hill Gang in trying to get inside information so they could ... do away with people," Cagney said Thursday.

Martorano pleaded guilty in Tulsa County District Court to second-degree murder on May 3, 2001, and was sentenced to serve a 15-year prison term concurrent with any federal conviction, providing he testified truthfully against others.

In his plea, Martorano said he shot Wheeler.

The federal Bureau of Prisons Web site has no record showing that Martorano is in its custody.

He was brought to Tulsa by federal agents.

Still wanted in Tulsa in connection with the Wheeler slaying is Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, who is in federal custody.

A third member of the Winter Hill Gang wanted in connection with the shooting is James "Whitey" Bulger, who is on the FBI's "10 Most Wanted" list.

His brother, William Bulger, the former president of the Massachusetts state Senate, was forced to resign earlier this year as president of the University of Massachusetts for his role in the investigation of his brother, who has been on the loose since 1995.

William Bulger has denied knowing where his brother is.

Rico spent 24 years with the FBI, specializing in organized crime cases in Boston in the 1960s and 1970s.

Authorities in Tulsa have tried to charge Rico in connection with Wheeler's murder.

In late 2001, Huff presented an affidavit seeking charges against Rico, Flemmi, Martorano and Bulger, the reputed head of the Winter Hill Gang, but Rico was never charged.

A congressional panel is investigating the Boston FBI office's ties to its mob informants, including Bulger, who fled in 1995 after allegedly learning he was about to be indicted on federal racketeering charges.

He now is wanted in connection with 21 murders.

Ex-agent arrested in killing;22 years after the death of a Tulsa businessman, an ex-mob informant handler for the FBI is arrested in his death.

Wheeler's son said he was pleased with Rico's arrest.

"It's something I've wanted for years," said Larry Wheeler, who said he believes Rico played a role in his father's murder.

Cagney said he expects Rico, who is being held at the Miami-Dade County jail, will appear before a judge within the next two days for an extradition hearing.

He said he had not spoken with his client since his arrest and did not know if he planned to waive extradition.

Jai alai, popular in Latin America, is a game akin to handball, but players fling the ball from a curved basket attached to the arm.

## Notes

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CONTRIBUTING: The Associated Press

## Graphic

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Photo 1: WHO'S WHO: Roger Wheeler: Tulsa businessman killed in 1981 reportedly over purchase of World Jai Alai.;

Photo 2: James "Whitey" Bulger: Mobster charged in Wheeler's killing. On Most Wanted list.;

Photo 3: **H. Paul Rico**: Ex-FBI agent turned fugitive captured Thursday. Also charged in Wheeler's death.

**Load-Date:** October 13, 2003





**Ex-agent says he didn't promise immunity;  
But Flemmi lawyer challenges credibility**

The Boston Globe

January 14, 1998, Wednesday, City Edition

Copyright 1998 Globe Newspaper Company

**Section:** METRO/REGION; Pg. B1

**Length:** 1325 words

**Byline:** By Patricia Nealon and Shelley Murphy, Globe Staff

## **Body**

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Former FBI agent **H. Paul Rico** testified yesterday that he never promised mob informant Stephen J. "The Rifleman" Flemmi immunity from prosecution, but Rico's credibility was immediately questioned by Flemmi's lawyer.

Rico was found to have lied to a Rhode Island jury in 1970 about promises he made to a government witness in a mob murder, the lawyer said.

After the government witness later recanted his testimony - insisting that he had been ordered to lie by Rico, who corroborated the apparently false testimony at trial - the Supreme Court of Rhode Island overturned the conviction.

Flemmi's lawyer, Kenneth J. Fishman, offered the Rhode Island case yesterday to undercut the credibility of Rico, who testified at a hearing in US District Court in Boston that will decide, in part, whether Flemmi had been granted immunity from prosecution by his FBI handlers.

Flemmi is challenging the legality of 1995 extortion and racketeering charges brought against him, his alleged criminal partner, fugitive James J. "Whitey" Bulger, reputed New England Mafia boss Francis P. "Cadillac Frank" Salemme and two associates.

Yesterday, after acknowledging that Flemmi had told him about his involvement in numerous crimes, including gambling, loansharking, beatings and even murder, Rico denied Flemmi had avoided prosecution because he had been promised immunity.

"You told him, did you not, that you'd protect him?" Fishman asked.

"Absolutely not. . . . I can't personally promise immunity," Rico replied.

Fishman then raised the issue of the June 1988 Rhode Island Supreme Court decision, in which a 1970 murder conviction was overturned after the chief witness, John Kelley, said Rico had forced him to lie about the promises Rico made.

## Ex-agent says he didn't promise immunity;But Flemmi lawyer challenges credibility

Kelley recanted that testimony in 1983, during the trial of Luigi "Baby Shanks" Manocchio, reputed underboss of the New England Mafia.

At the murder trial, Kelley had testified that Rico had only promised him immunity from prosecution and protection for his family in exchange for his testimony. Rico corroborated that testimony when called as a defense witness.

Kelley claimed that at Rico's insistence he had not told the jury that he was promised much more: an income for life, a new identity and relocation. "Agent Rico told me I shouldn't tell all of these things because it looked like I was being paid; that I should just do as he said and everything would come out all right," the Rhode Island Supreme Court decision said, quoting Kelley.

Asked in 1983 why he had lied about the promises Rico had made, Kelley replied, "My life was in the FBI's hands. Rico said I had no alternative."

The highest court in Rhode Island apparently believed Kelley and ordered a new trial. "It is fair to assume that had the jury been made aware that Kelley had been promised income for the remainder of his life, a new identity, and relocation in exchange for his testimony, it would have found his credibility suspect," the court wrote. "It is reasonably probable that his perjury in these matters affected the jury's verdict."

Confronted by his testimony in the Rhode Island case yesterday, Rico denied offering Kelley anything. "I didn't promise him those things," he testified yesterday. He later said that Kelley recanted his testimony after a robbery case against him had "gone away."

Assistant US Attorney Fred M. Wyshak Jr. objected to use of the Rhode Island court case as evidence and challenged Fishman's conclusion that it proved Rico had lied. US District Court Judge Mark L. Wolf has yet to decide whether the court decision can be used as evidence.

But Fishman argued that it showed whether or not Rico had made promises to informants "and whether he'd get on the stand and lie about it."

Questioned by defense attorney Martin G. Weinberg, who represents defendant John Martorano, Rico acknowledged that neither he nor his superiors, who received periodic reports on Flemmi's criminal activities, ever launched an investigation.

"They didn't say anything about it," said Rico. "And I didn't say anything about it. . . . We did not open a federal case."

In fact, Flemmi was apparently so confident that the FBI would not use his information against him that in 1966 he told Rico about a beating he administered that left the victim needing 100 stitches.

Rico agreed that Flemmi told him that he and Edward "Wimpy" Bennett severely beat John Fiumara because Flemmi was "upset" about Fiumara's efforts to collect money from another man.

Rico said he could not recall whether the FBI ever investigated the beating or passed the information along to local authorities.

But 30 years later, in 1996, six years after the FBI says it terminated Flemmi as an informant, he and Salemme were charged with murdering Bennett, his two brothers and a fourth man, Richard Grasso, in 1967.

## Graphic

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Ex-agent says he didn't promise immunity;But Flemmi lawyer challenges credibility

PHOTO, GLOBE STAFF PHOTO/JOHN TLUMACKI / Former FBI agent ***H. Paul Rico***, testifying yesterday at a hearing in US District Court in Boston, denied that mob informant Stephen J. Flemmi had avoided prosecution because he had been promised immunity.

**Load-Date:** January 14, 1998

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End of Document



## [Ex-FBI agent arrested in killing](#)

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

October 10, 2003 Friday Final Home Edition

Copyright 2003 The Tulsa World

**Section:** TOPSTORYP1; Pg. A1

**Length:** 1400 words

**Byline:** BILL BRAUN, NICOLE MARSHALL AND ZIVA BRANSTETTER World Staff Writers

### **Body**

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**H. Paul Rico's** lawyer says his client has been charged in the 1981 slaying of Roger Wheeler.

A former Boston FBI agent, long suspected of involvement in the 1981 slaying of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler, was arrested in Florida on a Tulsa County homicide warrant Thursday.

Prosecutors and police were mum about the arrest of the former agent, **H. Paul Rico**, 78. However, Rico's lawyer said he was charged with murder in Wheeler's death.

A Tulsa judge has ordered a mysterious set of documents, possibly linked to the arrest, sealed.

Rico was in custody in Dade County on the Tulsa County warrant, Florida officials said Thursday.

Miami Dade Officer Lupo Jimenez said Rico was arrested Thursday morning in Miami Shores.

"He was arrested on a homicide warrant out of Tulsa, Oklahoma," Jimenez said. "Our warrants officers got the warrant, went and picked him up, and we will hold him until someone from Tulsa comes to get him."

In addition to Miami officers, two agents from the U.S. Marshal's Service were present during the arrest.

Rico's attorney, William Cagney III, told the Associated Press that Rico "flat out, categorically denies this. He never assisted the Winter Hill Gang in trying to get inside information so they could . . . do away with people."

The Winter Hill Gang is a group of New England mobsters, the leaders of which are charged with Wheeler's killing and 20 others during the 1970s and 1980s.

Although Wheeler's death is one of the city's highest profile murders, both Tulsa Police Chief Dave Been and Sgt. Mike Huff -- who has pursued the case since the killing -- said they could not comment.

"It is an ongoing investigation," Been said. "We can't talk about it at this time."

Tulsa County District Attorney Tim Harris did not return repeated phone calls.

## Ex-FBI agent arrested in killing

"The office of the Tulsa County District Attorney has no comment at this time regarding the ongoing criminal investigation into the murder of Roger Wheeler," said a statement put out by Harris' office.

One or more Tulsa prosecutors reportedly traveled to Boston last week, presumably to work on the Wheeler case. Harris has traveled to Boston in the past to work on the case.

A key figure in the case, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, is set for trial in U.S. District Court in Boston Oct. 20 on federal racketeering charges involving his role in 21 murders, including Wheeler's, that occurred between 1973 and 1985.

Another Boston mobster, James "Whitey" Bulger, is also charged in that case but has been a fugitive since 1995.

Wheeler's relatives have repeatedly pressed Harris to file charges against Rico. Wheeler's son, David, said last month that he would ask a grand jury convening Oct. 27 to investigate Rico's involvement. Harris has said in the past that he did not have enough evidence to file charges against Rico.

Rico was a Boston-based FBI special agent who specialized in organized crime investigation and used Flemmi as an informant.

After retiring from the FBI, Rico took a job as security director of World Jai Alai and later was promoted to vice president. He now lives in Florida, where he was arrested.

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

Investigators have long theorized that the killing was ordered by Winter Hill gangsters and was linked to Wheeler's purchase of World Jai Alai -- a sport in which betting is involved -- and his suspicion that money was being skimmed from the company.

In March 2001, Harris filed a first-degree murder charge against Bulger, now 74; Flemmi, 69; and John V. Martorano, 62.

In May 2001, confessed hitman Martorano pleaded guilty in Tulsa County District Court to a reduced charge of second-degree murder and was sentenced to 15 years in prison for killing Wheeler.

As part of his plea deal, Martorano got credit for time spent in federal custody since his January 1995 arrest on other charges. He will serve no time in Oklahoma, but will remain in federal custody while serving concurrent sentences -- none exceeding 15 years -- for a multitude of crimes.

Bulger, a fugitive since 1995, and Flemmi, who is in custody facing a string of charges emanating from New England, are also charged in Tulsa County with conspiring to murder Wheeler.

Prosecutors allege that in May 1981, Martorano and Joseph McDonald went to the vicinity of Wheeler's Tulsa home and the Telex building at 41st Street and Sheridan Avenue, and "determined that the 'hit' could not be done" at those locations.

In furthering the murder conspiracy, John B. Callahan had furnished Martorano and McDonald with those addresses as well as the make, model and tag number of Wheeler's car, a court document said.

Martorano has told investigators that Rico provided information concerning Wheeler's description, addresses and vehicle to Callahan, who in turn gave that to Martorano.

According to the charges filed here 2 <sup>1</sup>/2 years ago, Bulger and Flemmi retrieved weapons from a hidden room in the basement of a Boston residence and sent those guns by bus to Tulsa, where they were picked up at the bus terminal by Martorano and McDonald.

## Ex-FBI agent arrested in killing

Callahan informed Martorano and McDonald that Wheeler would be playing golf at Southern Hills on May 27, 1981, investigators have said.

Martorano and McDonald went to the country club, found the car that matched the description of Wheeler's vehicle, and parked nearby. Upon seeing a man who matched the description that had been provided by Callahan, Martorano walked to Wheeler's car, opened the car door, and shot Wheeler once in the face with a pistol, the charges state.

McDonald, the alleged getaway driver, died years ago of natural causes, a prosecutor said.

In Dade County, Fla., meanwhile, prosecutors in 2001 indicted Bulger, Flemmi and Martorano for the 1982 murder of Callahan, a former World Jai Alai president and Boston businessman whose bullet-riddled body was found in a car trunk at Miami International Airport.

Martorano pleaded guilty in Florida in 2001 to murdering Callahan; the deal calling for a concurrent 15-year term.

Investigators theorize that Callahan was murdered because of information he knew about Wheeler's death. During Callahan's tenure in the 1970s as head of World Jai Alai, Rico was hired as director of security.

Callahan and Rico were involved in an effort to purchase control of World Jai Alai from Wheeler.

Thursday's arrest of Rico remains somewhat shrouded in mystery, accompanied by a highly unusual series of events in Tulsa County District Court.

Tulsa County Court Clerk Sally Howe Smith said Thursday that she did not know the specifics of the case, but Special District Judge Clifford Smith on Wednesday ordered some documents sealed in a criminal case.

"I have got an envelope with some sealed documents," Sally Smith said.

Concerning when the documents might be unsealed, she said, "I can't do anything without the direction of the judge."

Sally Smith said she could not confirm that the documents were related to the Wheeler case.

Clifford Smith has been a Tulsa County special district judge for two years, and he is presently assigned to the Family Relations Division. Smith was employed as an assistant district attorney on the staff of Tim Harris when he got that judicial appointment.

Tulsa County District Judge Tom Gillert, a longtime prosecutor who from 1985 to 1994 served as chief assistant to District Attorney David Moss, said he could not recall a situation during his tenure as chief prosecutor where a Tulsa County criminal charge was filed under seal.

Gillert said no one submitted a request to him for an order to seal records linked to the Wheeler case.

Gillert said a special judge -- who is hired by, and serves at the pleasure of the district judges -- has the authority to order the sealing of records. He indicated that it also is not unusual for a judge who is not assigned to a criminal docket to sign an order -- such as a search warrant -- for a criminal matter.

Schaad Titus, attorney for the Tulsa World, attempted to obtain the sealed records Thursday. Smith told Titus that he had entered a temporary order sealing records and had set a hearing date. The hearing date also was sealed, Smith told Titus.

Smith didn't specify if the records were related to the Rico arrest.

The Tulsa World will seek an emergency hearing on the issue Friday, Titus said.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

Ex-FBI agent arrested in killing

**Load-Date:** October 11, 2003

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## EX-FBI AGENT SET UP AMBUSH, HIT MAN SAYS

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The Boston Globe

January 12, 2001, Friday

,THIRD EDITION

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**Section:** METRO/REGION;

**Length:** 802 words

**Byline:** By Shelley Murphy, Globe Staff

### **Body**

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A hit man turned government witness who has admitted gunning down a Tulsa businessman in 1981 has told a grand jury that a former FBI agent helped set up the ambush allegedly orchestrated by gangster FBI informants James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen Flemmi, according to sources familiar with the investigation.

John Martorano told a Tulsa grand jury last year that ***H. Paul Rico***, a retired agent who cultivated Flemmi as an informant in 1965, allegedly used a middleman to provide Martorano with a written description of the victim, World Jai Alai owner Roger Wheeler, and his work habits, according to sources.

Rico, who went to work as chief of security at World Jai Alai after retiring from the FBI in the mid-1970s, is the target of an ongoing investigation by the Tulsa police, the Tulsa district attorney's office, and a US Justice Department Task Force into Wheeler's murder, according to sources.

Rico denies any involvement in the slaying.

Martorano testified that Bulger and Flemmi had arranged with him by telephone to kill Wheeler, promising to get him the contract to run a lucrative parking lot concession at World Jai Alai's gambling fronton in Miami in exchange for the slaying, sources said. He never got the concession.

Weeks before the murder, Martorano said he met in Miami with John Callahan, who had been fired as president of World Jai Alai in 1976 because of ties to Bulger's gang and was allegedly involved in an ongoing operation to skim money from Wheeler's company, sources said.

During the meeting, according to Martorano, Callahan allegedly slipped a piece of paper to Martorano that provided a description of Wheeler and his work habits, and claimed it had been written by Rico, sources said.

On May 27, 1981, Wheeler was gunned down outside a Tulsa country club after a round of golf. Last year, after cutting a deal with federal and state authorities, Martorano confessed that he and the late Joseph McDonald, another member of the Winter Hill gang, were the triggermen in Wheeler's slaying.



## EX-FBI AGENT SET UP AMBUSH, HIT MAN SAYS

Florida attorney William Cagney, who represents Rico, said Rico has offered to take a polygraph test to prove that he was not involved in the slaying.

He said Rico had never been to Oklahoma and was unaware of Wheeler's daily habits.

Cagney said Martorano falsely implicated Rico in Wheeler's murder after learning that Flemmi had secretly been leaking information about his underworld friends and rivals to the FBI for years and that Rico was the "catalyst" in getting Flemmi to become an FBI informant.

"Martorano is striking back at him," Cagney said.

After Wheeler was slain, former Bulger associate Brian Halloran told the FBI that Bulger, Flemmi, and Callahan had killed Wheeler because they feared he had uncovered the skimming operation by the Winter Hill Gang.

Halloran also told the FBI that in a meeting prior to the killing, Callahan told him Rico "would probably do the legwork in setting up Wheeler," according to an FBI report.

The FBI deemed Halloran, who was awaiting trial in a state murder case, unreliable, and refused to accept him into its Witness Protection Program.

Halloran was gunned down in May 1982. Two months later, Callahan's bullet-riddled body was found in the trunk of a car in Miami.

Last year, Martorano confessed to 20 murders, including those of Wheeler and Callahan, and implicated Bulger and Flemmi in many of them, including the killings of Wheeler and Callahan.

Martorano has agreed to plead guilty to second-degree murder charges in Oklahoma and Florida for killing Wheeler and Callahan, with assurances he'll face only a 15-year prison term.

Last September, Bulger, who has been a fugitive since his indictment six years ago on federal racketeering charges, and Flemmi were charged in a new federal indictment in Boston with killing 19 and 10 people, respectively - including Wheeler and Callahan.

Wheeler's son, David, said he is "on pins and needles" waiting for Tulsa District Attorney Timothy Harris to decide whether to bring charges following a 20-year investigation into his father's murder.

"I hope the people who are responsible for not only my father's murder but this entire 30-year history of crime all have their justice," Wheeler said.

The Justice Department recently revealed that Rico and his FBI supervisors failed to turn over informant reports authored by Rico that indicated four men were wrongly convicted in a 1968 gangland slaying in Chelsea.

Two of the men died in prison. A third was released in 1997 and the fourth, Peter Limone, was released this month after spending 33 years in prison for a murder he didn't commit.

Cagney insisted yesterday that internal FBI regulations prohibited Rico from disclosing the informant reports to state prosecutors, saying, "His supervisors should have been passing that up the line and turned it over."

## Graphic

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PHOTO, GLOBE FILE PHOTO/JOHN TLUMACKI /H. PAUL RICO Denies involvement

EX-FBI AGENT SET UP AMBUSH, HIT MAN SAYS

**Load-Date:** January 12, 2001

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## *Ex-FBI agent sheds no tear in Salvati case*

The Boston Herald

May 4, 2001 Friday

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 833 words

**Byline:** By J.M. LAWRENCE

### **Body**

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WASHINGTON, D.C. - Retired Boston FBI agent ***H. Paul Rico*** yesterday defiantly denied that he and his partner helped frame an innocent man for a notorious 1965 Chelsea murder but now admits Joseph Salvati spent 30 years in prison for a crime he didn't commit.

"What do you want, tears?" Rico shot back at Connecticut Rep. Christopher Shays, who accused him of feeling no remorse for his role in the Edward "Teddy" Deegan murder case in which four innocent men received life sentences.

"It'll be probably a nice movie or something," said the tanned, white-haired ex-agent.

Ignoring his attorney's advice to not incriminate himself and to take the Fifth Amendment, Rico, 76, admitted he had prior knowledge that the Mob planned to kill Deegan and repeatedly deflected accusations that the FBI hid evidence in the case to protect its informants.

"I feel we have a justice system and how it plays out, it plays out," said Rico.

Shays accused Rico of acting as callous as the mobsters he once chased.

"You just don't give a (expletive), do you?" Shays said.

"Is that on the record?" Rico quipped.

Massachusetts sent Salvati and three innocent men to prison based on the sole testimony of the FBI's prized Mob turncoat Joseph "The Animal" Barboza, who later recanted his testimony but was ignored.

The unusual hearing on Capitol Hill was called by House Committee on Government Reform Chairman Dan Burton (R-Indiana) who promised that members will continue to probe the FBI's relationship with organized crime.

"This whole episode is disgraceful," Burton said. "It's one of if not greatest failure in the history of federal law enforcement."

## Ex-FBI agent sheds no tear in Salvati case

In his statement to Congress, Salvati's attorney, Victor J. Garo, declared the scandal surrounding the wrongful imprisonment of Salvati as "bigger than Watergate" for damage to lives and constitutional freedoms.

He described how the FBI stood by as Barboza twisted his story of the Deegan killing to replace his accomplice Vincent "Jimmy The Bear" Flemmi with Salvati after a Chelsea police captain spotted Flemmi, who was bald, in the getaway car.

Barboza told the 1968 jury that the man was actually Salvati wearing a disguise to make him look bald.

"I'm not a big supporter of Joe Barboza," Rico told Congress. "But he is the instrument we had. He is a stone killer and he was put in a position where he wanted to testify."

According to old FBI documents released by the committee yesterday, Rico and his partner, Dennis Condon, interviewed Barboza at MCI-Walpole prior to his cooperation with the federal government.

"He would never provide information that would allow James Vincent Flemmi to 'fry' but that he will consider furnishing information on these murders," according to their report.

Condon, 78, was subpoenaed to testify yesterday but told the committee he was too sick. He suffers from heart disease and recently had a hip replaced.

Barboza vowed revenge on the Mob and named six men in the Deegan killing. Rico testified that he once thought the hit man's motive was payback over the killing of his two buddies. The men were murdered in a Boston nightclub after they gathered \$ 85,000 worth of debts to pay for his bail.

Members of the committee grilled Rico about his 1965 FBI reports that said an informant named Deegan's killers, including Vincent Flemmi.

The report doesn't mention Salvati or his codefendants Peter J. Limone, Louis Greco and Henry Tameleo.

A Justice Department Task Force probing corruption in the Boston FBI found the misfiled report in December 2000 and changed the history of the Deegan case forever.

Faced with the new evidence, a Middlesex Superior Court judge exonerated Salvati and Limone in January. Limone spent 33 years in jail while Greco and Tameleo died in prison.

Under questioning that stretched almost three hours yesterday, Rico said he could not recall who the secret informant was back in 1965.

"I don't think it was Steve Flemmi," he said. "I don't think he would give up his brother."

Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi was an FBI informant for three decades and now faces charges including racketeering and 10 murders.

But Rico said he now believes Salvati was never part of the Deegan murder. "I was not convinced he was innocent until today," he said.

Salvati broke down as he told Congress about his wife Marie's undying support for him over the years. Marie Salvati also cried as she told members of Congress about the taunts her children endured and the hardships of weekly visits to see "Dad" in prison.

Photo Caption: BARBOZA: Hit man's testimony convicted Joseph Salvati.

Photo Caption: CONGRESSIONAL HEARING: Joseph Salvati, imprisoned for 30 years for a murder he didn't commit, reacts emotionally while addressing the House Committee on Government Reform yesterday. Below, former Boston FBI agent **H. Paul Rico**, who denied withholding information that would have cleared Salvati, is sworn in to testify before the committee. STAFF PHOTOS BY MARK GARFINKEL

Ex-FBI agent sheds no tear in Salvati case

**Load-Date:** May 4, 2001

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## [Ex-FBI agents plead for bail for Rico](#)

The Boston Herald

January 15, 2004 Thursday

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 339 words

**Byline:** By J.M. Lawrence

### **Body**

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A brotherhood of retired FBI agents are rallying around a sickly former Boston FBI agent accused of helping his ex-informants commit a 1981 murder ordered by James "Whitey" Bulger.

More than 25 retired agents have sent letters backing bail for colleague and mentor **H. Paul Rico**, 78, who was arraigned on first-degree murder charges in Tulsa yesterday in his wheelchair.

Some retired agents called Rico a victim of his Winter Hill Gang informants and say they're worried the agent - who has lost 53 pounds since his arrest - won't live long enough to get his day in court.

"I am certain when this case comes to trial and the testimony of two confessed murderers seeking to escape the death penalty is presented, Paul will be exonerated," said retired agent Robert J. Lawson of Vero Beach, Fla.

Rico's attorney yesterday begged a judge to order an emergency bail hearing so Rico could be hospitalized. Lawyer Garvin Isaacs dropped his claims Rico became mentally ill in prison, but prosecutors said they want a competency evaluation.

Rico, who went to work for World Jai Alai after retiring from the FBI in 1975, is charged with the murder of his former boss, Roger Wheeler.

Winter Hill Gang hit man John Martorano has testified in Boston that Rico gave him details about Wheeler's habits, allowing Martorano to execute him at a Tulsa golf course. In October, gangster Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi plead guilty to Wheeler's murder under a federal plea deal. Tulsa officials then arrested Rico on Oct. 9.

Flemmi became Rico's rat in 1965. Rico was "the best informant man that I ever knew," said retired agent Michael V. Guio of Carmel, Ind.

Guio said he remembers Rico as an agent with "integrity" who taught him the No. 1 rule of handling informants. "Informants are treacherous. They will turn on you when they get a chance to save themselves," Guio said.

Ex-FBI agents plead for bail for Rico

Caption: SICK MAN: **H. Paul Rico**, charged in the mob murder of a Tulsa businessman in 1981, is seeking an emergency bail hearing on health grounds. AP file photo

**Load-Date:** January 15, 2004

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End of Document



## *Ex-FBI man to testify at Mob trial*

The Boston Herald

August 4, 1997 Monday

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 780 words

**Byline:** By RALPH RANALLI

### **Body**

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Part one of two-part series

The smooth-talking former agent who forged the FBI's bond with gangsters James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen Flemmi will be in the eye of a very public storm at hearings scheduled this month, but he is no stranger to intrigue.

Belmont native **H. Paul Rico** helped solve the most famous bank robbery of all time, "flipped" some of the FBI's most famous and controversial Mob snitches, came out of retirement to sting a federal judge for bribery and was questioned in the still-unsolved murder of his private-sector boss.

More than three decades ago, the young FBI agent met Bulger and Flemmi, two young, up-and-coming gangsters, while hunting bank robbers for the FBI's Boston Office. In particular, FBI documents obtained by the Herald state that Rico met Flemmi in the early 1960s while investigating the robbery of a Shawmut Bank branch on State Street.

Only Rico, Flemmi and Bulger know exactly how the agent convinced the two gangsters to join forces with the FBI against the Italian Mob - though Rico's reputation for sweet-talking tough guys into the FBI fold is legendary.

"He was always a very knowlegable, streetwise guy who had an incredible stable of informants," one longtime Boston lawyer who knows Rico said. "He was always the lead guy in everything he did - very forceful, very smart."

Much has been made of the connection between Bulger, Flemmi and Special Agent John Connolly. But numerous sources say Connolly inherited and consolidated a relationship masterminded and nurtured by Rico and his partner, Dennis Condon, who would later become the state's Public Safety Commissioner.

Whether that relationship went too far will be one of the topics at hearings scheduled in front of U.S. District Court Judge Mark L. Wolf.

In May, Wolf ruled that defense lawyers Anthony Cardinale and John Mitchell had made a "substantial" showing of possible government misconduct in the handling of informants and wiretaps. Rico is expected to be called as one of the witnesses.



## Ex-FBI man to testify at Mob trial

The hearings may be postponed, however, due to the sheer volume of material documenting the FBI's informant relationships. Federal prosecutors Fred Wyshak and Brian Kelly have already asked for and received a two-week extension.

Rico was born in Belmont in the 1920s, the son of an Irish mother and Spanish father who worked for New England Telephone. His Spanish roots give him a Mediterranean look that is often mistaken for an Italian - an impression Rico sometimes used to his advantage when schmoozing wiseguys, sources say.

He graduated from Boston College in 1950 with a history degree, then joined the FBI and was posted in Chicago. He soon transferred back to the Boston office when his father became terminally ill.

That was when the young agent worked on the first of his big cases - and when he may have learned the value of informants.

The \$ 2.7 million "Brink's Job" on Jan. 17, 1950, was - and perhaps still is - the most famous stickup of all time. But by late 1955, the case was still unsolved and the end of the six-year state statute was looming. The FBI was saved from failure by one of the robbers, Joseph "Specs" O'Keefe.

Angry that his share of the loot had been stolen, O'Keefe began cooperating with FBI agent John F. "Jack" Kehoe. O'Keefe's cooperation broke the case and made Kehoe famous. Sources said Kehoe worked with both Rico and Condon before retiring.

Rico and Condon became a team, but it was Rico who had the gift of gab that allowed him to recruit informants, sources said.

"If informants are the currency of the FBI, then Rico was an earner," one law enforcement source said.

Rico's first contacts with Flemmi and Bulger began what the FBI has admitted was a decades-long relationship.

Rico and Condon also handled Joseph "The Animal" Barboza, one of Massachusetts' most prolific killers who later became a controversial FBI witness during the 1960s.

Rico retired from the FBI in 1975 to become head of security for World Jai Alai, a Miami-based sports gambling company.

Five years later, he came out of retirement to pose as a mafioso in an FBI "sting" of U.S. District Court Judge Alcee Hastings of Florida. Allegedly false testimony in the Hastings case has now become part of the FBI laboratory scandal, although none of the allegations involve Rico's participation.

Rico was interviewed as part of the investigation into World Jai Alai owner Roger Wheeler's 1981 murder. FBI documents indicate that he told investigators he had no idea who might have killed his boss or why.

Part two tomorrow: How Rico and friends convinced a Mob hitman to become a snitch.

Photo Caption: **H. PAUL RICO**; Smooth talker

**Load-Date:** August 4, 1997



## *FBI agent denies framing innocent man*

United Press International

May 4, 2001, Friday

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**Section:** GENERAL NEWS

**Length:** 4495 words

**Dateline:** WASHINGTON, May 3

### **Body**

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A former FBI agent told a congressional committee Thursday that he did not hide evidence that would have exonerated an innocent man for the 1965 murder he spent 30 years in jail for-despite having written numerous memos that named other men as suspects.

Former Special Agent **H. Paul Rico** told the House Government Reform Committee that despite providing a witness-Joseph "The Animal" Barboza-whose testimony convicted Joseph Salvati and several others for the murder of Edward "Teddy" Deegan in 1968, he did not tell defense lawyers about informant reports that named several other men as the culprits.

But Rico insisted that he only supplied Barboza to the prosecutors and did not knowingly allow him to commit perjury, adding that he assumed that someone else had supplied a plethora of information pointing the finger at others to the defense.

The testimony came as a shock, because Rico had previously said-through his attorney William Cagney-that he would refuse to testify unless granted immunity from a federal taskforce currently investigating the FBI use of informants in organized crime investigations over the last three decades.

Salvati, Peter Limone, Henry Tameleo and Louis Greco were all convicted for the Deegan murder-along with one of the real killers Roy French-and all except Salvati were sentenced to death. Salvati received life without the possibility of parole and the other death sentences were commuted to life after the Supreme Court outlawed the death penalty in 1972. The men were convicted-without any corroborative evidence-on the testimony of Barboza, who admitted to participating in the crime.

Evidence unearthed by a Justice Department task force investigating the use of informants by the FBI exonerated Salvati and Limone in January this year. Tameleo and Greco both died in prison.

The House Government Reform Committee subpoenaed Rico and his colleague Dennis Condon to testify as part of an investigation into the FBI's use of informants.

## FBI agent denies framing innocent man

The inquiry has potentially far-reaching consequences, and at its heart raises a disturbing question: In an overzealous effort to defeat the mob, did the FBI, in effect, become a partner in crime with mobsters in Boston and possibly elsewhere?

Led by Chairman Dan Burton, R-In., the committee pressed Rico for details of the Deegan investigation after a slew of internal FBI memos, local police reports and the testimony of two lawyers raised questions about the FBI's role.

F. Lee Bailey, who represented Barboza in later proceedings, and Joseph Balliro, who represented Tameleo in the Deegan trial, testified Thursday that Barboza later tried to recant his testimony and was discouraged and threatened by the FBI from doing so in 1970.

In response to the questions about why Salvati and the other men were convicted despite repeated statements from informants that named other suspects, Rico said that informant testimony was difficult to handle, compared to eyewitness testimony supplied by Barboza.

Rico said he had sent memos to FBI officials that detailed informant reports that Vincent James Flemmi had threatened to kill Deegan, including a report that Deegan's murder had been approved by reputed New England Mafia boss Raymond Patriarca and a dry run of the killing had been performed two days prior to the March 12, 1965 murder.

He also said he delivered an informant report that was sent to then-FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover a week after the murder which reported it had been committed by Vincent Flemmi, Romeo Martin, Ronald Casessa and Roy French. Only French was convicted of the crime with the others who were later exonerated.

Under questioning from Burton, Rico denied that Steven "The Rifleman" Flemmi, Vincent's brother, was the informant who named the alleged killers.

When Burton asked him who the informant had been, Rico replied, "I don't know."

When Burton followed up by asking whether Steven Flemmi was the source, Rico tentatively denied it.

"I don't think that Stevie Flemmi would have given me his brother," he said. "I'm under oath and pretty confident that it wasn't him."

Investigators and the committee suspect that Barboza added Salvati to his murder testimony to obscure the role of Vincent Flemmi in the killing and that the FBI either encouraged or turned a blind eye to the perjury because they wanted to protect Barboza's credibility in other mob trials. They also suspect that steps were taken to protect Steven Flemmi's role as an informant for the FBI.

When Rico denied that Steven Flemmi was the informant, Burton hastily called a recess, concerned-according to committee sources-that Rico might have committed perjury because of previous statements he had made that Flemmi was a top FBI informant. The legal counsel for the committee was concerned that if Rico did not understand the grave nature of the proceeding, his statement might have implications for the justice department task force investigating the case.

Burton reconvened the committee and read a stern warning to Rico that he was under oath, had the right to a lawyer and could be prosecuted under federal law for making false statements.

But Rico remained defiant.

"I am not taking my counsel's advice," he said to the committee. "My counsel advises me to take the Fifth Amendment until you people offer me immunity."

According to committee sources, Chief Counsel Jim Wilson had already approached Rico during the recess to warn about the consequences of lying under oath to the committee.

## FBI agent denies framing innocent man

"I'm 76 years old," the former FBI agent said, according to a witness. "What the f--k do you think you can do to me?"

Committee members-joined by Judiciary Committee member Rep. William Delahunt, D-Mass.-pushed him on why he allowed Barboza to testify against Salvati and the others when they had information that Flemmi wanted to kill Deegan. They also had evidence that Flemmi had taken part in the killing, and that a heavysset, bald man fitting his description was seen leaving the crime.

Rico was also asked about a statement that Barboza made to him and his partner, Dennis Condon, that Barboza would testify to several murders but would "never provide information that would allow James Vincent Flemmi to 'fry' but that he will consider furnishing information."

Rico said he did not remember such a statement-found in an FBI memo-and could not recall if it had been supplied to investigators on the Deegan killing.

Rep. Chris Shays, R-Ct., expressed disgust at Rico's inability to explain how so much crucial evidence was kept from the defense during the trial in 1967 to 1968, and surprise that he had chosen to testify. He also assailed the witness for his lack of remorse over having contributed to sending innocent me to prison for decades.

"My view is that you sent innocent men to jail and knew it, that you worked for organized crime and I never thought that you would come before this committee and testify," Shays said.

"We supplied the information we had available to local law enforcement," Rico replied. "I have faith in the jury system and the decisions that juries make."

"This is fascinating," Shays retorted. "How can you not get on bended knee and ask[Salvati]for an eternal pardon, even if you didn't know he was innocent. You don't seem to give a s--t."

When Shays asked Rico if he had any remorse at all for the situation, Rico responded belligerently.

"I feel we have a judicial system that has to eventually play itself out," he said. "It would be a nice movie, but no[remorse.]"

In his first public statement on the Salvati matter, current FBI Director Louis Freeh released a statement that said the allegations that the FBI ignored evidence were alarming and "warrant thorough investigation."

"Under our criminal justice system, no one should be convicted and sentenced contrary to information known to the federal government," he said. "As with the conviction earlier this week in the Birmingham civil rights bombing case, we cannot allow the egregious actions of thirty years ago to prevent us from doing now what is right and what must be done to ensure justice is ultimately served." Testimony touches CongressJoseph and Marie Salvati's tale of 30-years spent separated while Joseph was imprisoned for a murder he did not commit brought a congressional committee room to tears Thursday.

Members of the House Government Reform Committee, staff, journalists and audience members were visibly emotional as the Salvati family and their attorney, Victor Garo, explained how they fought for Joe's freedom, while fighting to keep a family together through phone calls, prison visits and occasional furloughs over three decades.

"From October 25, 1967, the date my husband was arrested, until January 30, 2001, when all charges were dropped, my life was extremely difficult," Marie Salvati told the committee with considerable understatement. "The government took away my husband and the father of our four children in 1967. My world was shattered. The wonderful home life that we shared was gone. I was looked down on by many."

Salvati was wrongly convicted in 1968 with four others for the 1965 gangland murder of Edward Deegan-on the now discredited testimony of Joseph "The Animal" Barboza, an FBI witness who helped plan the crime.

Chairman Dan Burton, R-In., lashed out at the FBI for its handling of the case in his opening statement.

## FBI agent denies framing innocent man

"I think this whole episode is disgraceful," he said. "It's the greatest failure in the history of federal law enforcement."

Burton and other committee members repeatedly apologized to the Salvati family for the ordeal.

Garo took 25 years and put in over 20,000 hours of pro bono legal work in his quest to free Salvati, who was released in 1997. Two other men - who were also innocent-died in prison for the murder and Peter Limone was released earlier this year. But where the others were reputed mobsters with criminal records, Salvati had no ties to organized crime and was apparently named by Barboza only to protect a friend.

FBI memos since uncovered indicate that law enforcement authorities had credible information that others committed the murder, which took place in a Boston suburb. This evidence was never turned over to the defense and was only found last year by a Justice department taskforce investigating the use of informants by the FBI in the Boston area over the past three decades.

Despite this blatant disregard for his legal rights by the FBI - whose then-Director J. Edgar Hoover received memos that named other perpetrators for the murder just days after it happened - Salvati is not bitter toward the government that stole a huge portion of his life.

"As you all know, I have served 30 long and hard years in prison for crimes that I did not commit," Joe Salvati said. "However, I still consider our justice system to be the best in the world; but sometimes it fails, as in my case. I became a casualty in the war against crime."

Salvati thanked Assistant U.S. Attorney John Durham, who heads the task force that uncovered the exculpatory evidence, for freeing him from prison.

While this stoic testimony touched members of the committee, Marie Salvati's detailed account of working to keep her marriage and family intact through the ordeal choked the room with emotion.

"While my husband was in prison, there was a pact between us," she explained. "I would not inform him of problems at home and he would not inform me of any problems in prison. Both of us did our part to keep the family strong and together. From the beginning of his imprisonment I knew that it would be important for the children to have constant contact with their father. Almost every weekend, I would dress up the children and take them to the prison so they would have their father's guidance...."

With that, Marie Salvati was overcome with emotion and could not continue. Throughout the hearing room, members including Burton, Rep. Chris Shays, R-Ct., and Rep. Connie Morella, staff and reporters could be seen wiping away tears of frustration.

Committee spokesman Mark Corolla told United Press International that he had to leave the room because he was overcome.

"When I saw the chairman and [Chief Counsel] Jim Wilson choking up, I knew I had to get out before I started to sob. It's that sad," he said. Mob and FBI have violent history Little could Edward "Teddy" Deegan have known that his murder gangland-style in 1965 would be a key element three decades later in perhaps the most embarrassing chapter in the history of the FBI.

Deegan was a small-time Boston hood who was shot to death apparently because he had become a "problem" to others in the New England underworld.

He wasn't the only victim.

In the 1960s, bloody warfare raged on the streets of Boston and elsewhere in New England as Irish and Italian gangsters battled for control over lucrative criminal activities.

Overseeing it all for the Italian Mafia was Raymond L.S. Patriarca, the founder of the family that ruled New England for La Cosa Nostra.

## FBI agent denies framing innocent man

Virtually nothing went on in loan sharking, prostitution, gambling, robberies, or protection rackets in New England without Patriarca's permission, and he got a cut from it all.

Patriarca ruled his evil empire from his base in the New England Coin-o-matic company on Federal Hill in Providence, R.I., for 40 years until his death in 1984. Under him was the Boston Mafia, run by Gennaro "Jerry" Angiulo and his four brothers from their headquarters in Boston's Italian neighborhood, the North End.

Irish gangsters based in predominantly Irish South Boston were quick to use violence to get and protect their slice of the action.

Gangland killings were commonplace as the factions vied for the illicit profits.

Deegan was just one of those whose activities resulted in Patriarca being asked to give permission for a "hit."

What's caught in the throat of the FBI now more than 30 years later is that not only did agents know in advance that Deegan was going to be "whacked," but knew who carried out the "hit" -- and then stood by lips sealed as four innocent men were charged, tried, convicted and sentenced for the crime.

Their silence apparently was designed to protect their underworld informants.

A congressional committee in Washington is now investigating the FBI and its relationship with such informants, a probe triggered by the recent disclosure of long-hidden FBI documents in which agents were told by an informant who really killed Deegan.

The documents indicate Special Agents **H. Paul Rico** and Dennis Condon knew Joseph Salvati, Peter Limone, Louis Greco and Henry Tameleo were innocent, but allowed the men to be framed to protect an informant, allegedly hit man Vincent James "Jimmy the Bear" Flemmi.

At least one of the documents was a memo to then FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover.

Two of the real killers were Flemmi and Joseph "The Animal" Barboza, one of the most feared hit men for the New England Mafia. Barboza, also known as Joe Baron, wanted to kill Deegan, but first had to get Patriarca's permission.

In an FBI memo, based on information allegedly provided by Flemmi, Patriarca was described as being "infuriated" and "enraged" that a person whose name had been blacked out of the memo "had the audacity" to give orders to Barboza and Flemmi to carry out the hit without prior approval from Patriarca.

"Patriarca told Gennaro J. 'Jerry' Angiulo that he explained to Flemmi that he was to tell (name blanked out) that 'no more killings were to take place unless he, Patriarca, cleared (them),' " the memo said.

Angiulo reportedly talked to Flemmi and explained that Patriarca thought Flemmi "did not use sufficient common sense when it came to killing people."

"Angiulo gave Flemmi a lecture on killing people," the memo said. If there was an argument, Flemmi should "get word to Raymond Patriarca who, in turn, will either 'OK' or deny" the hit.

Flemmi and Barboza allegedly wanted to kill Deegan because they were having a problem with him, and because Deegan was looking for an excuse to "whack" another person, whose name was blanked out in the memo. Patriarca, according to the memo, told Flemmi and Barboza to get more information about Deegan and then contact Angiulo, ranked second behind Patriarca, who would furnish them a decision.

Deegan was found murdered in Chelsea, Mass., on March 12, 1965.

An FBI memo dated two days previously said an informant had learned that Patriarca had put out the word that Deegan "is to be 'hit.'"

## FBI agent denies framing innocent man

Former Philadelphia Mafia under boss Philip Leonetti explained in 1995 that nothing is done "without consulting the boss." He said the Mafia Commission, comprised of the bosses of the five New York families and the Chicago and Philadelphia families, set the rules for the Mob nationwide.

"You need rules in an organization so you don't have chaos," Leonetti said. He explained that the boss is supposed to OK all murders, get a kickback of all family business, set up meetings among members and decide when to admit new members.

In October 1962, Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy proposed expanding the use of wiretaps in probes of organized crime.

The feds placed a bug in Patriarca's vending machine company office from March 1962 until July 1965, taping "business meetings" between Gennaro Angiulo and Patriarca in which they discussed the organizational structure of La Cosa Nostra. The so-called Patriarca crime family allegedly was part of a national organization headed by a commission that settled underworld disputes and set the jurisdiction of 25 or so similar organizations across the country.

Barboza became the government's key witness in a 1968 trial that resulted in four men, including Salvati and Limone, being unjustly convicted for the Deegan murder, despite the fact that Barboza admitted his own participation in the killing.

Agent Condon actually testified during the trial that Barboza's testimony was credible, even though FBI documents suggest he knew otherwise.

Attorney F. Lee Bailey, who at one point represented Barboza, said in 1970 that Barboza had told him he should try to "right the injustice which his testimony had caused." Bailey said Barboza confided that he had been assured that a conviction was unlikely, and in case of a conviction the Supreme Court would be expected to reverse the cases and "no permanent harm would be done to anyone whereas the government would have accomplished its primary objective: much publicity about prosecuting organized crime."

After the convictions were upheld, however, Barboza "became persuaded" that the four men might be executed for something they hadn't done," Bailey wrote, adding he passed on this information to law enforcement officials.

However, Bailey wrote, "I have had no response to my letter to the Attorney General asking for help in writing (sic) the injustice that Baron has caused." Bailey said law enforcement authorities had "every reason to believe that a terrible mistake has been made," but did nothing to correct it.

Salvati spent 30 years in prison and Limone 33, some on death row, before their 1968 convictions were tossed out last January, based on the newly revealed FBI documents. The other two unjustly convicted men -- Greco and Tameleo -- died in prison.

Barboza had apparently become bitter over the murder of two of his friends, and broke the Mafia's code of silence, becoming a government informant in the Deegan trial. Barboza's testimony subsequently helped put Patriarca away in prison on a conspiracy to commit murder rap. It was concern about his credibility in such later cases that allegedly led the FBI to allow his perjured testimony in the Deegan trial to go unchallenged.

On Oct. 6, 1966, at the height of gang warfare on the streets of Boston, Barboza was arrested, but he expected his Mafia bosses to bail him out. When they did not, his friends tried to collect bail money by shaking down businessmen in the North End, Angiulo's backyard, a fatal mistake. Both Arthur C. "Trash" Bratsos and Thomas J. DePrisco were found murdered on Nov. 1, 1966, and robbed of cash they had collected to help free Barboza.

Those murders prompted Barboza to turn against his former friends. His later attorney, John E. Fitzgerald Jr., testified before the National Gambling Commission that he was "subjected to all kinds of pressure" and threats to "exercise my influence over Baron (Barboza) in order to prevent him from testifying."

## FBI agent denies framing innocent man

Larry Zannino, third ranked in the New England Mafia behind Patriarca and Gennaro Angiulo, after a meeting in December 1967, allegedly told Fitzgerald, "You're playing with dynamite."

On the night of Jan. 30, 1968, Fitzgerald turned on his car's ignition and caused two sticks of dynamite to explode. Fitzgerald lost his right leg.

After he wound up testifying against Patriarca and Gennaro Angiulo, Barboza became the first person to get a new identity under what would become the government's Witness Protection Program. It did him little good. He was gunned down in San Francisco on Feb. 11, 1976.

Despite some internal opposition, Patriarca's son, Raymond J. "Junior" Patriarca, took over as head of the New England Mob after his father died on July 11, 1984, but Junior would also wind up in prison. He copped a plea in 1992 for overseeing murder and drug trafficking during his reign. He was released in 1998 after serving eight years.

Authorities said Junior never attained the ruthless crime king status of his late father. Federal judge Mark Wolf said Junior was "a weak boss who could not lead a Brownie troop."

The Patriarca faction dominated the New England underworld since the 1940s, but declined steadily after the elder Patriarca's death. Boston mobsters reportedly planned to murder Junior if he refused to give up leadership. Those plans were never carried out, however, after Junior, in tears, was said to have begged for his life.

Junior apparently had tried to make peace with other Mafiosi at an alleged induction ceremony on Oct. 29, 1989, in Medford, Mass. What wasn't known to the gangsters was that the FBI had been tipped to the meeting by an informant and had planted a "bug" to tape the ceremony.

On the tapes, Patriarca Jr. is heard saying: "We're all here to bring in some new members into our family and more than that, to start maybe a new beginning." Some 17 other alleged mobsters were at the ceremony where four new members were inducted.

"Put all that's got started behind us," Patriarca said, "Cause they (the four inductees) come into our family to start a new thing with us. Hopefully, they'll leave here with what we had years past. And bygones are bygones and a good future for all of us."

With the help of informants, the FBI also used tapes to break up the Boston Mafia run by the Angiulos. Gennaro Angiulo and brothers Francesco and Donato were convicted in 1986 for racketeering, based on 104 days of secret FBI tape recordings of conversations at the Angiulos' North End headquarters in 1981. Gennaro was sentenced to 45 years, Francesco to 25, Donato to 20, and another brother, Michele, to three years for gambling.

Gennaro Angiulo, described by an associate as an "evil genius," was also convicted a year later and sentenced to life for ordering a 1981 murder. Gennaro's name was first publicly linked to organized crime in testimony before the Senate Investigation Committee in 1963. He was identified by a Boston police official as an under boss for Patriarca. The oldest brother, Vittore Nicolo, a chief advisor, escaped trial because of illness.

There was a vital link between the Italian Mafia and the Irish mobsters, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, Vincent's brother. Stephen Flemmi had declined Patriarca Sr.'s invitation to become a member of the Mafia, and instead allied with James "Whitey" Bulger, who had taken over as boss of the Winter Hill gang, based in predominantly Irish South Boston.

Flemmi reportedly moved easily between the gang groups. He was trusted by, and frequently visited, both factions. He had longstanding ties to the Italian Mob and its new boss, Francis "Cadillac Frank" Salemme.

Flemmi and Salemme were both charged with blowing up Fitzgerald's car with the lawyer in it in 1968, but only Salemme was convicted. After Salemme got out of prison in 1988, he and Flemmi rekindled their friendship. Salemme, however, did not know that by this time Flemmi had become an informant for the FBI.



## FBI agent denies framing innocent man

At the same time, according to prosecutors, Flemmi was telling the FBI about Salemme's attempts to gain control over the Boston mob. Flemmi's association with Bulger dates back three decades when both were members of the Winter Hill Gang.

Special Agent John J. Connolly Jr., who as a youngster in South Boston knew Bulger, recruited Bulger and Flemmi as underworld informants in the 1970s and acted as their handler for the agency.

Boston Magazine reported that Connolly told Bulger at a meeting in October 1973 that his organization was in danger from Italian competitors who were using friends in law enforcement against Bulger, and suggested he do the same. Two weeks later Bulger allegedly agreed and over the next 15 years the Boston FBI put dozens of La Cosa Nostra members in prison, including Gennaro Angiulo and three of his brothers.

Connolly over the years allegedly received money and real estate from Bulger, and was indicted in 1999 and 2000 for crimes he allegedly committed while handling Bulger and Flemmi as informants, including racketeering. Later a charge of obstruction of justice was added because he allegedly told Bulger that Brian Halloran was 'ratting' to the FBI that Bulger and Flemmi were responsible for the 1981 murder of Tulsa, Okla., businessman Roger Wheeler. With Connolly allegedly serving as a lookout, Halloran was murdered in 1982.

Bulger, who has been a fugitive since 1995 and is now on the FBI's Most Wanted list, has been charged with committing 19 murders, a dozen while serving as Connolly's informant. The Boston Herald quotes former associate Edward J. "Eddie" MacKenzie Jr. as claiming Bulger was responsible for as many as 80 murders. Stephen Flemmi has been indicted for 10 murders.

It was allegedly a tip from Connolly that allowed Bulger to flee in 1995.

With the disclosure that Flemmi and Bulger were FBI informants, it became increasingly evident that the FBI had decided to side with the Irish-dominated Winter Hill gang against what it considered the greater threat, the Italian Mafia.

Bulger provided federal authorities with information on local Mafia figures during the 1970s and 1980s, leading to the conviction of a slew of New England mobsters.

Lawyers for reputed Mafia figures have suggested criminals of Irish descent like Bulger were cultivated as informants by Irish-American FBI agents who targeted Italian-American mobsters.

Whether the congressional hearings will result in changes in the way the FBI handles underworld informants remains to be seen.

Salvati and Limone, meanwhile, are enjoying their new freedom with relatives, as their lawyers pursue lawsuits against the FBI to compensate the men for the decades they spent in prison despite their innocence.

**Load-Date:** May 5, 2001



## *FBI denies hiding evidence in Deegan murder case*

The Boston Herald

February 9, 2001 Friday

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**Section:** NEWS;

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**Byline:** By J.M. LAWRENCE

### **Body**

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The Boston FBI yesterday denied the bureau hid evidence 35 years ago that might have saved Joseph Salvati and Peter Limone from spending three decades in prison for a gangland murder it now appears they did not commit.

In a statement, the FBI said its agents in 1965 shared information with "local authorities" from a confidential informant who named killers of Edward "Teddy" Deegan, and they were not Salvati, 68, and Limone, 66.

A Cambridge judge vacated both men's convictions last month in the wake of newly released evidence uncovered during a Justice Department probe into internal FBI corruption.

Two other men convicted in the case, Louis Greco and Henry Tameleo, died in prison.

Facing the threat of civil suits from the former defendants, the FBI yesterday said other agencies knew about the informant who claimed others killed Deegan.

Deegan was a local hoodlum whose Mob pals lured him to a Chelsea alley on the pretext of breaking into a finance company and shot him.

"To date, our review has disclosed documents indicating the confidential source of information recently released, which directly relates to the Deegan homicide, was disseminated to local authorities in 1965," the bureau's statement reads.

The bureau refused to name those "local authorities."

"The FBI is still in denial they have done anything wrong," Salvati's attorney, Victor Garo, said yesterday. "This latest version of theirs is a step beyond fiction."

A 1965 Chelsea police report obtained by the Herald states an informant told them Deegan's killers departed for the murder from the Ebb Tide Lounge in Revere and later returned bragging about it. Salvati and Limone were not there, the informant said.

FBI denies hiding evidence in Deegan murder case

A source yesterday told the Herald that the informant who told the Chelsea police who left the Ebb Tide the night of the murder was linked to the FBI.

Earlier yesterday, Garo held a news conference calling for a congressional investigation into the case and criminal charges against authorities for suborning perjury.

Legendary Boston FBI agents **H. Paul Rico** and Dennis Condon knew Salvati was innocent but allowed Mob turncoat hit man Joseph "The Animal" Barboza - the government's only witness in the case - to concoct a story implicating the men, Garosaid.

The story Barboza told the jury included the claim that he had Salvati work as his getaway car driver and made him wear a disguise that included a wig to make him appear bald. The story was a cover, according to Garo, and the getaway driver was actually Barboza's partner Vincent "The Bear" Flemmi, a bald man.

The FBI let Barboza spin the story to protect Flemmi, whom the agents were cultivating as a prized informant to bring down the Mob's leadership, Garo said.

"If the FBI admits that they gave this information to local authorities, then what happened when **H. Paul Rico**, Dennis Condon and J. Edgar Hoover allowed Barboza to commit perjury?" he said.

Photo Caption: 'A STEP BEYOND FICTION': Attorney Vincent Garo, left, with his client Joseph Salvati counters the FBI's claims at a press conference yesterday. STAFF PHOTO BY NANCY LANE

**Load-Date:** February 9, 2001



## *Feds pay the price for botched mob job*

The Boston Herald

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**Byline:** By PETER GELZINIS

### **Body**

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That the prospect of justice has arrived 40 years late for Joe Salvati and Peter Limone, along with two fellow defendants who died in prison, Louis Greco and Henry Tameleo . . . is shameful.

That the Department of Justice has seen fit to send Bridget Bailey Lipscomb back to Boston to defend the putrid reputation of the FBI . . . well, that could be called a blessing.

With Ms. Lipscomb at the government table, the only question may well be how much of a potential \$100 million in civil damages will these men and their families see.

Five months ago, Lipscomb's attempt to convince U.S. District Court Judge Reginald C. Lindsay that the FBI could not be blamed for enabling their Teflon rat, Whitey Bulger, to slaughter John McIntyre, turned into graceless courtroom hash.

Though Lindsay was swayed by absolutely none of it, he tossed the government a considerable bone by confining the McIntyres' award to \$3.5 million instead of a possible \$50 million.

This time, however, the FBI's crime is even MORE egregious. And the case will be heard by a different federal judge, U.S. District Court Judge Nancy Gertner.

In a nutshell: **H. Paul Rico** - the Darth Vader of gangster G-men and mentor to fallen FBI agent and murder defendant John ``Zip" Connolly - framed four men for a murder two of his informants committed.

From the first moment, more than 40 years ago, Rico knew that Salvati, Limone, Greco and Tameleo were innocent, yet watched them go off to prison, where three languished on death row.

During yesterday's opening arguments at the Moakley Courthouse, Lipsomb countered 40 years of government treachery with the Professor Irwin Corey defense, namely:

The feds were not obliged to share information with state prosecutors (who tried the original case) and can't be held liable for the results of a separate state investigation.

## Feds pay the price for botched mob job

Makes perfect sense, doesn't it?

In the face of such circular reasoning, Peter Limone's defense lawyer, Juliane Balliro, was moved to note, "Despite all the exposure and attention this case has received, and the fact that these men were exonerated. Despite all that was revealed during the Wolf Hearings. Despite the condemnations of a congressional committee, the government does not change its stripes. They STILL remain in complete denial."

If "staying the course" in Iraq means holding the U.S. death count to, say, 10 soldiers a week, then perhaps staying the course when it comes to the rancid saga of Boston FBI criminals means holding the cash award to a small fraction of what is being asked.

Will Bridget Bailey Lipscomb get accolades from her DOJ bosses if the plaintiffs in this case came away with only \$10 million or \$20 million payout? Would that pass for a government victory?

Because the sheer weight of the evidence suggests she cannot win on the merits. Because in this case, the feds have no merit.

Juliane Balliro sees this moment as an opportunity "to finally connect all the many threads of this case into a rope." Too bad such a rope cannot be slipped around H. Paul Rico's neck, for the decrepit old son of Hoover expired in a Florida jail, awaiting his own murder trial.

For the past 29 years, Victor Garo has built his law practice around fighting for Joe Salvati. After freeing him from jail, Garo led him to a congressional hearing room in Washington five years ago, where Rico answered for his sins by a blurting out a sarcastic, "What do you want from me, tears?"

"The mindset of federal government TODAY," Garo said last night, "is the same as it was that morning in Washington. But my response is no, we're not interested in tears. This time, we want justice."

**Load-Date:** November 17, 2006

Globe correspondent Arnold Markowitz contributed to this report.;FLEMMI DEAL MIGHT YIELD OTHER LEADS



**Globe correspondent Arnold Markowitz contributed to this report.;**  
**FLEMMI DEAL MIGHT YIELD OTHER LEADS**

The Boston Globe

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## **Body**

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Where's Whitey? Did former University of Massachusetts president William M. Bulger ever sit in on meetings between his gangster brother and the FBI? And who were the FBI agents and police officers who pocketed bribes and sabotaged investigations into murder and other underworld crimes?

Those are some of the questions that admitted killer and longtime FBI informant Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi is expected to answer as part of a deal he has reached with the government to escape the death penalty, according to law enforcement officials and lawyers who have followed the case.

Details of Flemmi's plea agreement are expected to be made public Tuesday, when he is scheduled to plead guilty in US District Court in Boston to killing 10 people, including two women, during the 1970s and 1980s, while running a criminal enterprise with James "Whitey" Bulger that rivaled the local Mafia.

The government has agreed to recommend that Flemmi serve life in prison at a federal facility designated for protected witnesses. State prosecutors in Florida and Oklahoma have agreed not to seek the death penalty for two murders he is charged with in those states.

Flemmi's cooperation led to the arrest Thursday of a retired FBI agent charged with helping Flemmi and Bulger set up the 1981 murder of a Tulsa businessman who suspected them of skimming money from his company.

Flemmi has told investigators he doesn't know the whereabouts of Whitey Bulger, who has been a fugitive since January 1995. Still, they hope he can provide information about the fugitive's contacts, money supply, and habits that may help the hunt, according to law enforcement officials.

"There's a great deal of intelligence information he can give," said Robert Fitzpatrick, who served as the assistant agent in charge of the FBI's Boston office during the 1980s and oversaw the agents who handled Bulger and Flemmi. "He could weave the tapestry that would show exactly how it went on and what happened. He could also give up other people outside of law enforcement."

## Globe correspondent Arnold Markowitz contributed to this report.; FLEMMI DEAL MIGHT YIELD OTHER LEADS

When William Bulger testified in June before a congressional committee investigating his brother's relationship with the FBI, he said he knew nothing of FBI corruption or his brother's criminal life.

The former University of Massachusetts president acknowledged a long friendship with former FBI agent John Connolly Jr., who recruited Whitey Bulger as an informant in 1975 and was convicted in May of helping him evade capture by warning him of his 1995 indictment. Still, William Bulger testified that he had never seen Connolly and his gangster brother together. That contradicted testimony in federal court in 1998 that Bulger had stopped by a dinner party attended by Whitey, Connolly, Flemmi, and an FBI supervisor.

Investigators are interested in whether Flemmi will also say that William Bulger attended such a meeting.

Asked yesterday whether he was concerned about whether Flemmi might implicate William Bulger in wrongdoing or contradict his congressional testimony, Boston lawyer Thomas Kiley, who represents William Bulger, said, "I have absolutely no concerns."

Whether Flemmi's deal will lead to additional indictments depends on whether the government can find other witnesses or evidence to corroborate his claims and on whether there's still time under the law to bring charges in some cases. Federal law includes a five-year statute of limitations on most crimes, including bribery and obstruction of justice. That means it may be too late to charge anyone who took payoffs from Bulger and Flemmi or warned them about ongoing investigations.

There is no statute of limitations on murder, and Flemmi may be able to implicate others in the many slayings in which he was involved, according to law enforcement officials.

Flemmi's cooperation led to the arrest Thursday of H. Paul Rico 78, a retired FBI agent who was arrested at his home in Miami Shores, Fla., and charged with the May 27, 1981, slaying of Roger M. Wheeler, chairman of Tulsa-based Telex Corp. and owner of World Jai Alai.

Rico did not appear yesterday at a bond and extradition session in a Miami court, and his appearance was rescheduled for Tuesday. As a defendant wanted in another state, Rico is not eligible for release on bail.

Rico's lawyer, William P. Cagney III, said he couldn't say whether Rico will accept extradition to Oklahoma or fight it. "I don't know yet," said Cagney. "I have to see the charges, and I don't know if the jail is going to be able to take care of him medically. If they can't, that's a little different."

Flemmi has corroborated assertions by hitman-turned-government witness John Martorano, who admitted killing Wheeler on orders from Bulger and Flemmi, and has said that Rico provided details about Wheeler's daily habits so he could be ambushed at a country club after playing golf, law enforcement officials said.

During Connolly's trial last year, a former Bulger deputy testified that Whitey Bulger delivered envelopes stuffed with cash to about 20 Boston police officers each Christmas. The deputy, Kevin Weeks, also said he personally delivered cash to Connolly and another agent, John Newton, who has been placed on leave pending an ongoing investigation.

A former FBI supervisor, John Morris, who testified in exchange for immunity, admitted he accepted bribes totaling \$7,000 from Bulger and Flemmi and warned them about ongoing investigations.

"The truth should come out, because it's the only way that they're going to get the trust of the people back and clear this whole thing up," Fitzpatrick said.

Kenneth Kaiser, the special agent in charge of the FBI's Boston office, said yesterday that he couldn't comment on speculation that Flemmi might implicate other agents, because he doesn't know what Flemmi has told the government.

Globe correspondent Arnold Markowitz contributed to this report.;FLEMMI DEAL MIGHT YIELD OTHER  
LEADS

But he did point out that Rico retired from the FBI in 1975 and that none of the agents now assigned to the Boston office ever worked with him.

"If there is any corrupt personnel in the office, I will deal with it very swiftly, but I don't think there's any indication that there is," said Kaiser.

He added that it's unfair to portray the office as "historically corrupt," because most of the allegations date back years and involve agents who retired long ago.

"We're tired of hearing about a corrupt office here," he said. "That's insulting to the fine men and women who work in this office."

Attorney Charles McGinty, a public defender who represents Flemmi, declined to comment yesterday on the plea agreement.

But Olga Davis - the mother of 26-year-old Debra Davis, who Flemmi allegedly killed in 1981 when she tried to leave him for another man - said she supported the deal that will allow Flemmi to spend his life in prison and avoid the death penalty.

## Graphic

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PHOTO, 1. **H. Paul Rico** has been charged in connection with the 1981 murder of Roger Wheeler. 2. STEPHEN J. FLEMMI Details expected Tuesday

**Load-Date:** October 15, 2003



Globe correspondent Arnold Markowitz contributed to this report.;FORMER FBI AGENT RICO DIES IN HOSPITAL HAD PLEADED NOT GUILTY IN BUSINESSMAN'S SLAYING



**Globe correspondent Arnold Markowitz contributed to this report.;**  
**FORMER FBI AGENT RICO DIES IN HOSPITAL HAD PLEADED NOT GUILTY**  
**IN BUSINESSMAN'S SLAYING**

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## **Body**

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It took more than 22 years after a Tulsa, Okla., businessman was killed for retired FBI agent ***H. Paul Rico*** to be charged with helping longtime informants James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi carry out the 1981 murder.

But there will be no trial for Rico, who died at a hospital in Tulsa Friday night, just two days after he pleaded not guilty to murder and conspiracy in the slaying of World Jai Alai owner Roger Wheeler.

Officials said they are awaiting autopsy results, but it appears Rico, 78, died of natural causes. He had been held without bail since his arrest Oct. 9 at his home in Miami Shores, Fla., and his lawyers had been urging the court to release him, saying he suffered from congestive heart failure, diabetes, and other ailments, and wouldn't survive in jail.

Rico's death means that unless Bulger, a fugitive for nine years, is captured, there will be no criminal trial in Tulsa for a jury to weigh state prosecutors' claims that Rico helped his Boston gangster informants kill the Telex Corp. chairman, who suspected Bulger's gang was skimming profits from his company.

Two others charged with Wheeler's slaying, Flemmi and John Martorano, cut plea bargains with the government. They both pleaded guilty and were slated to testify against Rico.

However, Rico's death will not end the public inquiry into his alleged role in Wheeler's murder. Lawyers said civil suits the Wheeler family filed in federal court in Boston against Rico and other former FBI agents will go forward against Rico's estate.

And US Representative William Delahunt, Democrat of Quincy, said yesterday the House Judiciary Committee, which plans to launch hearings this year into the FBI's handling of informants nationwide, will probably question Flemmi and Martorano about Wheeler's slaying.

Globe correspondent Arnold Markowitz contributed to this report.;FORMER FBI AGENT RICO DIES IN  
HOSPITAL HAD PLEADED NOT GUILTY IN BUSINESSMAN'S SLAYING

"I would expect that sooner or later, maybe in a different forum, the truth will be revealed," said Delahunt, adding that the Judiciary Committee will continue the investigation into the FBI that was launched more than two years ago by the House Committee on Government Reform.

Martorano, who pleaded guilty to killing Wheeler and was sentenced to 15 years in prison, said he shot Wheeler on May 27, 1981, outside a Tulsa country club. He said Bulger and Flemmi ordered the murder, and that Rico, who became head of security at World Jai Alai after retiring from the FBI in 1975, described Wheeler and told Flemmi he'd be golfing at the club that day.

Still, Rico wasn't indicted for Wheeler's murder until October, when Flemmi made a deal with prosecutors and confirmed Martorano's claim that Rico had a hand in the slaying. Flemmi, who will be sentenced in federal court in Boston Jan. 27, pleaded guilty to 10 murders - including Wheeler's - to avoid the death penalty in Oklahoma. He will be sentenced to life in prison.

After Rico was arrested at his home in Miami Shores in October, his transfer to Oklahoma was delayed as his health deteriorated and defense lawyers raised questions about his competency to stand trial, saying he was suffering from delusions and thought he saw snakes on his cell wall.

He was finally transferred by air ambulance to the Tulsa county jail on Jan. 8, then moved to a local hospital Wednesday. He died at 11:45 p.m. Friday, officials said.

District Attorney Tim Harris of Tulsa said yesterday that Rico had received adequate care since he arrived in Oklahoma and that prosecutors, police, and the Wheeler family "neither expected nor desired" for the case against Rico to end with his death.

"I believe all parties wanted a trial and a verdict rendered by a jury," said Harris, adding that Rico's death "leaves a lot of folks frustrated."

Lawyer E. Peter Parker, who represents Rico in the civil suits filed in federal court in Boston, said, "Paul's death was so utterly unnecessary and avoidable. His fragile condition was well documented and well known to Oklahoma authorities. I have to think that he would still be alive today if he was not held in jail."

Chris Howard, a spokesman for the David L. Moss Criminal Justice Center, the Tulsa county jail, said Rico received "more than adequate care" at the jail, where he was treated in a private cell in the medical unit between Jan. 8 and Jan. 14. He said Rico was sent to the Hillcrest Medical Center in Tulsa Wednesday for a complete evaluation because he had arrived in Oklahoma from the Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami without any medical records and jail officials "had no way of knowing whether he was deteriorating or improving."

Frank Libby, a lawyer who represents the Wheeler family in a civil lawsuit filed in federal court in Boston, said the Wheeler family felt "a sense of loss" because Rico had died before the case could go to trial.

Rico joined the FBI in the 1950s and became one of the foremost recruiters of informants in Boston in the 1960s. He recruited Flemmi and his brother, Vincent, as informants and helped convince mob hitman Joseph "The Animal" Barboza to testify against local Mafia leaders. But Rico's relationship with Barboza and the Flemmis came back to haunt him when he was grilled in May 2001 before a congressional committee about evidence that Barboza had framed four men for a gangland murder they didn't commit.

Rico told a congressional committee that he now believes one of the four men, Joseph Salvati, who spent more than 30 years in prison, was innocent. But, Rico testified, "What do you want, tears?"

Victor Garo, a lawyer who represents Salvati in a civil suit against Rico and the government, said yesterday, "Mr. Rico takes with him many unanswered questions to his grave, but more importantly, the information he had could have shed light on many others who were involved in his wrongdoing over many years with the FBI."

Globe correspondent Arnold Markowitz contributed to this report.;FORMER FBI AGENT RICO DIES IN HOSPITAL HAD PLEADED NOT GUILTY IN BUSINESSMAN'S SLAYING

But Robert Fitzpatrick, who was second in command of the FBI's Boston office in the 1980s and knew Rico, said many of Rico's former colleagues in the FBI knew him as a good, hard-working agent and believe he was innocent.

"It's almost like a Greek tragedy. It doesn't play out; it's ended abruptly," Fitzpatrick said.

Herbert Spahn, a retiree from Miami Shores and a longtime friend of Rico's, described him as a fine man and said, "It's a terrible way to go, with nothing proved either way."

## Graphic

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PHOTO, **H. PAUL RICO** Autopsy planned

**Load-Date:** January 19, 2004

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## *Illness postpones ex-agent's hearing*

Daily Oklahoman (Oklahoma City, OK)

October 18, 2003 Saturday CITY EDITION

Copyright 2003 The Daily Oklahoman

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 4-A

**Length:** 247 words

**Byline:** The Associated Press

**Dateline:** MIAMI, Fla.

### **Body**

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The extradition hearing of a former FBI agent charged in the 1981 murder of a Tulsa businessman was postponed Friday because the man is ill, his attorneys said.

**H. Paul Rico** is facing charges in the death of Roger Wheeler, a Tulsa businessman who owned World Jai Alai in Miami, Fla.

Authorities allege Rico provided a hit man with Wheeler's description, whereabouts and the make, model and license plate number of his car.

Senior County Court Judge Gerald Klein rescheduled the hearing for Tuesday morning. He ordered that Rico be taken to Jackson Memorial Hospital for treatment "until it is medically determined that he is fit to return to the county jail."

Rico's attorney, William P. Cagney III, said his client has heart problems, hypertension and has been experiencing fainting spells. Rico, 78, has been living for many years in a small condominium in Miami Shores and has denied having any involvement in Wheeler's death.

Rico's wife and son, who were present at Friday's brief hearing, refused comment afterward.

FBI mob informant Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi pleaded guilty to racketeering charges Tuesday, accepting a plea deal allowing him to avoid the death penalty for killings in Florida and Oklahoma and instead serve life in prison.

Flemmi was a leader of the Winter Hill Gang that ran loan-sharking, drug and gambling rackets in the Boston area. Rico had brought Flemmi on as an FBI informant in the 1960s, and the two men became good friends, according to investigators.

### **Graphic**

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Illness postpones ex-agent's hearing

Judge Gerald Klein, left side of a split-screen closed circuit television feed, listens to William P. Cagney III, attorney for **H. Paul Rico**, during an extradition hearing Friday in Miami, Fla. Rico is to face charges of allegedly helping to set up the murder of a Tulsa man. - AP PHOTO

**Load-Date:** October 22, 2003

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End of Document



## *Illness postpones ex-agent's hearing*

Daily Oklahoman (Oklahoma City, OK)

October 18, 2003 Saturday CITY EDITION

Copyright 2003 The Daily Oklahoman

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 4-A

**Length:** 247 words

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**Dateline:** MIAMI, Fla.

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**Load-Date:** October 21, 2003

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End of Document



## [Investigators call on 'ailing' ex-FBI agent](#)

The Boston Herald

February 21, 2002 Thursday

ALL EDITIONS

Copyright 2002 Boston Herald Inc.

**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 598 words

**Byline:** By J.M. Lawrence

### **Body**

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A former Boston FBI agent accused of withholding information to win convictions in a mob case 30 years ago faces a closed-door grilling today after convincing Congress he is too sick to go to Washington.

But WBZ-TV Channel 4 cameras captured Dennis Condon, 79, driving himself around Waltham and smoking a cigar on Tuesday.

An entourage from the House Government Reform Committee has traveled to Boston to question Condon this afternoon after his doctor advised he cannot travel.

In a report aired last night, television reporter Dan Rea and a cameraman watched Condon leave his Waltham home alone, go to the bank and purchase items.

"I have nothing to say to you," Condon told the newsman who has spent 10 years covering Joseph Salvati's fight to prove his innocence in the 1965 murder of Edward "Teddy" Deegan. "I think it's unethical for you to come down here while I'm running an errand."

A Middlesex Superior Court judge last year found Condon and his former partner, **H. Paul Rico**, withheld information that might have exonerated Salvati, Peter Limone and two other men convicted in the Deegan case.

Condon, who was also a state public safety official, cited two heart attacks and hip replacements along with numerous other health conditions as the reason he could not join Rico last week for questioning by House Government Reform Committee Chairman Rep. Dan Burton (R-Ind.).

Rico, also in his late 70s, exercised his Fifth Amendment rights against self-incrimination and ignored reporters' questions after the hearing.

U.S. Reps. William Delahunt (D-Quincy) and Steve C. LaTourette (R-Ohio) will question Condon today along with the committee's chief counsel, James Wilson.



## Investigators call on 'ailing' ex-FBI agent

"It's a matter of knowing everything he can tell us or corroborate regarding his involvement with these various mob informants starting with (Joseph) Barboza and going up through the years," said committee spokesman Mark Corallo.

Condon took the stand in the Deegan murder trial and supported what House investigators now contend was the perjured testimony of mob hitman Joseph "The Animal" Barboza.

During hearings last week, Congress heard testimony that Condon, Rico and former federal prosecutor Edward F. Harrington continued to back Barboza after he killed a man while in the witness protection program in 1971. The agents' testimony helped Barboza beat the death penalty and serve less than four years for shooting a thief to steal his bonds.

The House committee yesterday issued another subpoena to the Justice Department for the FBI's 1997 Office of Professional Responsibility investigation into Condon, Rico and other agents' use of criminal informants.

The Justice Department has refused to turn over scores of documents in the House's yearlong probe into the bureau's relationships with Barboza, James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi.

Burton has accused the Justice Department of trying to escape congressional oversight and obscure government decisions that wrongly put Salvati and Limone in prison for three decades. Convictions against the men were overturned last year.

Caption: SURPRISINGLY MOBILE: Former FBI agent Dennis Condon leaves his Waltham home Tuesday to run errands. Condon told House panel members he was too sick to travel to Washington, D.C., to testify. Photo courtesy of WBZ-TV

Caption: TIGHT-LIPPED: Ex-FBI agent ***H. Paul Rico*** testifies last year before a congressional panel about the imprisonment of Joseph Salvati. Rico, Dennis Condon's ex-partner, also appeared before the panel last week. Herald file photo by Mark Garfinkel

**Load-Date:** February 21, 2002



## *Jury listens to tapped phone conversation*

United Press International

January 21, 1983, Friday, PM cycle

Copyright 1983 U.P.I.

**Section:** Domestic News

**Length:** 890 words

**Byline:** By FRANK EIDGE

**Dateline:** MIAMI

### **Body**

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A mutual friend of U.S. District Judge Alcee Hastings and attorney William A. Borders Jr. said at Hastings' bribery conspiracy trial today he was not involved in any wrongdoing with the two men.

Hemphill Pride II of Columbia, S.C., said he did not write anything for Borders or receive anything in the mail from Hastings during the investigation, as alleged by prosecutors.

Pride, who recently served 14 months in jail for improper use of federal funds, said he was not aware of any offer of help from either Borders or Hastings in his effort to get reinstated in the South Carolina bar.

Pride also testified to Hastings' reaction when told Oct. 9, 1981, at a Washington hotel, that Borders had been arrested and the FBI wanted to talk to him.

Pride, said he called Hastings' room and met him at an elevator to relay the news. "He (Hastings) was shocked, upset, much as I was, in disbelief," Pride recalled.

He said Hastings asked, "what do you think I should do?" Pride said he advised Hastings to return to Florida, get in touch with his lawyers and have them talk to FBI.

Wearing yellow earphones, the federal court jurors hearing the case listened Thursday to three tapes made by an undercover FBI agent and 12 recorded telephone conversations, all involving Borders.

Hastings, 46, is accused of conspiring with Borders to solicit \$150,000 from brothers Frank and Thomas Romano in return for reducing their sentences and forfeiture of \$1.2 million in property and cash ordered by Hastings after their conviction on racketeering charges in his court.

Hastings is the first federal judge to be tried on criminal charges while still on the bench.

Playing of the tapes showed retired FBI agent ***H. Paul Rico***, posing as Frank Romano, met Borders three times. At the first meeting, Sept. 12, 1981, Rico arranged a down payment on a \$150,000 bribe and sought proof Hastings was involved.

## Jury listens to tapped phone conversation

Hastings' name, however, never appeared in any of the three recorded conversations with Borders nor in any of the recorded phone conversations between Rico and Borders.

Rico, a heavy-set man with thick white hair, testified that at the Sept. 12 meeting, Borders "pulled a white envelope out of his pocket and wrote down figures -- \$150,000." It was on the same envelope, Rico said, that Borders wrote "Hastings."

The two men arranged for Hastings to go to the main dining room of Miami Beach's Fontainebleau Hotel for dinner the following Wednesday as a sign Rico-Romano was getting what he was paying for, testimony showed. Subsequent testimony verified the judge did dine at the Fontainebleau at the appointed hour.

In a cryptic Oct. 5 telephone conversation. Hastings told Borders that "I've drafted all those letters for him and everything's okay. The only thing I was concerned with was, did you hear if .. hear from him, after we talked?"

Borders: "Yeah."

Hastings: "Oh, okay."

Borders: "See, I had, I talked to him and he, he wrote some things down for me."

Hastings: "I understand."

Borders: "And then I was supposed to go back and get some more things."

Hastings: "All right, I understand. Well then, there's no great big problem at all."

On cross examination, Hastings asked FBI electronics expert Robert Foster: "Do you know for a fact what William Borders and I were talking about?"

"No," Foster replied.

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Jury listens to tapped phone conversation

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End of Document

lobe staff reporter Shelley Murphy and Globe correspondent Arnold Markowitz assisted with this report.;BREAK  
SEEN IN FIGHT ON CORRUPTION



**lobe staff reporter Shelley Murphy and Globe correspondent Arnold  
Markowitz assisted with this report.;  
BREAK SEEN IN FIGHT ON CORRUPTION**

The Boston Globe  
October 10, 2003, Friday  
THIRD EDITION

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**Section:** METRO/REGION;

**Length:** 807 words

**Byline:** By Ralph Ranalli, Globe Staff

## **Body**

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He was unrepentant and arrogant with a congressional committee investigating the case of four men jailed for decades for a murder they did not commit. The stunning injustice, the congressmen charged, was orchestrated by FBI agents to protect the real killer: a prized informant.

"What do you want, tears?" sneered retired FBI agent **H. Paul Rico**, when asked how he felt about the wrongful imprisonment of one of the four, Joseph Salvati, for more than 30 years.

For decades, his critics have said, Rico was able to work around and above the law during the time he was a decorated recruiter of underworld informants for the FBI and later an executive at a Miami gaming company, World Jai Alai. In fact, he was able to quip and smirk his way through years of grand jury appearances, congressional subpoenas, and criminal investigations that tried to link him to the sort of crimes he once swore to fight.

Yesterday, however, the 78-year-old Belmont native was arrested at his Florida home, on murder and conspiracy charges in the 1981 slaying of Roger M. Wheeler, a Tulsa, Okla., businessman who owned World Jai Alai. In a situation rich with irony, the charges against Rico were made possible by a deal struck by one of his most valuable and murderous former informants: imprisoned gangster Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, law enforcement officials said.

The arrest, said those who have sought for years to bring Rico to justice, is a significant step toward closure in the long investigation of the Boston FBI's use and misuse of criminal informants, a scandal that one congressman labeled the worst in the history of US law enforcement. For many of those who investigated the scandal, Rico's role was perhaps the most central: He personified the place where the line between crime fighter and criminal was blurriest.

lobe staff reporter Shelley Murphy and Globe correspondent Arnold Markowitz assisted with this report.;BREAK  
SEEN IN FIGHT ON CORRUPTION

Rico was arrested by Miami-Dade and Tulsa police officers yesterday at his Miami Shores home, a modest two-bedroom, two-bath, ground-floor condominium with a patio overlooking Biscayne Bay. Neighbors said they often saw Rico's wife, Constance, but little of the former agent, who was living the quiet life of a retiree, a participant in local bridge tournaments.

It was a life in sharp contrast with his gritty career.

Rico graduated from Boston College with a history degree in 1950 and joined the FBI. During his 20-year career in the bureau, he became one of its foremost recruiters of informants in Boston, trolling for underworld sources among skittish and trigger-happy gangsters.

Two of those sources were the Flemmi brothers, Stephen and Vincent. To FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover's newly declared war on the Mafia, Rico also recruited a star witness during that time, notorious Mob hitman Joseph "The Animal" Barboza.

The collaboration between Barboza and Rico, FBI critics in Congress have charged, resulted in the wrongful imprisonment of four men for the 1965 murder of Edward "Teddy" Deegan. Two of the men, Henry Tameleo and Louis Greco, died in prison. Salvati and the fourth man, Peter Limone, were both freed in recent years after decades in prison.

Secret FBI documents uncovered in recent years suggested that Rico and the FBI were aware that Barboza and others had probably killed Wheeler, and indicated that they even knew about the crime beforehand and did nothing to stop it.

"This is one of those cases where justice has been delayed for many years," said Victor Garo, Salvati's attorney, about Rico's arrest. "It just shows that we were right. . . . But this isn't a happy day for anybody."

Rico retired from the FBI in 1975 and went to work as an executive for World Jai Alai, a pari-mutuel wagering company in Miami. When gambling regulators blocked its expansion plans by alleging that the company had been infiltrated by organized crime - Somerville's notorious Winter Hill Gang - the company went looking for clean ownership and found it in 1975 with Wheeler, who had made his fortune in computer parts, metals, and minerals.

Alarmed that the company's revenues seemed to be mysteriously disappearing, Wheeler ordered an audit in early 1981. A short time later, he was shot in the head as he stepped into his Cadillac after a round of golf at Tulsa's Southern Hills Country Club.

John Martorano, a Flemmi associate and prolific admitted hitman, has testified that Flemmi and fellow crime boss James "Whitey" Bulger ordered the Wheeler murder and that Rico supplied the intelligence on Wheeler's actions and whereabouts.

Without corroboration, however, law enforcement officials were unwilling to indict Rico based on Martorano's word. With the criminal investigation stalled, Rico scoffed at his critics and pursuers, making his infamous "tears" comment in May 2001 during a congressional hearing into FBI corruption.

Flemmi has now provided that corroboration, law enforcement sources told the Globe yesterday.

G

**Graphic**

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lobe staff reporter Shelley Murphy and Globe correspondent Arnold Markowitz assisted with this report.;BREAK  
SEEN IN FIGHT ON CORRUPTION

PHOTO, **H. Paul Rico** after testifying in a Boston court in January 1998. / GLOBE STAFF FILE PHOTO / JOHN  
TLUMACKI

**Load-Date:** October 10, 2003

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End of Document

Mental evaluation requested for suspect in 1981 mob case; Former FBI agent accused in Roger Wheeler's death



**Mental evaluation requested for suspect in 1981 mob case;  
Former FBI agent accused in Roger Wheeler's death**

The Oklahoman (Oklahoma City, OK)

December 25, 2003 Thursday CITY EDITION

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 5A

**Length:** 314 words

**Byline:** The Associated Press

**Dateline:** TULSA

## **Body**

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A lawyer for a former FBI agent accused in the 1981 death of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler wants an evaluation of his client's mental competency.

**H. Paul Rico** has been confused, hallucinating, paranoid and disoriented while in custody in Florida, attorney Garvin Isaacs wrote in an application for a determination of competency filed in Tulsa County.

Isaacs "witnessed Mr. Rico talking about snakes on the wall of his cell" earlier this month, according to the motion filed Friday.

Doug Drummond, first assistant district attorney, said Rico "needs to be physically in Tulsa County" before the matter is heard.

Apparently, Rico "wants a competency determination done in Florida - not Oklahoma. There is simply no provision under Oklahoma law for such a request," prosecutors argued in a response Drummond filed Tuesday.

Florida Circuit Judge David Miller ordered corrections officers there last week to report to him with an update on Rico's condition on Wednesday.

Miller last week ordered Rico to be placed in a cardiac care unit of a Florida hospital and that all appropriate steps be taken to ensure his security.

The Tulsa County Sheriff's office has requested that it be allowed to use a commercial flight to bring Rico to Oklahoma, but said Rico "can be transported on a private medical air ambulance," if necessary, according to a document Drummond filed.

A defendant is considered competent if he or she can appreciate the nature of the charge, consult with a lawyer and assist in a legal defense.



Mental evaluation requested for suspect in 1981 mob case; Former FBI agent accused in Roger Wheeler's death

Nancy Zerr, Isaac's co-counsel, said Rico's "mental status and competency must be evaluated by a qualified forensic examiner" and criminal court proceedings should be suspended.

Rico, 78, was charged in October with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder in the mob-related 1981 killing of Wheeler.

A Florida resident, Rico was placed in the Miami-Dade County jail in October.

## Graphic

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**H. Paul Rico**

**Load-Date:** December 27, 2003

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End of Document

Murder rap just the latest in FBI corruption; Arrest of former agent follows string of scandals involving bribes and cozy mob ties



***Murder rap just the latest in FBI corruption;  
Arrest of former agent follows string of scandals involving bribes and cozy  
mob ties***

Philadelphia Daily News

OCTOBER 11, 2003 Saturday 4STAR EDITION

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**Section:** NATIONAL; Pg. 10

**Length:** 641 words

**Byline:** Associated Press

**Dateline:** BOSTON

## **Body**

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Boston's FBI scandal had been disturbing enough: agents taking bribes, shrugging off gangsters' crimes and shielding informants from police. Now, it has turned almost unthinkable: A retired agent is charged with aiding a mob hit on a reputable businessman.

"I think this does take things a step further, despite all the problems the FBI has had," said Ronald Kessler, a journalist and historian of the FBI. "I think murder is the ultimate crime."

The arrest of ***H. Paul Rico*** is likely to complicate FBI efforts to shake off its legacy of missteps with violent mob informants in Boston, said several experts on the bureau. The arrest could further dent the agency's reputation and supply more fodder for roughly \$2 billion in lawsuits accusing the government of wrongdoing in the scandal.

"This is an ugly affair in the FBI's history, probably the worst," said Allan May, who writes for the Web site Americanmafia.com. "I think the most important thing for the FBI to do is to deal with this and get this thing behind it."

The nation's leading police agency has suffered embarrassments in the past when agents were exposed as wrongdoers. They have broken into homes of social activists in programs like the discredited COINTELPRO, and they have occasionally acted as enemy spies, most notoriously in the case of Robert Hanssen. In Boston and elsewhere, agents have let violent informants run amok in exchange for their tips.

In 1990, FBI agent Mark S. Putnam in Kentucky even pleaded guilty to strangling a woman tipster to stop her from exposing their affair - another case of an agent corrupted by an informant relationship. The FBI said then it was the first time an agent was charged with murder.

Murder rap just the latest in FBI corruption; Arrest of former agent follows string of scandals involving bribes and cozy mob ties

Putnam's case, as sad and awful as it was, sprang from "an emotional situation," said Robert Fitzpatrick, a former assistant chief of the FBI's Boston bureau.

Rico's arrest is something different.

"What . . . hasn't happened in the past is a [former] FBI agent that is charged with colluding with the wiseguys in a murder. That doesn't happen - and that's shocking," Fitzpatrick said.

One of the architects of the FBI's mob informant program, Rico helped the agency make some of its first Mafia cases in New England in the 1960s - with the help of violent informants. When he retired in 1975, he did not entirely abandon his old collaborators: He went to work instead for a mob-connected company that sponsored jai alai games, where players fling balls at high speeds with wicker baskets. A new company head there, Roger Wheeler, wanted to root out the mob influence. In their charge against Rico, Oklahoma prosecutors say he fed information that helped his old mob sources in Boston's Winter Hill Gang find and kill Wheeler in 1981.

Rico was arrested on the first-degree murder charge Thursday at his home near Miami. A brief bond hearing was held yesterday as a technical requirement, since he could not have been released on bail for the charge. Another hearing was set for Tuesday in Miami on sending him back to Oklahoma to face the charge.

"He flat-out categorically denies this," said Rico's attorney, William Cagney III. "He never assisted the Winter Hill Gang in trying to get inside information so they could . . . do away with people."

FBI leaders and many outside experts on the bureau said the vast majority of agents are honest and well-intentioned.

Bureau representatives in Washington and Boston downplayed the significance of the arrest. They said the agency has already taken steps to control corruption since the scandal broke.

Kessler, who has written widely about the FBI and its history, said, "It certainly turns your stomach to think that someone who spent his life in the FBI would be allegedly involved in murder, and you have to blame in part . . . the FBI's supervision in Boston, which let all this seamy corruption go on for so long." \*

## Graphic

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PHOTO;  
Associated Press

Retired FBI agent **H. Paul Rico**

**Load-Date:** August 17, 2005



***New charges sought in mob hit;  
Tulsa killing part of House hearings on FBI misconduct***

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

February 10, 2002 Sunday

Copyright 2002 The Tulsa World

**Section:** NEWS

**Length:** 951 words

**Byline:** NICOLE MARSHALL

## **Body**

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As Tulsa police prepare to seek additional charges in the mob slaying of businessman Roger Wheeler, hearings on FBI misconduct that authorities say led to the killing are heating up in Washington before the House Committee on Government Reform.

Calling the 1981 Tulsa homicide a critical part of the investigation, Committee Chairman Rep. Dan Burton, R-Ind., said the hearings are an attempt to find answers in what he called "the greatest failing in federal law enforcement history."

James Wilson, chief council for the committee, confirmed that he was in Tulsa last weekend in advance of the February hearings. He said there will be more visits in the future as the probe progresses.  
World Staff Writer

But at a Wednesday hearing, the investigation hit a hurdle when the Justice Department cited President Bush's claim of executive privilege in refusing to turn over subpoenaed documents in the investigation. Those documents include records of a 1982 meeting between law officers in Tulsa.

"We are trying to obtain information about a meeting between Oklahoma, Florida, Connecticut and Massachusetts and federal law enforcement personnel, and thus far the Justice Department has withheld the information from us," Wilson said. "The committee has not been satisfied with the cooperation of the Justice Department and intends to do everything in our power to get the pertinent information." Wilson said the committee is seeking the records in an investigation which spans 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.

And Burton said the Tulsa link is crucial to the inquiry.

"What went on at World Jai Alai, and specifically the Wheeler murder, are a major part of our investigation. I intend to use every tool that I have to get to the bottom of what happened," he said.

## New charges sought in mob hit;Tulsa killing part of House hearings on FBI misconduct

Wheeler, 55, who was chairman of the 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 long theorized that the killing was ordered by Boston-area "Winter Hill" gangsters and that 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.

Last spring, the committee launched the inquiry into the FBI's handling of confidential informants and government witnesses. Authorities want to know if FBI agents were either accessories to -- or blocked efforts to investigate -- unsolved murders, including Wheeler's, committed by reputed mobsters.

Two former FBI agents, Dennis Condon and **H. Paul Rico**, are scheduled to testify before the committee in Washington on Thursday.

Last year, Tulsa police submitted an affidavit seeking charges against Rico and mobsters James Joseph "Whitey" Bulger, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi and John V. Martorano in connection with Wheeler's death.

While first-degree murder charges were filed against the mobsters, Rico was not charged. Tulsa County District Attorney Tim Harris said at the time that he did not formally decline charges against anyone in the case and that the investigation was continuing.

Tulsa police say new evidence has been uncovered in the Wheeler homicide investigation and that they plan to re-submit an affidavit this month.

"We have new information relative to an uncharged suspect and hope to have that to the DA's office before the end of the month," said Sgt. Mike Huff, supervisor of the homicide unit.

Huff said Harris is aware that the revised affidavit is near completion and requested that officers make a presentation to him about the evidence.

On May 3, Martorano, a confessed hitman, was sentenced in Tulsa to 15 years in prison upon pleading guilty to second-degree murder for Wheeler's slaying. That outcome had been negotiated in a deal with prosecutors in three states.

Bulger has been a fugitive for years, and Flemmi is in prison on racketeering charges. Flemmi, who still faces multiple murder charges in New England, has not made a Tulsa County court appearance.

Rico specialized in organized crime cases in Boston in the 1960s and 1970s and cultivated Flemmi as an informant in 1965. He previously testified before the committee in May about the case of John Salvati, a man who claims he spent 30 years in prison because he was framed by the FBI.

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 last year after a judge concluded that FBI agents hid evidence that would have proven their innocence.

Rico 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.

While it is clear the committee has a profound interest in the history of the Wheeler case and any new developments in the investigation, Wilson declined to say who he talked to while in Tulsa or what he talked about.

"We are very, very interested in the Wheeler murder, and we are going to do everything we possibly can to get the information we need for the inquiry," Wilson said. "If it requires subpoenas, we will use subpoenas relevant to the Wheeler murder."

New charges sought in mob hit;Tulsa killing part of House hearings on FBI misconduct

Wilson also said he could not discuss the upcoming hearings this week or whether the Wheeler homicide would be discussed in testimony.

"It is not out of the question. The witnesses will be asked all manner of things," Wilson said.

Nicole Marshall, World staff writer, can be reached at 581-8459 or via e-mail at [nicole.marshall@tulsaworld.com](mailto:nicole.marshall@tulsaworld.com).

## Graphic

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PHOTO; COLOR PHOTOS Roger Wheeler; Dan Burton; **H. Paul Rico**

**Load-Date:** February 12, 2002

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End of Document



## *Paper trail shows Al's ethical compass off base*

The Boston Herald

March 25, 2007 Sunday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 007

**Length:** 587 words

**Byline:** By PETER GELZINIS

### **Body**

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Alberto Gonzales was always George Bush's lawyer. The select qualifier of United States attorney general never changed that. His career has been all about serving the interests of one client . . . and it's never been the country.

To watch him inch deeper into that pit of ethical quicksand is to be hit with flashbacks of such infamous predecessors as pipe-smoking rogue John Mitchell and the Gipper's spineless acolyte, Ed Meese. Like little Al, they too were shameless mouthpieces for the respective pols who created them.

It is no small irony that Alberto Gonzales now finds himself dying the death of a thousand documents. The latest batch, released Friday night, don't jibe with Al's insistence that he was not involved in talks about whacking eight U.S. attorneys who committed the mortal sin of straying off the political reservation.

But then, documents have always been a real problem for Al. Two years ago, before the Senate committee that ultimately confirmed him, Gonzales spent the better part of a day trying to soft soap documents he wrote while official White House mouthpiece.

Specifically, the ones where he called the Geneva Convention regulations on the treatment of POWs "quaint and obsolete." They were the pieces of paper that gave flimsy approval for what went on at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo.

Yet, well before we stormed Baghdad, and even before a fateful September day changed the world, Al Gonzales was dutifully providing George Bush with cover in a far more parochial episode of domestic terrorism.

Back in the spring of 2001, when the House Committee on Government Reform, chaired by an incendiary Republican from Indiana named Dan Burton, asked the Justice Department for documents in the rancid matter of FBI treachery in Boston, it was Alberto Gonzales who stonewalled Congress by putting the words "executive privilege" in George Bush's mouth.

## Paper trail shows Al's ethical compass off base

The House committee had officially pulled back the rock on the wrongful imprisonment of four Boston men at the hands of the FBI. The legislators listened in stunned amazement as **H. Paul Rico**, the decrepit former G-Man who engineered the frame, admitted his guilt with a sneer: "So, whaddya want, tears?"

Alberto Gonzales' response to this scandal was to have George Bush reply in a letter: "Because I believe that access to these documents would be contrary to the national interest, I have decided to assert executive privilege."

At Harvard Law School yesterday, the Innocence Project sponsored a forum where the government-sanctioned crime against Joseph Salvati, Peter Limone, Louis Greco and Henry Tamelo was discussed. Greco and Tamelo died in prison before they were exonerated. And so did **H. Paul Rico**, who had been arrested in Florida for his involvement in another long-ago murder.

Sadly, there was absolutely nothing nostalgic about sifting through a cover-up more than 45 years old. For instead of learning from history, we keep repeating and reliving it. Victor Garo, the Medford lawyer who's devoted most of his practice to securing some semblance of justice for Joe Salvati, sees Alberto Gonzales as a seamless fixture in "a culture of secrecy and concealment," just as potent now as it was when his client was sent off to jail to die.

To understand why eight U.S. attorneys were fired for doing nothing more than their jobs, or why the FBI was allowed to run amok under the guise of the Patriot Act, you need look no further than the Texas lawyer whose ethical compass is guided by a simple true north: whatever George Bush wants.

**Load-Date:** March 25, 2007

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End of Document





## *Probe targets ex-fed who dogged Mob*

The Boston Herald

February 3, 2000 Thursday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 1032 words

**Byline:** By Jonathan Wells and Jack Meyers

### **Body**

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A retired FBI agent once considered a trailblazer in the war against organized crime is now himself a target in the sweeping federal probe into corruption and criminal wrongdoing in the FBI office he once dominated.

The storied career of ***H. Paul Rico***, whose work for the FBI in Boston spanned the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, is under scrutiny by a special federal task force investigating whether certain FBI agents in Boston became involved in organized crime activity - including Mob murders - with notorious Boston gangsters James J. "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi.

Rico's lawyer, William Cagney, confirmed last week that federal agents are investigating his client. "They made it very clear that in their view, Mr. Rico was not out of the woods," Cagney said. "They said they are very interested in him."

Cagney said that message was delivered to him in person last June by an FBI agent attached to the special task force headed by federal prosecutor John Durham from Connecticut. Rico declined a request for an interview.

Rico, 73, has been retired from the FBI for 25 years, but his exploits still loom large in the history of the FBI's half-century crusade against the Mob.

Rico was best known inside the FBI for working behind the scenes, developing and nurturing informants from within the ranks of organized crime - an approach that later came to dominate the FBI's strategy for attacking the mob.

"Paul's a remarkable person, he's an American hero, really," said Alan Trustman, a businessman from Boston who once employed Rico in one of his ventures. "I find it difficult to believe he'd do anything untoward. I certainly don't think he'd do anything criminal."

Now, however, more evidence is emerging there was a dark side to Rico and his methods, a side that has placed him at the center of the federal probe.

## Probe targets ex-fed who dogged Mob

According to decades-old police reports obtained by the Herald and interviews with investigators and lawyers, Rico became extraordinarily close to some of his criminal informants - particularly Flemmi and Bulger - while he was an agent and after he retired.

A federal grand jury has already indicted former FBI agent John J. Connolly on racketeering charges. He took over the handling of Bulger and Flemmi after Rico retired.

When Rico left the FBI in 1975, he took a job as head of security for World Jai Alai in Miami, a company which owned legalized gambling frontons in Florida and Connecticut. He was hired by the president of the company, John B. Callahan, who was a reputed money man for the Winter Hill gang.

In 1977, after Callahan had left World Jai Alai, an Oklahoma businessman named Roger Wheeler purchased the company and, within a few years, investigators say he discovered that some of his profits were disappearing in a skimming operation run by the Winter Hill Gang.

In May 1981, Wheeler was murdered as he left his country club in Tulsa. Police found him dead in his Cadillac, shot in the head.

Less than a year later, a Winter Hill gang member named Brian Halloran came to the FBI in Boston with information on who killed Wheeler. Halloran, who wanted to get into the Witness Protection Program, said Bulger, Flemmi and Callahan told him Wheeler had become a threat to their skim and they were going to have him killed, according to an FBI report. Halloran also said he was told ex-agent Rico, who was still at World Jai Alai, would do the legwork to set up Wheeler.

What Halloran didn't know when he went to the FBI is that Bulger and Flemmi had a double life - they were also top-echelon FBI informants. Flemmi had been an informant since 1965, when he was developed by Rico, and Bulger started talking to the FBI just as Rico left the Boston office in the early 1970s.

Halloran was denied entry into witness protection. In May 1982 he was gunned down in South Boston - a slaying investigators believe was carried out by Bulger and Flemmi.

For years, Halloran's insistence that Rico was involved in the Wheeler murder remained uncorroborated. Then, last year, longtime Winter Hill hitman John Martorano made a deal with the government, and confessed to multiple Mob killings, including the murder of Roger Wheeler.

Sources have told the Herald that Martorano has since corroborated Halloran's story, saying he too was told that Rico was in on the plan to kill Wheeler.

Documents show that the nature of Rico's relationship with Bulger and Flemmi was also known to high-ranking Justice Department officials.

On July 8, 1982, shortly after Wheeler and Halloran were murdered, a group of homicide detectives from Oklahoma, Connecticut and Massachusetts met in Boston with Jeremiah O'Sullivan, then the head of the New England Organized Crime Strike Force.

According to a written account of the meeting by one of the detectives, at one point O'Sullivan said, "**H. Paul Rico** was connected to the Winter Hill Gang, as he had formed close associations with them when he was working for the Boston FBI."

O'Sullivan said further that "Rico was somewhat of a rogue and would go drinking and playing pool with the subjects, such as Bulger and Flemmi "

Now, Rico is also being scrutinized for cases he handled for the FBI as far back as the 1960s, including the still-unsolved 1964 murder of Ronald P. Dermady, a bankrobber gunned down within earshot of Rico's Belmont home.

Like Halloran, Dermady was a crime partner of Bulger who turned informant. And like Halloran, he turned up dead.

Probe targets ex-fed who dogged Mob

Dermady, just out on parole, was murdered in a borrowed car at the intersection of School and Belmont streets in Watertown - a mile from Rico's home.

Investigators later found that for several days prior to his death, Dermady had been lying low in a room at the Hotel Commander in Cambridge, making a series of phone calls to the FBI, including one to Rico's unlisted home phone.

When local detectives tried to ask the FBI about the calls, they got the cold shoulder.

"Lieutenant (Richard F.) Keefe and I feel that the FBI are not cooperating in this matter," wrote State Police Detective John A. Cahalane in his report.

Rico denied receiving any calls from Dermady. "We believe this to be false," Cahalane wrote.

**Load-Date:** February 3, 2000

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## [Retired FBI agent charged with aiding 1981 mob killing](#)

The San Diego Union-Tribune

October 11, 2003, Saturday

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**Section:** NEWS;Pg. A-12

**Length:** 611 words

**Byline:** Jeff Donn; ASSOCIATED PRESS

### **Body**

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BOSTON -- Boston's FBI scandal was already disturbing enough: agents taking bribes, shrugging off gangsters' crimes and shielding informants from police. Now, it has turned almost unthinkable: A retired agent is charged with aiding a mob hit on a reputable businessman.

"I think this does take things a step further, despite all the problems the FBI has had," said Ronald Kessler, a journalist and FBI historian. "I think murder is the ultimate crime."

The arrest of ***H. Paul Rico*** is likely to complicate FBI efforts to shake off its legacy of missteps with violent mob informants in Boston, said several experts on the bureau. The arrest could further dent the agency's reputation and supply more fodder for roughly \$2 billion in lawsuits accusing the government of wrongdoing in the scandal.

"This is an ugly affair in the FBI's history, probably the worst," said Allan May, who writes for the Web site Americanmafia.com. "I think the most important thing for the FBI to do is to deal with this and get this thing behind it."

The nation's leading police agency has suffered embarrassments in the past when agents were exposed as wrongdoers. They have broken into homes of social activists in programs like the discredited COINTELPRO, and they have occasionally acted as enemy spies, most notoriously in the case of Robert Hanssen. In Boston and elsewhere, agents have let violent informants run amok in exchange for their tips.

In 1990, FBI agent Mark S. Putnam in Kentucky even pleaded guilty to strangling a woman tipster to stop her from exposing their affair. The FBI said it was the first time an agent was charged with murder.

Putnam's case, as sad and awful as it was, sprang from "an emotional situation," said Robert Fitzpatrick, a former assistant chief of the FBI's Boston bureau.

Rico's arrest is different.

"What . . . hasn't happened in the past is a (former) FBI agent that is charged with colluding with the wise guys in a murder. That doesn't happen -- and that's shocking," Fitzpatrick said.

One of the architects of the FBI's mob informant program, Rico helped the agency make some of its first Mafia cases in New England in the 1960s -- with the help of violent informants. When he retired in 1975, he did not

## Retired FBI agent charged with aiding 1981 mob killing

entirely abandon his old collaborators. He went to work for a mob-connected company that sponsored jai alai games, where players fling balls at high speeds with wicker baskets. A new company head, Roger Wheeler, wanted to root out the mob influence. In their charge against Rico, Oklahoma prosecutors say he provided information that helped his old mob sources in Boston's Winter Hill Gang find and kill Wheeler in 1981.

Rico was arrested on the first-degree murder charge Thursday at his home near Miami. A brief bond hearing was held yesterday as a technical requirement, since he could not have been released on bail for the charge. Another hearing was set for Tuesday in Miami on sending him back to Oklahoma to face the charge.

"He flat-out categorically denies this," said Rico's attorney, William Cagney III. "He never assisted the Winter Hill Gang in trying to get inside information so they could . . . do away with people."

FBI leaders and many outside experts on the bureau said the vast majority of agents are honest and well-intentioned.

Bureau representatives in Washington and Boston downplayed the significance of the arrest. They said the agency has already taken steps to control corruption since the scandal broke.

However, Kessler, who has written widely about the FBI and its history, said, "It certainly turns your stomach to think that someone who spent his life in the FBI would be allegedly involved in murder."

## Graphic

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1 PIC; **H. Paul Rico**

**Load-Date:** October 13, 2003

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## [Retired FBI man refuses to testify](#)

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

February 15, 2002 Friday

Copyright 2002 The Tulsa World

**Section:** NEWS

**Length:** 999 words

**Byline:** JIM MYERS

### **Body**

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WASHINGTON -- Retired FBI agent **H. Paul Rico**, a possible key figure in the investigation into the 1981 mob slaying of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler, refused to testify Thursday before a congressional committee looking into FBI misconduct in several murder cases.

Held by the House Committee on Government Reform, the hearing focused on other high-profile cases linked to mob informants in New England, but the Wheeler murder is expected to be taken up later.

U.S. Rep. Dan Burton, R-Ind., the committee's chairman, has alleged the FBI knowingly allowed innocent people to go to jail for murders they did not commit.

They did so, Burton claims, to protect FBI informants who at times had committed the crime.  
World Washington Bureau

"I invoke my Fifth Amendment rights to remain silent in response to every question asked by the committee today," Rico told the committee.

Burton asked Rico why he had changed his position, recalling that he had had no problem testifying last year.

"I have my counsel with me, and he has advised me," Rico responded.

"I'm taking his advice."

Rather than go through the questions and have Rico invoke his Fifth Amendment rights after each one, a clearly frustrated committee allowed Rico to leave the witness table and hearing room early into the proceeding.

He did not depart, however, before an unusual exchange with Rep. Bob Barr, R-Ga., who at one point appeared to be trying to stare Rico down.

"Over the years I'm sure as an FBI special agent, you had a lot of witnesses that took the Fifth," Barr said, separating his comments with lengthy pauses.

## Retired FBI man refuses to testify

"You knew they were guilty of something, and that's why they took the Fifth. Are you comfortable of being in that position today?"

Rico responded during one pause by once again invoking the Fifth Amendment.

"I heard you the first time. I'm just looking at you . . . something to look at. It is very interesting," Barr said, initiating yet another pause before offering a dramatic conclusion.

"I hope you sleep well at night."

Rico also refused to answer questions from reporters who rushed him outside the committee room.

Peter Parker, his attorney, once again said Rico played no role in the Wheeler murder.

"He has denied in any way, shape or form any involvement in the Wheeler case," Parker told the Tulsa World.

In a written statement, Parker said Rico chose not to testify again before the committee as he did last May because the panel has made it clear it is coordinating its efforts with a criminal investigation by the Department of Justice Task Force.

That task force, he said, is looking into the way Rico handled high echelon informants.

"Members of the committee have repeatedly stated that they would like to see criminal charges brought," Parker said.

"For all intents and purposes, the committee is conducting a criminal investigation."

He questioned the fairness of subpoenaing Rico under those circumstances, adding that his client, by invoking his right to remain silent, was doing nothing more than what every American has the right to do.

Burton defended his committee's process, saying it is charged with overseeing the federal government.

"It is obvious that he is afraid that he might be prosecuted for some of the things that he did," Burton said in an interview after Rico had departed.

"In his first appearance before the committee, he was very noncaring, saying he did not need defense counsel. He also said, 'What are you guys going to do to me? I'm 70-something.'"

"But I think now he realizes the gravity of the situation, and I think he has hired counsel because he is afraid that he might be prosecuted for some of the things that happened."

Burton said Rico knew innocent people were being convicted wrongfully and put in prison.

"And, God forbid, there may have been some that were put to death. Some of these guys were getting the death penalty for crimes they didn't commit," he said.

Repeatedly Burton made it clear none of his comments were directed to the Wheeler case.

"That's another case," he said.

"We are not at that point yet."

Burton, who has called for the late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover's name to be stripped from FBI headquarters in Washington because he knew of some of the miscarriages of justice, said his committee will continue its hearings.

For months, he has been battling with the Department of Justice over the release of a number of documents related to the mob cases.

## Retired FBI man refuses to testify

On the evening before Thursday's hearing, Burton said, the department "dumped thousands of pages" in what he suggested was an attempt to frustrate the committee's investigation even further.

"This kind of nonsense has to stop," he said, vowing to hold even more hearings if necessary.

One of the questions Burton was not ready to answer Thursday was Rico's connection to the Wheeler case.

Wheeler, 55, at the time of his murder, was chairman of what was then Telex Corp., of Tulsa, and had purchased the Florida-based World Jai Alai.

He was gunned down May 27, 1981, after playing a round of golf at Southern Hills Country Club.

Tulsa police have linked Wheeler's murder to the Boston-area "Winter Hill" mob, and they think it had something to do with World Jai Alai and Wheeler's concern that money was being stolen.

Last year, first-degree murder charges were filed against three known mobsters: James Joseph "Whitey" Bulger, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi and John V. Martorano.

As part of a deal involving three states, Martorano pleaded guilty to second-degree murder for Wheeler's slaying.

He was sentenced to 15 years.

Bulger remains a fugitive, and Flemmi, who has not appeared in Tulsa in the Wheeler case, is in prison elsewhere on racketeering charges.

Tulsa County District Attorney Tim Harris declined to file charges against Rico, although his office also received an affidavit with information somehow implicating him.

Harris reportedly is expected to receive new information shortly. Jim Myers, World Washington Bureau reporter, can be reached at (202) 484-1424 or via e-mail at [jim.myers@tulsaworld.com](mailto:jim.myers@tulsaworld.com).

## Graphic

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COLOR PHOTO **H. Paul Rico**; Roger Wheeler

**Load-Date:** February 16, 2002





## *Rico competency hearing application stirs venue fight*

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

December 24, 2003 Wednesday Final Home Edition

Copyright 2003 The Tulsa World

**Section:** NEWS; Tulsa; Pg. A18

**Length:** 696 words

**Byline:** BILL BRAUN World Staff Writer

### **Body**

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Lawyers for former FBI agent **H. Paul Rico** want to have his mental competency evaluated, but prosecutors contend that the issue can't be resolved until he is in Tulsa to face a murder charge in the 1981 slaying of Roger Wheeler.

Rico has been confused, hallucinating, paranoid and disoriented while in custody in Florida, says an application for a determination of competency that was filed in Tulsa County.

Defense lawyer Garvin Isaacs "witnessed Mr. Rico talking about snakes on the wall of his cell" earlier this month, said a motion filed Friday and signed by Isaacs' co-counsel, Nancy Zerr of Oklahoma City.

First Assistant District Attorney Doug Drummond objects, contending that Rico "needs to be physically in Tulsa County" before the matter is heard.

It appears that Rico "wants a competency determination done in Florida -- not Oklahoma. There is simply no provision under Oklahoma law for such a request," said a response filed Tuesday by Drummond.

Florida Circuit Judge David Miller ordered corrections officers there last week to report to him Wednesday "with an update on **H. Paul Rico**'s condition."

That order, issued Dec. 16, directed that Rico be placed in a cardiac care unit of a Florida hospital, with all appropriate steps taken to ensure his security.

Drummond said, "It is our intent to transport him back to Tulsa County as soon as we can get clearance from the court."

The Tulsa County Sheriff's Office is ready to extradite Rico. The Sheriff's Office requested that it be allowed to use a commercial flight but indicated that, if necessary, Rico "can be transported on a private medical air ambulance," a document filed by Drummond said.

The issue of competency focuses on whether a defendant can appreciate the nature of the charge, consult with a lawyer and assist in his legal defense.

## Rico competency hearing application stirs venue fight

Zerr contends that Rico's "mental status and competency must be evaluated by a qualified forensic examiner" and that criminal court proceedings should be suspended.

Rico, 78, has multiple medical problems, including "advanced cardiac disease," the defense application says.

A five-page affidavit from Dr. Eugene Sayfie, Rico's cardiologist in Miami Beach, recommended that Rico be "placed under electronic arrest and in a safe environment where we can manage his medical care."

Rico was charged in October with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder in the mob-related 1981 killing of Wheeler, a Tulsa businessman.

A Florida resident, Rico was placed in the Miami-Dade County Jail after his Oct. 9 arrest. A Florida judge signed an extradition order in early December.

A document filed by Isaacs said Rico was hospitalized Dec. 7 "after suffering severe injuries from an assault or beating."

But Drummond said a Dec. 18 report from the jail said Rico's ailments were "not in any way a product" of any trauma-related "altercations."

Defense lawyers earlier filed a request for bail or a "medical furlough" for Rico. A Tulsa judge decided Dec. 15 that it would be premature to hear that matter until Rico is in Oklahoma.

Investigators say Wheeler suspected that money was being skimmed from his World Jai Alai business by Boston gangsters who had fed information to Rico when he was an FBI agent. He retired from the bureau in 1975.

At the time of Wheeler's murder, Rico was employed by him as head of security for World Jai Alai, which had operations in Florida.

Wheeler, who also was chairman of Tulsa-based Telex Corp., was shot in the head May 27, 1981, after playing golf at Southern Hills Country Club.

A murder charge was filed in March 2001 in Tulsa County against Boston's Winter Hill Gang members James "Whitey" Bulger, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi and John Martorano.

Confessed hit man Martorano pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and received a 15-year prison term for killing Wheeler.

Investigators believe that Rico provided information that the killer needed to find Wheeler in Tulsa.

A plea deal that was unveiled in October calls for Flemmi to get a life term for the murder, to be served in federal custody and to run concurrently with a life sentence for federal crimes. Bulger has been a fugitive since 1995.

Bill Braun 581-8455 [bill.braun@tulsaworld.com](mailto:bill.braun@tulsaworld.com)

**Load-Date:** December 25, 2003



## [Rico daughter requests investigation of his death](#)

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

November 1, 2004 Monday

Final Home Edition

Copyright 2004 The Tulsa World

**Section:** News; Tulsa; Pg. A1

**Length:** 904 words

**Byline:** SUSAN HYLTON World Staff Writer

### **Body**

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She wants inspectors to look into her father's treatment while he was in the Tulsa Jail awaiting a mob-slaying trial. The daughter of a former FBI agent and Tulsa County murder defendant has asked the state jail inspector to investigate the care her father received while being held at the Tulsa Jail.

**H. Paul Rico**, 78, died at Hillcrest Medical Center on Jan. 16, about a week after he was brought to Oklahoma from Florida by air ambulance to face prosecution in the 1981 mob slaying of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler.

An autopsy report ruled that Rico died of natural causes linked to internal bleeding, which "was a complication" associated with therapeutic use of blood-thinning medication in Florida and Tulsa.

M. Joyce Rico, a physician from Glencoe, Ill., said her father had a long cardiac history for which he was receiving drugs that help prevent blood clotting.

But Rico said precautions should have been heeded in the continuation of those drugs, especially the use of Lovenox, after her father became dehydrated and his kidneys stopped working, which she says occurred after he was transferred to the Tulsa Jail.

Records show the two blood-thinning medications her father was taking in Florida were continued at the jail: coumadin and Lovenox.

Rico said the package warnings for Lovenox urge caution in administering the drug to the elderly and patients with impaired kidney function.

"The medical records from the jail I've reviewed clearly show he had evidence of renal compromise," she said.

Rico said jail authorities told her her father was transferred to the hospital "to establish a baseline condition."

"If you read the medical records from the hospital, that is not a true statement. He was admitted with dehydration and kidney failure," she said. "I think it's important for the state to determine if they are doing what they should be doing to ensure that all inmates at the facility receive appropriate care."

## Rico daughter requests investigation of his death

The autopsy report indicates H. Paul Rico was transferred to Hillcrest on Jan. 14 due to a change in mental status. Records show his admitting diagnosis at Hillcrest was dehydration and acute renal failure.

Citing medical confidentiality, Corrections Corporation of America spokesman Chris Howard would not comment on Rico's care at the jail. CAA operates the facility.

Rico's daughter has not filed any civil suits to date. She said she is taking her case first to the court of public opinion.

"My concern is that all inmates in Tulsa deserve to have good and appropriate care, and I'm sure that all other families who have loved ones in the Tulsa County Jail would want care that's within the standard of care," she said. "This care was below the standard of what should be expected."

She said her father was quite debilitated at the time of his transfer, having lost 55 pounds in the 100 days before his death. He originally weighed about 225 pounds, she said. The autopsy report showed his weight was 179 pounds.

"Nothing is going to change the outcome for my dad. I'm concerned for the outcome for us as a society," she said. "This to me was an egregious error, and it should not have happened."

State Health Department jail inspector Don Garrison said he forwarded Rico's letter to one of the department's doctors for review.

"If there was something wrong with the medication they gave him, I couldn't tell you that," Garrison said. "That may be beyond the scope of me and my inspector. We don't normally have a doctor do any kind of inspection for us, but this is an unusual situation."

Garrison said that his office already investigated Rico's death in January.

"It looked to us like they did everything for him they could," he said of the jail's medical unit.

Garrison said he would probably decide next week whether he will instruct his office to investigate.

According to the autopsy, Rico had a history of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease and diabetes. He had undergone heart bypass surgery and wore a pacemaker. He had a history of deep vein thrombosis, which is when blood flow is restricted in a vein and clots form, for which he was being treated with blood-thinning drugs.

He was first arrested in Florida in October 2003 and held at the Miami-Dade County Jail. He was admitted to Jackson Memorial Hospital in Florida following an alleged assault in December 2003 and was treated for pneumonia.

Investigators say Wheeler suspected that money was being skimmed from his World Jai Alai business by Boston gangsters who were informants for Rico when he was an FBI agent.

Reputed New England mobsters James "Whitey" Bulger, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi and John Martorano were charged here in 2001 with murdering Wheeler.

Admitted hit man Martorano pleaded guilty, Flemmi reached a plea agreement to resolve his case, and Bulger has been a fugitive since 1995.

Two wrongful death cases are pending in District Court against CCA. Both involve suicides that the plaintiff's families believe CCA should have prevented with better monitoring. CCA won a wrongful death suit in 2003 filed by Peggy Sue Foster, whose husband, Merlin Lee Foster, died while jailed.

The estate of Shane Spencer settled a federal lawsuit in June with CCA on undisclosed terms and with the city of Tulsa for \$200,000. An autopsy report lists his cause of death as alcohol poisoning. Spencer died soon after his arrest in the booking area.

Rico daughter requests investigation of his death

Susan Hylton 581-8313

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**Load-Date:** November 2, 2004

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## **RICO'S PRIZE RAT TURNS AND BITES HIM**

The Boston Herald

October 10, 2003 Friday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 720 words

**Byline:** By JONATHAN WELLS

### **Body**

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Life came full circle for former FBI agent **H. Paul Rico** yesterday morning in Miami.

It took nearly 40 years, but Rico's first "top echelon" organized crime informant, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, has turned the tables and ratted out his longtime friend and guardian angel at the FBI.

Sources told the Herald yesterday that Flemmi cut a deal with the Tulsa, Okla., district attorney to save himself from a possible death sentence for ordering the 1981 murder of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler by implicating Rico in the very same murder.

It was Flemmi's information that triggered the arrest of Rico on charges of murder and murder conspiracy, the sources said. Under Oklahoma law, Rico could face the death penalty if convicted.

Flemmi's attempt to trade Rico's life for his own may be the final, spectacular act of treachery in a decades-long relationship between an FBI agent and a mobster built on a series of cynical and self-serving manipulations of the criminal justice system.

According to law enforcement sources, Rico and Flemmi became friends in the early 1960s and were known to roam the streets of the South End and Roxbury together, harassing, intimidating and occasionally assaulting criminals and other citizens.

That Rico had a peculiarly close relationship with Flemmi and other members of the Winter Hill Gang, including fugitive boss James J. "Whitey" Bulger, was well-known at the highest levels of federal law enforcement.

Not long after Wheeler was murdered, a group of homicide detectives from Oklahoma, Connecticut and Massachusetts met in Boston with Jeremiah O'Sullivan, then the head of the New England Organized Crime Strike Force.

O'Sullivan told the detectives that Rico, who retired from the bureau in 1975, was "connected" to Winter Hill in his days with the FBI.

## RICO'S PRIZE RAT TURNS AND BITES HIM

"Rico was somewhat of a rogue and would go drinking and playing pool with the subjects, such as Bulger and Flemmi," O'Sullivan said, according to a written account of the meeting by one of the detectives.

After the 1965 gangland murder of Edward "Teddy" Deegan, Rico schemed with Flemmi to convince mob hit man Joseph "The Animal" Barboza to become an informant and then a government witness.

Barboza, who was coached by Rico, went on to implicate four innocent men in the Deegan case - all of whom were convicted and later sentenced to life in prison. One of the men, Joseph Salvati, was falsely accused by Barboza to protect Flemmi's brother, Vincent "The Animal" Flemmi, who was one of the real killers.

In December 2000, newly released FBI reports from the 1960s confirmed that Rico knew all along that Vincent Flemmi, not Salvati, was involved in Deegan's murder. The reports, some written by Rico himself, revealed that the FBI also recruited Vincent Flemmi, a known killer, as an informant.

A few years later, when Stephen Flemmi was about to be indicted for the attempted murder of a defense lawyer, it was allegedly Rico who tipped him off so he could flee to Canada. When Rico told him the coast was clear four years later, Flemmi returned to Boston and the charges were dismissed.

After his retirement from the FBI, Rico was hired by another associate of the Winter Hill Gang, John Callahan, to run security at World Jai Alai in Miami. Callahan resigned as president of World Jai Alai when his ties to the mob were publicized, but Rico remained at the company, which was eventually purchased by Wheeler, a legitimate businessman.

When Wheeler discovered his new business was being pilfered by gangsters from Massachusetts, Flemmi, Bulger and Callahan moved quickly to silence him, dispatching hit men John Martorano and Joseph McDonald to Oklahoma.

According to Martorano, Rico provided the personal information about Wheeler that enabled them to find the businessman and shoot him in the head.

Over the next two years, Flemmi and Bulger had two more men murdered to cover their tracks on the Wheeler killing.

Caption: GETTING AT THE TRUTH? Roger Wheeler, left, a Tulsa, Okla., businessman, was killed in 1981. Mobster and ex-FBI informant Stephen 'The Rifleman' Flemmi, right, has reportedly implicated former FBI agent **H. Paul Rico** in the murder on the eve of Flemmi's trial. Rico, who worked for Wheeler but had friends in the Boston mob, was arrested yesterday at his Florida home.

**Load-Date:** October 10, 2003

'RIFLEMAN': AGENT RICO AND STEVIE LIKE BLOOD BROTHERS; FBI always had a place for the thug



**'RIFLEMAN': AGENT RICO AND STEVIE LIKE BLOOD BROTHERS; FBI  
always had a place for the thug**

The Boston Herald

April 10, 2013 Wednesday

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**Section:** NEWS; Local; Pg. 6; Vol. 31; No. 100

**Length:** 866 words

**Byline:** HOWIE CARR

## **Body**

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*The final excerpt from Howie Carr's new book, 'Rifleman: The Untold Story of Stevie Flemmi, Whitey Bulger's Partner.'*

Gangster Stevie 'the Rifleman' Flemmi is due in Boston in June to testify in his longtime underworld partner Whitey Bulger's federal murder trial. In today's excerpt from my new book, 'Rifleman,' based on Flemmi's 2003 confession, he details some of his dealings with corrupt FBI agent **H. Paul Rico**:

When they first met in 1958, Rico was a young FBI agent and Flemmi was an up-and-coming hoodlum. Pretty soon they were, you might say, thick as thieves.

Rico is best-known for the congressional testimony he gave in 1997 about the FBI's 1968 framing of four Boston underworld figures for a murder they did not commit. All four served more than 30 years in prison. Two died there.

'Whaddaya want from me, tears?' Rico told a congressman.

But that was just one facet of his incredibly corrupt career, much of which involved Flemmi.

Rico hated the McLaughlin gang of Charlestown. In the early 1960s, the FBI had tapped their phones, and picked up disparaging comments about the alleged sexual practices of Rico and his bosses, J. Edgar Hoover and Clyde Tolson. Edward 'Punchy' McLaughlin had also threatened the brother of Dennis Condon, Rico's partner in the FBI.

George McLaughlin in 1965 was a fugitive, on the FBI's Most Wanted List for the murder of a Roxbury bank teller. Flemmi picks up the story:

'Just prior to George MCLAUGHLIN's arrest ... RICO asked FLEMMI for a throwdown handgun. Rico explained that the agents were about to arrest MCLAUGHLIN (and were) planning on shooting MCLAUGHLIN as they took him into custody. The agents were going to plant the gun on a dresser next to MCLAUGHLIN and claim that he had reached for the weapon (and they had fired back) in self-defense.'



'RIFLEMAN': AGENT RICO AND STEVIE LIKE BLOOD BROTHERS; FBI always had a place for the thug

Flemmi gave Rico an untraceable .38 caliber revolver. The next day, McLaughlin was arrested, without any fanfare. Flemmi was puzzled.

'RICO explained to FLEMMI that there were five agents involved in the arrest, but that while four were in agreement to kill MCLAUGHLIN, the group was uncertain about a fifth agent ... and the plan was dropped. FLEMMI added that RICO never returned the firearm to him.'

Another time, Rico gave the Dorchester address of two McLaughlin hoodlums to Buddy McLean's Winter Hill gang.

'FLEMMI noted that this information was of a particular interest to the MCLEAN group because the Dorchester neighborhood was unknown territory for the (Somerville) gang, which would have made surveillance on these two MCLAUGHLIN associates very difficult.'

Armed with Rico's information, the Hill quickly rubbed out the two McLaughlin gunsels.

Perhaps Rico's greatest assistance came in Flemmi's 1965 murder of Punchy McLaughlin, the leader of the Charlestown crew. He had already been shot several times, and one of his hands had been amputated after an ambush in Canton. He could no longer drive, but his girlfriend took him every morning to the Spring Street MBTA station in West Roxbury, to catch a bus to his brother George's murder trial downtown.

Rico passed this on to Flemmi. 'RICO then said that he wouldn't be working the following day, and was going golfing. FLEMMI recalled that RICO then took a make-believe golf swing.' Flemmi murdered Punchy the next day as he boarded the bus.

'FLEMMI added that when next he saw RICO, the FBI agent made the comment, 'Good shooting' or 'Nice shooting.'

Thirty-two years later, Chairman Dan Burton (R-IN) asked Rico about Flemmi.

Burton: 'Did you know he was a killer?'

Rico: 'No.'

Rico retired and went to work for World Jai Alai in Miami. Soon he was conspiring to kill his boss, Roger Wheeler. He recruited Flemmi and Whitey Bulger, as well as Johnny Martorano and Joe McDonald, two Winter Hill fugitives also living in Florida.

McDonald agreed to participate, because 20 years earlier, Rico had helped his late partner, Buddy McLean, set up yet another gangster who had been trying to kill McLean. After the murder, Rico had allowed McLean to hide in his home in Belmont for several days. Now Rico, the FBI agent, was calling in the 20-year-old chit.

After Wheeler's murder, Tulsa Police Detective Mike Huff flew to Miami to interview Rico.

'I went down there expecting to sit down with a fellow law-enforcement professional,' he recalled later. 'I find myself sitting across the table from The Godfather.'

A few months after Rico orchestrated the World Jai Alai murders, the FBI had a job for him. They needed an agent who could pass himself off as a gangster. Rico was their guy. As a result, a federal judge in Florida was impeached in the House and convicted in the U.S. Senate. Rico received a citation.

But by 2003, both Martorano and Flemmi had pleaded guilty to Wheeler's murder, and testified against Rico. Huff had the honor of making the arrest. When the police first appeared at his posh lakefront condo, Rico was dressed in madras pants and a cardigan World Jai Alai sweater. When Huff produced the handcuffs, Rico's jaw dropped and he soiled his pants in terror. He was dead a few weeks later in a prison hospital in Tulsa, under guard, alone. He was 78.

[Click here to go to howiecarrshow.com](http://howiecarrshow.com) to preorder Howie's new book, 'Rifleman.'

'RIFLEMAN': AGENT RICO AND STEVIE LIKE BLOOD BROTHERS; FBI always had a place for the thug

## Graphic

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RICO'S RIVALS: Buddy McLean, right center and top, was a member of the Winter Hill Gang and an enemy of Edward 'Punchy' McLaughlin, right, and George McLaughlin, above, both of the McLaughlin gang. Punchy was murdered in 1965 by Stevie Flemmi.

CORRUPT CAREER: **H. Paul Rico**, left, a former Boston-based FBI agent, also in inset at top, is seen in a 2001 congressional hearing. Dennis Condon, above, was Rico's partner.

**Load-Date:** April 10, 2013

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End of Document



## *Rifleman isn't likely to pull trigger on pals*

The Boston Herald

August 20, 1998 Thursday

ALL EDITIONS

Copyright 1998 Boston Herald Inc.

**Section:** NEWS;

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**Byline:** By Peter Gelzinis

### **Body**

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In the movie, Joe Pesci is Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi. Off camera, his lawyer conducts a direct examination:

"Now, Mr. Flemmi, is it your testimony that James 'Whitey' Bulger alerted you to an impending indictment back in January of 1995?"

"That's right."

"And sitting here this morning, sir, can you tell us who passed along this information to Mr. Bulger?"

"Yeah."

"Who would that be?"

(There is a very pregnant pause. The appropriate wiseguy music begins to swell. The camera darts around the courtroom, framing a montage of faces: a rueful judge, hushed press, anxious girlfriends, steely-eyed fellow gangsters in the empty jury box, sour-faced prosecutors. Finally, it settles on a close-up of Pesci as The Rifleman. He leans closer to the microphone.)

"It was . . . John Connolly."

The aftershock from the collective exhale forces the balding judge on the bench to slam down his gavel in a futile plea for some order. The court officers jump out of their seats. Government prosecutors are frozen in theirs. Triumphant music builds to a crescendo. Truth and justice prevail.

Only in the movies.

This morning in real life, the drama surrounding Stevie Flemmi's appearance on the witness stand may not quite fulfill all our Hollywood expectations. But it sure ain't gonna be dull, either.

## Rifleman isn't likely to pull trigger on pals

Will Stevie give up ex-G man, and his former handler, Johnny Connolly as the "source" of the fabled tip-off that sent Whitey Bulger into hiding? If we are to take Flemmi's previous submissions to the court as any indication, the answer is probably not.

But then, these past eight months of pre-trial hearings before Judge Mark Wolf have been about nothing - if not self-preservation.

The time has come for Stevie Flemmi to try to collect on the accumulated interest of some 33 years of being a rat for the FBI. Of course, that was before John Martorano decided he was no longer going to play Bud Abbott to Stevie's Lou Costello. Why stick around and wait to hear Stevie pin a murder or two or three on him?

Martorano's desire to come in and spill his guts to the government could well trump the bejeezus out of Stevie's get-out-of-jail bid. Under those circumstances, why would Stevie feel compelled to protect anyone's ass but his own?

"Strange as it may sound," one source said, "Stevie may well feel a certain loyalty to a guy like John (Connolly). You gotta think, 'What does he owe him? What did Connolly get him out of over the years?' Then again, it could be a matter of mutual loathing, if you know what I mean. 'What kind of bleep does Connolly have on Stevie? Could he bury him even deeper if forced to?'"

Here's hoping Stevie gets the chance to reflect a bit. It would be worth the price of admission to have The Rifleman take us back 30-plus years to **H. Paul Rico**, the smooth, sun-kissed G-man who orchestrated a marriage of convenience with the FBI.

All those years ago, could Stevie ever have imagined that such a union would not only insulate him so completely from prosecution and federal jail cells, but also assist in getting rid of most of his competition in the street?

When Stevie entered into unholy matrimony with **H. Paul Rico**, did he foresee Whitey Bulger and Johnny Connolly on the horizon? Or a night when he'd pull several thousand bucks out of his pocket and give it to an FBI supervisor? Could he, in his wildest dreams, ever have imagined moving his parents next door to Whitey's kid brother . . . the senate president? Could he picture a time when Billy and Whitey and Johnny and Johnny's boss, Jim Ring, would all break bread at Stevie's mother's house?

It would be wonderful to have Stevie reflect on all this. But then, we may have to wait for Joe Pesci to do it in the movie.

**Load-Date:** August 21, 1998

So many questions for Flemmi



## *So many questions for Flemmi*

The Boston Herald

October 12, 2003 Sunday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;**Length:** 572 words**Byline:** By Howie Carr

### **Body**

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Back in 1997, mobster Steve Flemmi was on the witness stand trying to explain the deal he had cut 30 years earlier with FBI agent **H. Paul Rico** to become a rat for the feds.

The prosecutor asked him, "Did Mr. Rico use the word immunity?"

"No," said Steve Flemmi. "He used the word protection."

The deal has now expired, on both sides. Flemmi becomes a witness, and he should be a good one. After all, as Steve tells the story, he had plenty of opportunity to absorb the details of every deal because it was his partner Whitey Bulger who did most of the talking.

"Jim Bulger's quite a talker," he said. "He captivates an audience."

Now it's Stevie's turn to captivate a new audience - a jury - and if he does a good enough job, the feds are going to have a lot more captives.

So many questions for Flemmi to answer - unsolved murders, secret bank accounts, the identities of the cops who tipped the Bulger gang to bugged cars and garages. But the first question addressed to Flemmi should concern those Sunday-afternoon dinners at Steve's mom's house, across the yard from Billy Bulger's manse.

We know the regular guest list: Steve and his partner in serial killing, Whitey Bulger, and their snitch in the FBI, Zip Connolly.

The key question for Steve is, how often did the Corrupt Midget walk the 20 feet to enjoy some of Ma Flemmi's red sauce?

Of course Whitey's younger brother is on the record as asserting that he was never there, but at least two other FBI agents have said otherwise.

So how do you suppose Billy Bulger slept Friday - as fitfully as Rush Limbaugh, probably.

## So many questions for Flemmi

When this sort of thing hits the fan, even a \$ 300,000-a-year state pension can console you only so much. You toss and turn, tormenting yourself with the same questions over and over again. What does Flemmi know, and who can back him up?

The answers are, plenty, and Zip Connolly.

Speaking of whom, down at the federal prison in Lexington, Ky., Zip's got to be torturing himself with those same questions - what does Flemmi know, and who can back him up?

The answers are, plenty, and Kevin Weeks.

Here's another question for Stevie. At the Brian Halloran hit in '82, at least one witness reported seeing a guy in a cop-looking American sedan a few yards down Northern Avenue from where Whitey and another party stepped out with rifles.

Steve, any thoughts on who that person in the crash car was?

Surely a lot of retired Boston cops are sweating this morning, too, but at this late date, who cares about payoffs to aged scalliwags in scally caps? FBI agents, though - that's a different kettle of fish.

The only hood who can't play "Let's Make a Deal" is **H. Paul Rico**, and what a perfect name for a bent FBI agent - this guy is a one-man Racketeer-Influenced Corrupt Organization. He likes contract bridge, and murder contracts. Now he ends up like the fictional Rico in the old movie, "Little Caesar." In the final scene, Edward G. Robinson, machine-gunned, grips his stomach and asks, "Mother of Mercy, is this the end of Rico?"

Yes, it is.

Another potential question for Stevie:

How'd you happen to buy your mother a house next door to Billy Bulger?

It may take a couple of years, but I think finally we'll find out what really happened. It should be captivating.

Howie Carr's radio show can be heard every weekday afternoon on WRKO-AM (680), WHYN-AM (560), WGAN-AM (560), WEIM-AM (1280), and WXTK-FM (95.1).

**Load-Date:** October 12, 2003



## *Stricken Rico faces murder charge in Oklahoma*

The Boston Herald

January 10, 2004 Saturday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 300 words

**Byline:** By J.M. LAWRENCE

### **Body**

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A feeble retired Boston FBI agent charged with a 1981 mob murder had hallucinations of snakes in his cell and may not be competent to stand trial in Tulsa, Okla.

The Tulsa County District Attorney's Office asked a judge yesterday to order an evaluation of **H. Paul Rico**, 78, who remains bed-ridden and on oxygen in the Tulsa Jail infirmary after his extradition from Miami.

District Attorney Timothy Harris argued no bail hearing can be held until Rico's mental state is evaluated.

Rico "talked about snakes on the walls of his cell" in December, according to court papers, and told his doctor he was beaten up by fellow prisoners when he tried to thwart their attempt to hijack a transport bus.

"He described being hit and in disagreement with a gentleman with a gun," Rico's cardiologist, Dr. Eugene Sayfie, said in a Dec. 12 report after visiting Rico in jail.

Rico faces arraignment Wednesday on first-degree murder charges and conspiracy in connection with the Winter Hill Gang's execution of World Jai Alai owner Roger Wheeler.

His doctor said jail could kill Rico and reported he found his usually "delightful" patient disoriented and suffering heart failure in Miami. Rico at one point thought he was in New Orleans, Sayfie said.

The doctor was encouraged when Rico knew the Patriots had beaten the Dolphins but noted Rico got the score wrong.

In 1965, Rico, a Belmont native, created Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi's double life as gangster and Boston FBI informant. He was extradited Thursday by air ambulance, costing Tulsa County \$ 12,000, officials said.

Caption: SICK MAN: Ex-FBI agent **H. Paul Rico**, left, shows no remorse before Congress in 2001 for his links with mob figures and rests recently in a jail clinic, right. STAFF PHOTO BY MARK GARFINKEL: AP PHOTO (right)

Stricken Rico faces murder charge in Oklahoma

**Load-Date:** January 10, 2004

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## [Suspect FBI should let marshals hit trail for Whitey](#)

The Boston Herald

January 20, 2004 Tuesday

ALL EDITIONS

Copyright 2004 Boston Herald Inc.

**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 620 words

**Byline:** By PETER GELZINIS

### **Body**

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In Tulsa, Whitey Bulger is no folk hero. He's not Robin Hood, or the subject of his own "Where's Whitey?" parlor game, or the big brother of a guy pulling down the state's richest pension.

In Tulsa, Whitey is just a murder suspect on the lam. Nothing more and nothing less. That the murder of Roger Wheeler - a successful high-tech entrepreneur and businessman - is almost 23 years old means nothing to the Oklahoma cops who are determined to have Whitey answer for it.

Actually, now that the other suspect in the case, the 78-year-old FBI mobster **H. Paul Rico**, has died - burying the prospect of a public trial - they're MOREdetermined than ever.

"We were definitely all geared up and ready to go," said Detective Sgt. Mike Huff, the Tulsa homicide cop who's worked this case for 23 years. "We have long wanted to bring Mr. Bulger here to Tulsa. Now with (Rico) gone, we need Whitey sooner rather than later."

Must be the cowboy in him, but there is an unvarnished certainty in Mike Huff's voice you just don't hear around these jaded parts. Be honest, most of us have long ago given up on the idea of ever seeing Whitey Bulger enter a courtroom in cuffs and shackles.

Despite all the people he's sold out or killed, we know Whitey left plenty of friends behind when he ran away. Political friends. Police friends. Family friends. And all those friends in the Boston FBI office.

True, there's been a small but noble cadre of local state police, Boston cops and DEA agents who've done groundbreaking work over the past 13 years in pulling the rock back on The Bulger Group. Yet, even they have too often found themselves swimming against a tide of cynicism and treachery.

Today or tomorrow, Mike Huff and his superiors will sit down with the U.S. Marshals in Tulsa in an effort to get what he called "some hope and some direct responses," in their effort to bring Whitey to justice.

## Suspect FBI should let marshals hit trail for Whitey

Looking toward the U.S. Marshals for some action in the search for Whitey is nothing new. Neither is the FBI's stubborn refusal to turn the case over to them. Last fall, Tulsa's police chief David Been sent a letter to Attorney General John Ashcroft asking that the U.S. Marshals pursue Whitey under their Tulsa murder warrant.

The only response from the Justice Department was a half-baked invite for the Tulsa cops to visit the FBI in Boston and see how hard these G-men were working to catch the White Man . . . after nine years on the road. Thanks but no thanks.

Consider the insanity of having the FBI own the search for Whitey. When Roger Wheeler's son, David, and his Boston lawyer, Frank Libby, filed a wrongful death suit against the FBI in May, 2001, the answer they received from the 1st Circuit of the United States federal court was the ultimate Catch-22.

In turning thumbs down on David Wheeler's claim, the court wrote: ". . . the wide-spread publicity (about Whitey Bulger, John Connolly, ***H. Paul Rico*** et. al.) would have led a reasonable person to form the belief that by May of 1998, the FBI was responsible for Roger Wheeler's death. . ."

Incredible as that sounds, the government still said no to David Wheeler. They claimed he exceeded the two-year window set aside to bring to such a civil action.

In other words, yes, we think the FBI had a hand in your father's demise and the cover-up of his murder. But, sorry, you waited too long to tell us.

Put another way, a federal court has already determined the FBI suspect in Roger Wheeler's death, and yet the Bureau STILL retains total control over the search for one of his killers, who also happened to be one of their Top Echelon informants.

How twisted is that? It's time the FBI let Whitey go, and high time the U.S. Marshals bring him in.

**Load-Date:** January 20, 2004



## **THE FBI'S 'ANIMAL': INFORMANT'S VIOLENT CAREER REVISITED IN CONGRESSIONAL PROBE**

Hartford Courant (Connecticut)

February 10, 2002 Sunday, 1N/5/6/7 SPORTS FINAL

Copyright 2002 The Hartford Courant Company

**Section:** MAIN; Pg. A1

**Length:** 3237 words

**Byline:** EDMUND H. MAHONY; Courant Staff Writer

### **Body**

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The last man Joe Barboza killed -- the last one anyone knows about, anyway -- was Clay Wilson, a skinny crook who drove a bulldozer when he wasn't stealing things from people.

It was Wilson's misfortune to live in Santa Rosa, Calif., in the wine country above San Francisco. That's where the U.S. Department of Justice decided to settle Barboza after giving him a new identity as the federal government's first-ever protected witness.

Barboza was an enthusiastic killer. He made his name in the 1960s as an enforcer in a war between Boston's Irish gangs. He once chewed on a bit of bone he blasted from the skull of one of his victims. He had a thing for chewing. A friend suspects that grew from the odd set of incisors that gave Barboza a pair of fangs. Barboza once chewed off a man's cheek during a fight.

He was unpredictable, so much so that by early middle age he was scaring even the Mafia. The FBI used that bit of intelligence -- that the mob might feel more comfortable if Barboza were history -- to leverage him into becoming a cooperating witness.

He became the prosecution star in three sensational mob trials in Boston. As he helped put nine supposed gangsters in jail, the government decided Barboza was so important to its crusade against organized crime that it created the witness protection program. It was supposed to guarantee his safety and, more important, encourage other criminals to cooperate.

That was in 1969.

More than 30 years later, investigators working for Congress and the Justice Department are re-examining Barboza's career, part of a long and adversarial look at possible abuses committed by FBI agents and prosecutors who worked with organized crime informants in Boston.

Congress will be asking new questions at hearings this week about who the witness protection program was designed to protect. Was it Barboza or his handlers in the government? At least part of the answer lies in Clay Wilson's murder and in the bizarre trial that followed.

## THE FBI'S 'ANIMAL';INFORMANT'S VIOLENT CAREER REVISITED IN CONGRESSIONAL PROBE

"It was the worst travesty of justice I ever saw," said Ed Cameron, who worked on the Wilson homicide as an inspector for the Sonoma County district attorney's office. "There must have been others, but I don't think the FBI ever covered up anything to this extent before.

"It was the damnedest thing I've ever been involved in. How in the hell do you get yourself in a position where the district attorney's office is working with the Mafia and the public defender's office is working with the FBI in a capital case?"

## Innocent Men Jailed

Barboza was a bull-necked Portuguese boxer from New Bedford, Mass., who grew up in reform school. He wasn't much of a fighter, but showed an affinity for violence. He is said to have beaten a man to death with a banister. By all accounts, he killed at least 20 men before being gunned down in 1976 at the age of 43.

Everyone who touched Barboza came away tarred. The cases in which he was involved as an FBI witness are emblematic of the abuses Congress is investigating. They also illustrate the difficulty of dealing with manipulative informants.

To begin with, when Barboza testified against the mob, he was lying through his pointy teeth. His perjury imprisoned at least seven innocent men. Two of them died of old age in prison. Two more were released with little more than apologies after serving about 30 years; Barboza tossed one of those two into a murder plot because the man had refused to repay an extortionate \$400 loan.

By the 1970s, when it began to look likely -- from his own admissions, informant tips and from long suppressed police reports -- that Barboza had jailed innocent men, the criminal justice apparatus in eastern Massachusetts refused to notice. That failure to act in the face of mounting evidence has contributed to the belief among many experts today that Barboza was part of a cynical plan to imprison suspected gangsters the government could not convict legitimately.

The question driving the investigators looking back into abuses in the informant program is not whether anyone in law enforcement knew Barboza was lying. Rather, efforts are under way to learn how many knew and how such an assault on the integrity of the criminal justice system could have occurred.

Musty FBI memorandums that a variety of investigators have recently pried from an antagonistic Justice Department show that, in at least one of Barboza's cases, agents in Boston knew he was falsely implicating innocent men even before he testified. A Boston agent involved in that case dictated a memo listing the real killers and had it sent to the office of then-FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover in Washington. Nothing was done to help the innocent men.

The memos suggest that by the 1960s, Hoover had responded to criticism from Congress by forcefully instructing his troops to attack the Mafia, then a significant, but largely ignored, national problem. Several law enforcement experts believe that Hoover's instruction was taken as authorization to play fast and loose with the law in cases involving suspected Mafiosi in Boston and elsewhere.

For example, memorandums just obtained by congressional investigators show that the FBI installed an illegal microphone during the early 1960s in the Boston office used by New England mob captain Gennaro J. Angiulo. Similarly, conversations from an illegal microphone in mob boss Raymond L.S. Patriarca's office found their way into FBI records.

Barboza was recruited as a witness during that period by FBI agents Dennis Condon and ***H. Paul Rico***. Rico, it turns out, was later rebuked by the Rhode Island Supreme Court for instructing another informant to lie during a mob trial there in 1970. The wrongly convicted defendant in Rhode Island was freed after serving 18 years in prison.

## THE FBI'S 'ANIMAL'; INFORMANT'S VIOLENT CAREER REVISITED IN CONGRESSIONAL PROBE

Rico and Condon worked on cases involving Barboza with former Assistant U.S. Attorney Edward F. Harrington, now a senior U.S. District judge in Boston. When Barboza wrote his book, "Barboza," billed as the "nakedly brutal" story of his life in crime, he dedicated it "To Edward F. Harrington, With Respect."

Condon, Rico and Harrington -- along with state officials from California -- have been summoned by the House Committee on Government Reform to testify Wednesday and Thursday about Barboza and the Wilson murder. Prodded by the committee in May during an earlier session about one of the men Barboza framed, Rico conceded that he recently had been persuaded the man was innocent. Then he snapped: "What do you want, tears?"

Eventually, the committee hopes to review the FBI's relationship with two other notorious informants who may have been allowed to get away with murdering officials in the U.S. jai alai industry. Connecticut's former Chief State's Attorney Austin J. McGuigan has been asked to testify Feb. 27 about problems he experienced while investigating the murder of the man who owned the Hartford jai alai fronton.

But this week, the center of the committee's attention will be Barboza, whose own lawyer called him "one of the worst men on the face of the earth."

James Wilson, the committee's chief counsel, said: "Our concern is whether or not the federal government hindered or discouraged a murder prosecution in California."

After the review of thousands of FBI memorandums, committee staff members believe they can make a case that Barboza's handlers in the Justice Department went to unusual lengths to help him fight the California murder charge. The reason: Barboza was threatening to recant his perjured testimony in the Boston mob cases.

The federal government tried to close the book on Barboza's East Coast mayhem in 1969 when the federal marshals service deposited him in California with his wife and two young children. A condition of Barboza's release was that he never again set foot in Massachusetts.

He had a new name, Joseph Bentley. In his book, Barboza wrote: "I was enrolled in a cooking school where I learned French style cooking. Mostly how to cook with wines. I graduated as a sauce, vegetable and roast cook, and I shipped out on the SS President Wilson bound for the Orient."

A forger who became a Barboza confidant while the two were briefly locked up together in a Massachusetts prison discussed the same events in a book of his own. William Geraway said Barboza's sea voyage had little to do with French cuisine. He said Barboza told him he contracted a venereal disease from a woman named Ferlina in the Philippines, robbed a sailor in Hong Kong after mutilating him with a fishing knife and tried to kill another sailor on the return voyage.

#### Under A Stump

One trip over the sea, it seems, was enough for the man the Boston newspapers called "The Animal." By 1970, Barboza was in Santa Rosa, where he met gangly Clay Wilson. Wilson's mistake was confiding to Barboza about \$250,000 in stocks, bonds, antiques and jewelry he had just stolen from a home in Petaluma.

One early summer day, as Barboza, Wilson, Wilson's wife and another woman walked in the woods near Santa Rosa, Barboza fired two shots into Wilson's head. He dug a hole for the body and covered it with a stump that later would require three policemen to move. The two women, who had listened to Barboza brag about owning the FBI and jailing innocent men, kept their mouths shut.

Not long after dispatching Wilson, Barboza sneaked back to New England, where the local mob's most fearsome killers were under orders to make him an object lesson on the perils of working with the FBI.

Astonishingly, there is evidence that Barboza traveled East in hopes of exploring -- with the Mafia -- the possibility of recanting his crucial testimony in the mob trials. The mob would have listened -- one of the men Barboza framed was Patriarca, the New England mob boss.

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Different explanations have been offered for Barboza's change of heart. The one that people dismiss the quickest is the one he gave in the self-serving autobiography he wrote with an author approved by the FBI. Barboza claimed he only wanted to buy protection for his wife and kids during a visit they planned to the East Coast.

The FBI said at the time that Barboza's offer to recant was a fraud. The brash Barboza, bureau sources told reporters, was looking for fast money in a scam perhaps only he would have the temerity to pull: shaking down the Mafia.

Two Barboza acquaintances -- his lawyer, F. Lee Bailey, and fellow inmate Geraway -- had a different explanation. They said Barboza, uncharacteristic as it might seem, had a sincere interest in freeing the innocent men he was responsible for imprisoning. Even while testifying, they said, Barboza never believed the defendants could be convicted on the strength of his word alone. They said Barboza believed his testimony would win him favor with the government without hurting anyone else.

Whatever Barboza's motivation, it quickly became irrelevant. Once Barboza was implicated in Wilson's death, several law enforcement experts familiar with the case say he could use a threat to recant to get government help in his California murder case.

Barboza was linked to the Wilson killing while on one of his secret visits back East. He leveled a pistol at a carload of New Bedford motorists after a traffic dispute. The motorists reported the threat to police, who found Barboza in possession of a small arsenal and a big bag of marijuana.

Having broken his promise to stay out of Massachusetts, Barboza was shipped off to Walpole state prison. He was put in a cell next to Geraway, who had a memory so powerful he would entertain "The Animal" by reciting Oscar Wilde's epic-length "Ballad of Reading Gaol." Geraway said it was not long before Barboza had described Wilson's death down to the least detail. Geraway remembered everything, from the color of Wilson's pants to a description of the stump atop his grave.

If anything, Barboza's effort to recant his testimony intensified when he consulted with Bailey following his arrest in New Bedford.

"I spoke with Mr. Barboza and learned that he now wanted to say what we in Boston had always known," Bailey said.

Bailey said that Barboza told him he had framed most of the defendants in the Boston trials and that he did so in consultation with FBI Agents Condon and Rico. Barboza swore out an affidavit and hoped to boost his questionable credibility by taking a lie detector test, Bailey said.

Barboza's threat set in motion some hurried law enforcement meetings and urgent FBI memo traffic between Boston and Hoover's office in Washington. But by the end of August 1970, a memo shows that Hoover was told that Barboza had secretly signaled he wouldn't recant. But Barboza added ominously that he had "numerous hand written notations" from an assistant district attorney.

Bailey said that on the eve of the polygraph examination, Harrington visited Barboza in jail "and somehow, the polygraph test went away."

"We learned later, of course, that the FBI said, 'Fire Bailey and don't take the polygraph test or else you're here [in prison] forever,'" Bailey said. "And I'm quite satisfied that happened, since I was terminated."

An FBI memo to Hoover marked urgent reported that Barboza told Harrington that his threatened recantation "was just an act" and "he was really still on the side of the government. He just wanted the [Mafia] to think he was with them."

Geraway, meanwhile, had the admissions he said Barboza made about the Clay Wilson murder and he had no intention of keeping it quiet. After trying -- and failing -- to interest Massachusetts officials in the Wilson murder, he mailed the information to authorities in Santa Rosa.

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Men with shovels followed Geraway's memorized instructions and found Wilson's body right where it was supposed to be, beneath the stump. That set in motion a topsy-turvy trial that lawyers and investigators still talk about in Sonoma County.

## Help From High Places

"I think early on in the thing we realized it was just backwards," Cameron said.

Marteen Miller, Barboza's court-appointed public defender in the Wilson case, said: "It was bizarre, to say the least."

Barboza was extradited from Walpole to California to stand trial in state court, where he pleaded not guilty to the charge of murdering Wilson. He faced a death sentence if convicted, but by all accounts in Santa Rosa he didn't care.

"Here he was, with all kinds of evidence against him in a death penalty case, and he acted like he was in small claims court," Miller said. "He wasn't concerned at all. I've been in that business for 34 years and I've never seen anything close to it. It was uncanny."

The Sonoma County district attorney's office, assigned to prosecute the case, became just as confused. Barboza was locked securely in the local jail when the jailer called one day to report that Barboza had a visitor. It was Harrington, then head of the Justice Department's organized crime strike force in Boston.

"[Harrington] doesn't come to our office, the district attorney's office," Cameron said. "He goes to the jail and interviews Barboza. Then he came up to our office and we were, to say the least, not very happy with it."

Barboza's lawyer flew to Boston to look for anything that would help him put together a defense. He didn't unearth any blockbuster evidence, but got something almost as good: Harrington, Rico and Condon -- all highly regarded federal lawmen -- would testify for the defense.

That was a big offer in the 1970s, when the appearance of FBI agents at a trial could move jurors one way or the other.

"It was unusual to have the FBI in your corner during a death penalty trial," Miller said.

The situation was even more perplexing for Cameron, who was looking for help from law enforcement in Boston.

"I must have made 10 requests by the telephone: 'Can you tell us something about Barboza? Can you tell us anything?' And we always got pretty much shut out of the thing," Cameron said.

Frustrated, he flew East, too. To this day, Cameron believes he was followed; his hotel room was entered and his briefcase was rifled.

"I got the feeling in my gut that something was wrong back there," Cameron said. "So I went back to the hotel. I took everything out of my briefcase and I locked it up in the hotel safe. And I put a hair around my briefcase to see if somebody would break into it. And sure as hell, somebody opened it."

"Now, I don't know if that was Mafia or it was the FBI. From that point on I decided I had to watch everything I did to make sure things were OK."

Back in Santa Rosa, Cameron said the district attorney began getting odd phone calls from people offering to help send Barboza to death row. Prosecutors concluded that the callers were mobsters in New England trying to get even with Barboza.

"The public defender's office was getting help from the FBI and we weren't getting any, as far as background information," Cameron said. "We ended up getting witnesses from some suspect sources, to say the least. I'll just say it: The witnesses were fed to us by the Mafia."

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Despite the lack of federal cooperation from Boston, the district attorney's office in California continued to think it had put together enough evidence on its own to execute Barboza for Wilson's murder. Then, to the district attorney's surprise, Harrington, Condon and Rico appeared as what amounted to character witnesses for Barboza, who was claiming self-defense.

"We were all amazed because it took our capital case and just turned it into shit in a hurry," Cameron said. "Because if you look back at the 1970s, everyone looked up to the FBI. They show up and all of a sudden, they're saying, 'This guy has always been truthful. He's a bad guy, but he's put away some bad people.' And we're going, 'what the hell do we do now?'"

Barboza's lawyer interrupted the trial and offered to have Barboza plead guilty if the charge was reduced to second-degree murder.

"We thought, 'Well we're screwed now. We better take what we've got,'" Cameron said. "Truthfully, the only reason we took [the plea] was because the FBI testified in his behalf."

As Barboza's ghostwriter put it: "Federal officials who had sought to protect Barboza from himself went out to Santa Rosa and testified about his service to the nation."

Barboza was sentenced to five years to life and, according to Bailey, "was hustled off to Montana to some country club to serve his time."

After five years, at Barboza's first parole hearing, federal officials again showed up to speak in his behalf. He was released; then in 1976 in San Francisco, he was gunned down by a gangster from Boston.

Miller said he figured during the trial that the federal officers appeared in Barboza's behalf because they were afraid he would recant the testimony he had given at the Boston trials. But he said he wondered at the time why they didn't let him and then simply "laugh him out of court."

"Evidently," Miller said recently, "now it appears their motive was a little farther reaching than that."

Cameron still gets angry just talking about Barboza.

"This fellow Barboza murdered one of our street punk criminals who was not a heavyweight by any stretch of the imagination," he said. "But he didn't deserve to get killed. And he got killed as a direct result of letting this animal back out on the street. And it turns out his testimony was false to start with. It's damn well unbelievable right up until today."

## Graphic

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PHOTOS: 4 (b&w); 1. THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

2 & 3. Associated Press (MUGS)

4. Associated Press

; 1. JOSEPH BARBOZA mugs for the cameras with his attorney, Marteen Miller, during a 1971 murder trial in Santa Rosa, Calif.

Barboza faced the death penalty, but took a plea bargain, served five years, got out on parole and was gunned down in 1976.

2 & 3. TESTIMONY BY Joseph Barboza, seen above in a photo from the early 1970s, helped convict Joseph Salvati, below, a Massachusetts man, of a murder he didn't commit. Barboza was an informant for the



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FBI. Salvati, who was 34 when he was arrested, spent 30 years in prison, until he was cleared and released last year.

4. H. PAUL RICO, a former FBI agent in Boston, recruited Joe "The Animal" Barboza in the 1960s as a government witness against organized crime figures.

**Load-Date:** February 11, 2002

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## *The Last Word for June 23, 2011*

MSNBC THE LAST WORD WITH LAWRENCE O`DONNELL 8:00 PM EST

June 23, 2011 Thursday

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**Section:** NEWS; Domestic

**Length:** 6849 words

**Byline:** Lawrence O`Donnell, Howard Fineman

**Guests:** Rep. Nancy Pelosi, Howie Carr, Evan Wolfson

**Highlight:** The FBI caught the number one person on its most wanted list, James Whitey Bulger. Interview with Rep. Nancy Pelosi.

### **Body**

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LAWRENCE O`DONNELL, HOST: The Republicans walk out of the budget negotiations. No surprise there. But Whitey Bulger walks out with his hands up. Talk about rockin` my world.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

(MUSIC)

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Big breaking news now.

ANDREA MITCHELL, NBC NEWS: Vice President Biden`s budget talks have stopped.

REP. NANCY PELOSI (D-CA), MINORITY LEADER: That discussion will not take place without the House Democrats.

O`DONNELL (voice-over): Democrat Leader Nancy Pelosi gives me her reaction to the Republican walkout.

PELOSI: I don`t know how they can face the American people by saying this is what`s really important to us, when it comes time to reduce the deficit, to give tax breaks for big oil.

REP. JOHN BOEHNER (R-OH), SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE: A tax hike cannot pass by the U.S. House of Representatives.

LUKE RUSSERT, NBC NEWS: Did come as quite a shock to a lot of people.

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MITCHELL: Eric Cantor said was that the president has to step in to this.

O'DONNELL: As Washington Republicans walk out, New York Republicans still one vote shy of marriage equality.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: The marriage equality bill lingers in Albany.

MITCHELL: One vote short.

JONATHAN CAPEHART, MSNBC POLITICAL ANALYST: Making New York the most populace state and the sixth state in the country to legalize marriage equality.

O'DONNELL: As New Yorkers fight for marriage equality, the president is in New York, asking for their help on his campaign.

MITCHELL: Same supporters who are not happy with the president's refusal to support gay marriage.

THOMAS ROBERTS, MSNBC ANCHOR: Manhattan fundraiser, 600 at the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender leadership gala. Consider the timing of this.

MITCHELL: Bad bit of timing.

CAPEHART: His position on marriage equality, on same-sex marriage, is, quote, "evolving."

ROBERTS: When he was just a senator, he was already evolved.

O'DONNELL: And Jack Nicholson played him in the movie.

But last night, the FBI got their most wanted killer without firing a shot.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Apprehended last night by the FBI in Santa Monica, California.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: And wait until you hear how they got him.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: This is all about the power of television, Chuck. The FBI has been trying to find Whitey Bulger for 16 years.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Cold-blooded Irish mobster.

O'DONNELL: The Boston reporter Whitey Bulger wants dead joins me.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: More ruthless, more barbaric than anybody could have imagined.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: He was a double crosser. Actually, he was a triple crosser and a quadruple crosser.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Actually inspiring the Oscar-winning movie, "The Departed."

CHUCK TODD, NBC NEWS: Based on --

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: The Jack Nicholson character.

JACK NICHOLSON, ACTOR: The only one who knows what I do is me.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

O'DONNELL: Good evening from Washington.

With just five weeks left for the United States Congress to reach an agreement to prevent the government from hitting a catastrophic debt default, the Republicans tasked with finding a compromise today walked away from the conference. The bipartisan debt limit and deficit reduction negotiations led by Vice President Joe Biden imploded

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today after House Republican leader Eric Cantor announced this morning, quote, "I will not be participating in today's meeting." Cantor said the talks had reached what he called an impasse. The impasse, of course, was created by Cantor.

There are exactly two ways and two ways only to reduce the deficit. One is to reduce spending. The other is to increase revenue. You can increase revenue by raising rates, or by eliminating tax deductions and loopholes which will also raise revenue.

The Democrats and the Republicans have had long discussions about spending cuts. They have discussed spending cuts in every area of the budget, which is not to say that they have agreed to spending cuts in every area of the budget. But they have discussed them.

The Democrats would now like to discuss revenue increases. And Eric Cantor's response to that is to refuse to do his job, to simply walk away. Eric Cantor is now refusing to even discuss with the vice president why he doesn't want to discuss taxation.

After Cantor's announcement, the only other Republican in the budget talks, Senator Jon Kyl, said he was pulling out too. Kyl obviously realized that now that Cantor revealed that the secret talks had turned to taxation, he could not continue to participate without violating what is now the 21st century Republican commandment on taxation, that Republicans never think or talk about taxes or talk about why they don't want to talk about taxes with Democrats.

As the Republicans were defecting, House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi was at the White House, meeting with President Obama and Vice President Biden to try to resolve these issues. I spoke with Leader Pelosi after that meeting in a LAST WORD exclusive, where we discussed what is off the table for House Democrats and how the president when news of Eric Cantor's exit broke.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

O'DONNELL: Democratic Leader Pelosi, thank you very much for joining me.

PELOSI: My pleasure. Thank you.

O'DONNELL: You were in the White House with the president today when Eric Cantor issued his statement, quitting the talks with the vice president on deficit reduction. What was the president's reaction? Were you surprised?

PELOSI: Well, I hate to disappoint you, but we didn't have any idea.

O'DONNELL: They didn't rush in to the president and say, Eric Cantor has just quit the budget talks?

PELOSI: Well, if they sent him a secret signal, it was unbeknownst to me.

O'DONNELL: Minority Leader Eric Cantor has walked out of talks with the vice president and the Democrats about how to go forward on negotiating a package of deficit reduction measures that would be included in a bill that would then be a raising of the debt ceiling. He said it's the tax issue. He said Democrats want to raise taxes.

And what he said actually in his statement is that "the tax issue must be resolved before discussions can continue. It is time for the president to speak clearly and resolve the tax issue."

Is he right? Is it time for the president to speak up on taxes?

PELOSI: Well, I think he's right when he says it's important that the tax issue be resolved. Because while the negotiations had been proceeding in good faith and constructively by all accounts under the leadership of Vice President Biden, the discussion had largely been about cuts, but not about revenues. And if we're going to have a serious package about deficit reduction, we have to be talking revenues.

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It's interesting that Leader Cantor said what he said when they are resisting -- they are resisting removing tax subsidies for big oil, removing tax breaks for corporations to send jobs overseas, that kind of thing. I don't know how they can face the American people by saying this is what's really important to us, when it comes time to reduce the deficit to give tax breaks to big oil and corporate America.

O'DONNELL: He also said in his statement today, "We have identified trillions in spending cuts." In another line, he said, "We have a blueprint to move forward to trillions of spends cuts and binding mechanisms."

Is it your understanding that the Democrats have agreed to trillions in spending cuts already, and we don't have any revenue or tax items in that agreement yet?

PELOSI: Well, first of all, one of the guiding principles was nothing is agreed to until everything is agreed to. Second of all, I don't even know where the trillion dollars in cuts he's talking about is coming from.

But the fact is, is that you cannot cut yourself to balance. You have to have revenue on the table. And that is the fight we'll make.

I think the president has always been involved in this, in that he is -- the guidance has been do no harm to the economy, which these cuts -- some cuts will do harm to the growth of our economy. That there should be -- it should be balanced. Well, it's not balanced if you don't have revenue on the table.

So, his voice has been heard in this. Whether we -- I think these talks will resume because they must. The U.S. government cannot default on its debt, largely accrued by President George W. Bush. So, that's what this is about.

O'DONNELL: Let me ask you about your experience with this. In the Congress, there have always been what we call "must-pass" bills. You just said these talks will resume because they must. And when that kind of statement gets made here, what is implicit in it is because all reasonable people agree that the debt ceiling must be raised. That's why it has always been raised by Democrats when necessary, by Republicans when necessary.

Do you get the feeling that you're dealing with a different kind of Republican here, who doesn't really allow you to think that way, that the thing -- this thing will happen because it must? It only must to the responsible mind.

PELOSI: Well, I trust that my colleagues are responsible. And if not, they'll hear from their friends on Wall Street of the impact of defaulting on our debt will have to the markets and to our whole economy. It's in a fragile place right now. So, we certainly don't need this. I think they know that.

So, I give them the benefit of the doubt. I don't know if that speaks for everyone in their caucus, but it certainly should speak for their leadership, that they know the responsible thing to do.

I think it's important for the American people to know that this is about not defaulting on the previous debt. This is not about increasing the debt ceiling so we can have accelerated spending. And I think they are trying to sell it as they just want to raise the debt limit so they can spend more.

No, we don't. We want to spend less. We want to reduce the deficit. We want to make careful changes in our investment so that we are building for the future.

O'DONNELL: So, Eric Cantor is saying he is walking out of the talk because the Democrats now want to talk about taxation, and he doesn't even want to talk about it. He only wants to talk about spending cuts.

And then he says he wants the president to come out and talk about taxes. In other words, the game he is playing is I'm walking out to try to force the president to go out there and make a speech saying, this is exactly how I want to raise your taxes, so then we Republicans can attack that.

PELOSI: It's an interesting tact. It doesn't happen to be valid because the point is, is that we're willing to have a balanced package.

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They're not. They're not. They don't want to talk about taxes.

But it's interesting that they -- I knew, and we all said, what they're going to do is say, even though we can agree on certain cuts, you won't go for them unless we raise taxes for the American people. No, we're not. We're just saying to make our tax system fair so everyone pays their fair share.

But, actually, it should be turned upside down. It should be the Republicans care more about tax cuts for corporations send jobs overseas, big tax subsidies to big oil, tax cuts for the wealthiest people in our country, and they want to hold our Medicare recipients and others hostage to all of that. They -- that is the problem.

But rather than getting into a tit-for-tat, the fact is, we have to cuts on the table, we have to have revenue on the table, we have to have some element of growth. And we are not supporting any package that has cuts and benefits for Medicare beneficiaries.

O'DONNELL: We've just learned as we've been sitting here that Harry Reid has announced that the talks will resume, the budget talks that Eric Cantor has walked out of, will resume, with Harry Reid, with John Boehner, and President Obama.

So, has Eric Cantor, in effect, gotten his wish? He's gotten to walk out and say I personally refuse to discuss taxes, and he is leaving the Republican speaker, John Boehner, to apparently discuss taxes --

PELOSI: Sounds like that, doesn't it?

O'DONNELL: -- with the president and with the Senate leader.

PELOSI: It sounds like that. But I will tell you this. That that discussion will not take place without the House Democrats being at the table.

O'DONNELL: Are you going to insist that the president include Democratic representation from the House?

PELOSI: Well, I don't think there's any question about that. I think that Harry was speaking figuratively. I think he was excluding, I think -- he was saying I'm going to be at the table and Boehner is going to be. He wasn't making any announcement about what the next negotiation would be. He just meant that because Harry's -- the Senate Republican left, and Boehner's person left, that then he would be the person speaking for the Senate, and that Boehner would be speaking for the House Republicans.

But that's neither here nor there. That's minor league. What is major is that we have to get the job done.

And while we can assign blame for how we got to this place, which is a very clear path, from the Bush administration, but let's not go there, and --

O'DONNELL: Oh, you can go there. Please feel free to go there.

PELOSI: Well, just keep in mind that when President Clinton was president of the United States, his last four budgets were in balance or in surplus. That he had his own trajectory at \$5.6 trillion.

O'DONNELL: And the economy was roaring along with tax rates higher in every single income tax bracket.

PELOSI: Every single bracket and job creation of over 20 million jobs. And then President Bush came in, and reversed that.

It was one of the biggest swings in fiscal change in the history of our country, two unpaid for wars. That would be over time. Tax cuts for the wealthiest people in our country. And a prescription drug bill that gave away the store to the pharmaceutical industry at the cost to the taxpayer and the consumer.

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And so, with that, we grew this enormous deficit, and the idea that tax cuts were going to create jobs simply wasn't true. There were -- in President Obama's second year, more jobs were created in the private sector than in the eight years of the Bush administration. So, all this tax cut business is going to create jobs didn't.

Now, we don't -- nobody wants to be raising taxes. But we have to have fairness in the tax code and we have to have the middle class, the great middle class sustained, so they have confidence. And those who aspire to the middle class, they have confidence.

And so, they exercise their purchasing power which again injects demand to the economy to create jobs. The fact is we have a Republican majority in the House, and you need 60 votes in the Senate, and we have a Democratic president of the United States, thank God, and we will work something out that has, again, balance and bipartisan as we go forward.

But we will not support Medicare -- any change in Medicare, that reduces benefits for our seniors and others who avail themselves of Medicare. The Republican budget as you know -- the Republican budget repeals Medicare, makes seniors pay more, perhaps \$6,000 a year, while they have fewer benefits -- while they give tax breaks and big subsidies to big oil, tax breaks to corporations sending jobs overseas.

You know, the poor priorities that almost shameful priorities that they have in their budget.

O'DONNELL: Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, thank you very much for joining me.

PELOSI: My pleasure. Thank you.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

O'DONNELL: Tonight, Vice President Biden issued a statement on the Republican defections from the bipartisan negotiations that he has been leading. Quote, "The next phase is in the hands of the leaders. As the president and I have made clear from the beginning, the only way to make sure we begin to live within our means is by coming together behind a balanced approach that finds real savings across the budget -- including domestic spending, defense spending, mandatory spending, and loopholes in the tax code."

Coming up: what will President Obama and Harry Reid have to do to get a compromise on the debt with Republicans? Howard Fineman is here next.

And they got Osama bin Laden -- when they got Osama bin Laden, this man became the FBI's most wanted killer. He was in hiding for 16 years, and they found him yesterday in my neighborhood, within walking distance of my home.

There are neighborhoods in Boston where getting Whitey Bulger is bigger news than getting Osama bin Laden was. I grew up in one of those neighborhoods.

And later, the Boston reporter who Whitey Bulger wanted dead will join me.

O'DONNELL: Howard Fineman joins me next on the budget talks breakdown here in Washington.

And later, President Obama asks for contributions tonight from gay and lesbian New Yorkers while they are still asking him to support full marriage equality.

And getting Osama bin Laden took 10 years. Getting Whitey Bulger took 16 years. The FBI finally tracked him down, and in the process reminded us of the FBI's greatest embarrassment, the criminal FBI agent who tipped off Whitey Bulger that they were closing in on him 16 years ago.

There is shock in the streets of some Boston neighborhoods tonight, where no one believed they would ever find Whitey Bulger. And there is even more shock in the beach front homes of Santa Monica, California, where they did

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find Whitey Bulger. Count me among the shocked. I grew up in Boston, near Whitey Bulger, and I live now in Santa Monica, steps away from where he was hiding out.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

PELOSI: Rather than getting into a tit-for-tat, the fact is we have to have cuts on the table, we have to have revenue on the table, we have to have some element of growth. And we are not supporting any package that has cuts in benefits for Medicare beneficiaries.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

O'DONNELL: Joining me now is Howard Fineman, MSNBC analyst and editorial director for "The Huffington Post."

Thanks for joining me tonight, Howard.

Howard, I read the Cantor move as -- you guys want to talk about taxation? I will not discuss it with you. I want the president of the United States to go out publicly and make a speech telling us exactly what he wants in taxes so that we can then attack that.

HOWARD FINEMAN, MSNBC POLITICAL ANALYST: I think you've got it exactly right. And the president won't do that. But what the president will do is get involved in the negotiations directly, which secondarily is what the Republicans want.

By the way, when we were listening to Nancy Pelosi there, she drew the line in the sand. We want no cuts to Medicare, Social Security. Keyword: cuts.

What that really means in translation is when this deal is done, and it's going to get done, there will be some slowing of growth. There may be some additional taxation, a means-testing of Medicare, et cetera, et cetera. There is room to maneuver in there as firm as she sounded.

O'DONNELL: Well, there are plenty of things you can do in Medicare that don't go to the beneficiaries.

FINEMAN: Yes. Right.

(CROSSTALK)

O'DONNELL: Democrats did a couple of hundred billion in 1993. Clinton's first act on Medicare was to cut it substantially, without hitting beneficiaries.

Where do we go from here? Cantor has walked out. Is Boehner really going to go in alone and have the burden alone of talking about taxation with the president, with Democrats?

FINEMAN: Well, initially, I think he will. I think he will. I think they are playing a sort of bad cop and worse cop routine here, where Boehner, the golfing buddy --

O'DONNELL: No show cop.

(CROSSTALK)

O'DONNELL: And the cop who is here but he is not allowed to discuss it.

FINEMAN: The one who's eating the donuts in the car.

O'DONNELL: Yes, yes.

FINEMAN: You know, Boehner will be the guy with the donuts. And he'll be going in and he'll be sitting and listening to the president and he'll get the president to say whatever he's going to say about closing loopholes or



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raising taxes, whatever. Then they'll run out and denounce that. And then Eric Cantor will be the no-show guy who will say we will not stand it, we will not stand for it, we will not stand for it.

In the end, interestingly, Lawrence, I think the problem on the Republican side is not going to be where we're looking. It's not going to be Eric Cantor and it's not going to be John Boehner.

It's going to be Mitch McConnell, the Republican guy in the Senate, who's got sort of veto power with filibustering and whatnot, who is desperate to get a Republican majority in the Senate, who is going to be the problem here. And we haven't even considered him yet. But he is lying in the weeds over on the side.

O'DONNELL: And people have not been paying enough attention to Nancy Pelosi. She doesn't like the way some of these discussions been going on without her.

Howard Fineman of MSNBC and "The Huffington Post" -- thanks for joining me tonight.

FINEMAN: Thank you, Lawrence.

O'DONNELL: Still ahead: President Obama makes his case to his gay and lesbian supporters in New York tonight as he continues to face the question has he done enough to get their vote.

And the most wanted man in America is behind bars tonight -- 81- year-old gangster, murderer, sociopath and brother of one of Boston's most powerful politicians, has been captured after 16 years in hiding.

I never knew Whitey Bulger, but I grew up close to him in Boston. And it turns out, he was growing old very close to my house in California.

O'DONNELL: Still ahead in this hour -- Republicans have called Congressman Paul Ryan a rising star. In national polls, his star power is right up there with Sarah Palin and Newt Gingrich. Paul Ryan is in tonight's "Rewrite.

And next, Whitey Bulger is wanted for 19 murders, but he wanted to kill a lot more people than that. One of them, Boston reporter Howie Carr, who has written two books about Bulger, the number one name on the FBI's most wanted list -- until yesterday when Bulger was captured steps away from my home.

This one's personal for me. No one knows more about Whitey Bulger than Howie Carr. Howie will join me for this uniquely Boston story.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

JACK NICHOLSON, ACTOR: You saw fit? When I tell you to dump a body in the marsh, you dump him in the marsh. Don't laugh! This ain't reality TV!

(END VIDEO CLIP)

O'DONNELL: "You dump him in the marsh." Imagine my shock when I woke up this morning to find that the FBI's most wanted man has been a neighbor of mine twice. In "the Departed," Jack Nicholson was playing a character based on the south Boston gangster James Whitey Bulger.

Whitey Bulger was wanted for 19 murders, having lived a life of crime, while his little brother, in an only in Boston twist, was working his way up to becoming the president of the Massachusetts Senate. The brothers Bulger were lucky enough to grow up in a neighborhood where having a killer in the family wouldn't really hurt you when you're running for state senate.

I grew up not far from that neighborhood, where only two of my friends had a murdering gangster in the family. And none of us held that against anyone else in the family. When I left my neighborhood and went to college about 10 miles away at the other end of my subway line, I never again met anyone who has a gangster in the family.

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Gangsters became the stuff of movies, where they are romanticized, but they could never be romanticized to me. The man on the run has always been an irresistible story for Hollywood. So if Martin Scorsese had never gotten around to some version of the Whitey Bulger story, someone else surely would have.

For 16 years, Whitey has been on the run. For 16 years, his politician brother has refused to answer any questions about his brother, the killer. Whitey Bulger went into hiding after a corrupt FBI agent named John Connelly, the inspiration for Matt Damon's character in "the Departed," tipped off Bulger that he was about to be indicted on racketeering charges.

Over the years, the FBI pumped the reward money offered for Whitey Bulger all the way up to two million dollars. And when Osama bin Laden was killed last month, the Boston boy was moved up to number one on the FBI's 10 Most Wanted List, until yesterday, when he was finally captured.

FBI agents say they were acting on a tip, phoned in to them Tuesday night, when they began staking out an apartment where they thought Bulger was hiding. Yesterday afternoon, the FBI used what they are calling a ruse to convince Bulger to come outside where he was placed under arrest without anyone firing a shot.

Whitey hasn't found where his -- Whitey wasn't found where his Boston accent would blend in. He was found 2,500 miles away from his old neighborhood, in my -- near my old neighborhood. Whitey Bulger, the most wanted man in Boston history, and the most hated gangster in Boston history, was found within walking distance of my home in Santa Monica, California.

It turns out I was living closer to Whitey during his fugitive years than I was when he was a free man in Boston. Whitey's been living there for exactly the same amount of time as I have, 15 years. I have driven by his apartment more times than I can ever count. I have walked past it.

And I may have seen this couple many times, and I never would have looked twice. I never would have realized I was looking at Whitey Bulger and his girlfriend, Catherine Grieg (ph). WCVB television in Boston obtained this photo taken after they were taken into custody.

Whitey is now 81. She is now 60 and faces charges of harboring a fugitive. KNBC found Jack Baker, originally from South Boston, who now lives in Santa Monica, who had this reaction to the arrest of Whitey Bulger.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

JACK BAKER, BULGER NEIGHBOR: It's absolutely amazing to me that he was living in Santa Monica, California, I mean, you know, two blocks from the Third Street Promenade. And selfishly, I have a new baby. I'm a little missed I didn't find him myself.

Obviously, now, you're just -- I walk my dog in this neighborhood. I'm starting to think, my God, I wonder if I ever passed him. I wonder if our dogs ever played together.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

O'DONNELL: Joining me now, Howie Carr, columnist for "the Boston Herald," and author of two books on Whitey Bulger, "the Brothers Bulger," and his latest, "Hitman."

Thank you for joining me tonight, Howie.

HOWIE CARR, AUTHOR: Thanks for having me, Lawrence.

O'DONNELL: Howie, the FBI said that they felt -- they put out this ad campaign recently. They started doing ads in a few television markets around the country, especially targeting women's programming, putting up pictures of Whitey. But also, most importantly, pictures of the girlfriend, trying, in effect, to say to women, if you have seen either one of these people, especially if you've seen this girlfriend, please let us know.

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The FBI today is claiming that that is exactly how they found him. They are claiming that the tip they got was a result of this ad campaign. What do you think?

CARR: You know, there's a lot of suspicion in Boston that this was a setup job. You know, back in the 1950s and '60s, when J. Edgar Hoover was making the FBI the respected organization it used to be, oftentimes they would find a fugitive and basically have his house surrounded, and then put out a press release saying he was on the top 10 most wanted list.

And 10 minutes later, he'd be arrested. And everyone would say, gee, what a great job the FBI did. This sort of has faint echoes of that old-time FBI operation, doesn't it?

O'DONNELL: It does. How are your listeners reacting to this? You know, the Boston listeners, your show and just Boston people in general, they don't take stories like this at face value. They don't take the idea that Whitey has been hiding for 16 years, rumored to be in Europe, rumored to be all over the world, in all sorts of different strange places, and here he is found, you know -- I don't know -- about seven miles from the nearest federal building where the FBI has offices.

I suspect that there's a lot of suspicion in your radio audience today about how this happened.

CARR: Yeah. Our poll question today was, do you think the FBI knew where he was before they put the public service announcements on the air? And they came back 82 percent did think they knew where he was.

I mean, the ads were running in California on San Francisco and San Diego markets, but they weren't running in L.A. So, I mean, who saw this?

And you just showed the picture of Whitey and Catherine Grieg. They don't look like the pictures on the wanted poster. They look like Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus, you know? American gothic, missing the pitch fork.

O'DONNELL: And L.A. would be the most expensive TV market to put those ads in. So maybe they wanted to skip it. But that's what I love about the Boston audiences. The FBI can say whatever they want, and you guys are going to sit there and go, OK, prove it to me.

Howie, let's talk about why the FBI doesn't exactly have the highest level of credibility in Boston, starting with John Connelly.

CARR: Well, John Connelly was a neighbor of Whitey and Billy Bulger in South Boston. And he got on the FBI through U.S. House Speaker John McCormack back in the 1960s, who was also a close ally of the Bulgers. People don't remember John McCormack nowadays, but he was first in line for the presidency after JFK was shot.

And John Connelly was kind of a protege of Billy Bulger, the Senate president. And he always took care of Whitey. And he made him a top echelon informer. They were trying to make Whitey a top echelon informer, on direct orders of J. Edgar Hoover as early as 1970. And we think that that probably -- that request probably came from McCormack, to protect him by making him an informant.

So Connelly eventually just sort of became more and more enamored of my Irish, as he called the gang, and Whitey in particular. And he eventually pretty much joined the gang. And he tipped them off. And he received huge amounts of money from Whitey over the years. It's kind of like "Goodfellas," where Robert Deniro has to tell his gang after the Latanza (ph) robbery to stop spreading the money around.

John Connelly was spreading it around. And John Connelly, by the way, has since been convicted of racketeering, working on behalf of Whitey Bulger's mob. And this week, he's going to be transferred from Buckner, North Carolina, where he has been serving a federal prison sentence with Bernie Madoff, down to Florida, where he's been convicted of second degree murder.

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He is looking at 40 years in prison. And he's probably going to be the second Boston FBI agent to die in prison. **H. Paul Rico** (ph), another guy who knew Whitey very well, was arrested for a murder in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and died in a prison hospital about three or four years ago.

O'DONNELL: You know, Howie, as I said in the introduction, John Connelly was the idea for the Matt Damon character in "the Departed," And it's really very, very similar. Growing up in the neighborhood, the Whitey Bulger neighborhood, getting into the FBI. It reads like, you know, a very long plan, life plan to get this guy in there.

I got to tell you, I was in court. I saw John Connelly testify when he was considered an absolute straight FBI agent. And in the courtroom in Boston, in the federal courtroom, nobody could crack him. No one could come close to making him seem like anything but the most credible of FBI agents at the time.

And it was a shock not just to Boston but to the FBI institutionally to discover they had somebody this dirty. Do you think that had anything to do -- and I know in Boston there is this suspicion that the FBI wasn't looking for Whitey Bulger very hard, because they didn't want the John Connelly story coming back up.

CARR: Well, I think it was starting to percolate to the surface when Whitey left town. And, again, John Connelly wasn't the only corrupt agent in Boston. There was that guy who died in Tulsa, **H. Paul Rico**. There was another guy who testified he received 7,000 dollars from Whitey. Whitey, all together, gave quote, unquote, gratuities to at least 14 agents in the Boston office.

And he had a saying at Christmas, when he would be sitting in the back of his liquor store, putting all the cash in envelopes. He said Christmas is for cops and kids. And the FBI gave him good value in return. They took out first his allies in the non-mafia gang, the Winter Hill Game.

After they were eliminated in a race fixing case that -- where Whitey was just an unindicted co-conspirator, then they moved against the Mafia. And they listed Whitey as one of the informants on the wiretap. So, of course, that meant that they couldn't prosecute Whitey, no matter what evidence turned up when they were bugging the Italians in the North End.

They took very good care of Whitey Bulger.

O'DONNELL: Howie, I have one Whitey story that you haven't heard, because it comes from a friend of mine who went out on a date with Whitey in the 1960s. So we're talking, you know, four decades ago or more. She is still afraid of Whitey right now, tonight. Doesn't want me to tell this story.

Went out on a date with him. He pulled the car over at Tinnian (ph) beach, and he basically asked for sex. She immediately tried to get out of the car. He pulled a gun. She jumped out of the car and ran. That's the last time she ever saw Whitey Bulger. And she's lived a very happy life since then.

But she lives in fear of that story being told tonight, even with Whitey in custody, because this guy is not some romantic Bonnie and Clyde figure. This guy really is a sociopath who was extremely dangerous with every breath he took.

Just give us -- finish up for us, Howie, with who this guy really was, what kind of criminal this guy really is.

CARR: He killed 19 people. His partner in the mob was a guy named Steve Flemmy (ph). Steve Flemmy had problems with two girlfriends, both of them named Deborah. So Whitey strangled both of these girls with his bare hands and then chopped off their finger tips and pulled out all of their teeth, just so they couldn't be identified.

Catherine Grieg, the woman he was running around with for all these years in your home town, was -- she had two brothers -- she was married to a Boston firefighter named McGonnagal (ph). McGonnagal had two brothers who were in a rival faction in South Boston. Whitey killed both of her brothers in law.

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O'DONNELL: And it goes on from there. You've got to read Howie's books. Howie Carr, author of "the Brothers Bulger" and "The Hitman." Howie, thank you very much for joining us tonight. I know everybody's trying to get you on every show. I greatly appreciate you coming on.

Thank you, Howie.

CARR: Thank you, Lawrence. I appreciate it.

O'DONNELL: Coming up, with New York State Senate still one vote short of making same-sex marriage legal, President Obama goes to New York City to ask the gay community for campaign cash. We'll show you what kind of reception the president received.

And the rise and fall of Paul Ryan, from conservative hero to most unpopular elected Republican in America. That's in tonight's Rewrite.

O'DONNELL: Time for tonight's Rewrite. Since unveiling his plan to kill Medicare as we know it, Wisconsin Republican Congressman Paul Ryan has been portrayed by some as a strong, courageous Republican leader, a rising star in the party.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

KARL ROVE, FOX NEWS CONTRIBUTOR: Ryan is a meticulous, thoughtful, articulate, deeply informed and passionate advocate.

DICK CHENEY, FORMER VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: I worship the ground that Paul Ryan walks on. I think he is an enormously talented individual. I think he's trying to do the right thing.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: When the president says there's too many children up there, I think that for many of the American public, Paul Ryan looks like the adult, who actually had the courage to put forward a plan.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

O'DONNELL: In the "Weekly Standard" just last month, editor Bill Kristol called the idea of Ryan running for president "the Democrats' worst nightmare."

Really? The Democrats worst nightmare? If you're wondering what the polls say about that, a new survey from Bloomberg News found that just 34 percent of Americans think they would be better off under the Paul Ryan plan, while 57 percent said that things would be worse.

And the all-important independent voters, 58 percent think that the Ryan plan is a bad idea. As for Ryan himself, the survey found that he is the third most disliked Republican in America. The only two Republicans more disliked than Paul Ryan, Newt Gingrich and Sarah Palin, both of whom are far better known than Paul Ryan.

At Paul Ryan's much, much lower level of notoriety, it is much, much harder to get people to dislike you, because they have to know you first. But the Ryan plan has managed to turn that trick for Paul Ryan. Palin and Gingrich aside, it's hard to imagine a Republican who can tie a necktie who would be beaten more badly by President Obama in a presidential campaign than Paul Ryan.

So political reality demands that Bill Kristol's headline be rewritten to "Paul Ryan: the Republicans' Worst Nightmare."

O'DONNELL: Tonight in New York, President Obama became the first sitting U.S. president to attend a campaign fundraiser with the LGBT community. No surprise that George W. Bush never did that, but Bill Clinton never did it either in his eight years in the White House. Outside the event, some protested against the president for not endorsing same-sex marriage.

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The long planned Obama campaign event coincidentally took place as the New York State senate stands within one vote of passing legislation that would make New York the sixth and largest state to legalize marriage equality. The president addressed that vote tonight.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

OBAMA: New York is doing exactly what democracies are supposed to do. There's a debate. There's deliberation about what it means here in New York to treat people fairly in the eyes of the law. And that is -- look, that's the power of our democratic system.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

O'DONNELL: Joining me now, Evan Wolfson, who is the president of Freedom to Marry, a national campaign to end marriage discrimination. Thanks for joining me tonight, Evan.

EVAN WOLFSON, FREEDOM TO MARRY: Good to be with you, Lawrence.

O'DONNELL: Evan, yours is a nonpartisan organization. You watched the president's speech tonight. What did you think of what he had to say?

WOLFSON: I think the president had a lot of important and good things to say, and he has a lot of important and good achievements to point to. But it's really what he didn't say tonight that left a gap, and left people -- many people still unsatisfied.

The president did not come out forthrightly in support of the freedom to marry, even though he has many steps to point to that he has taken that have helped solidify and build support for the freedom to marry. And it's really time for the president to join the majority of Americans who now support the freedom to marry.

O'DONNELL: President Obama seems to be getting more stress in this area than President Clinton ever did. And yet President Clinton is who enacted Don't Ask, Don't Tell. President Obama is the president who is getting rid of it. He's not -- the Defense of Marriage Act President Clinton signed into law. President Obama is refusing to defend it on appeal in federal courts.

What is the disconnect -- the apparent disconnect here, between the support or the criticism also that President Obama is getting that it seems to me President Clinton never suffered?

WOLFSON: Well, I think, first of all, you're absolutely right. This president, President Obama, has done many important things. Moving to end military discrimination is a giant step for our country, and a matter of fairness for men and women serving our nation.

And the president and the attorney general's decision and declaration that the so-called Defense of Marriage Act is unconstitutional and therefore is indefensible by the U.S. government was a very important, historic step. And he is rightly celebrated for that.

But at the same time, when President Clinton signed into law the so-called Defense of Marriage Act, and when the military discrimination was enacted by Congress in the '90s, the country was in a very, very different place than it is today. And President Obama has himself acknowledged that.

The country, like the president, has been on a journey in which people have talked about why marriage matters. People have seen loving and committed couples who seek to participate in the freedom to marry. And we now have five states and the District of Columbia, with New York potentially about to add to that number, and in fact doubling the number of Americans where -- who live in a state where gay people share in the freedom to marry.

If New York passes this bill, it will be going from 16 million to 35 million. So the country today is just not in the same place. We now have a majority in favor of the freedom to marry. And people look to this president to show the leadership, to stand up for the justice and inclusion that many people actually really believe he does indeed support.

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O`DONNELL: Evan Wolfson, president of Freedom to Marry, thank you very much for joining us tonight.

WOLFSON: Thank you.

O`DONNELL: You can have THE LAST WORD online at our blog, [TheLastWord.MSNBC.com](http://TheLastWord.MSNBC.com). You can follow my tweets @Lawrence.

**Load-Date:** June 24, 2011

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Wanted poster lays bare some interesting details



## [Wanted poster lays bare some interesting details](#)

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### **Body**

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In Tulsa, the unkindest cut of all was not the long-awaited indictment for the murder of World Jai Alai exec Roger Wheeler. Nor was it all the paperwork being processed for the death penalty.

No, if you're James J. "Whitey" Bulger, and all you got left besides the cash, the girl and a few hair pieces is a little fugitive mystique, the unkindest cut of all had to be the WANTED poster the Tulsa police hung on you yesterday.

After the incidentals of height and weight comes the following: "Subject is said to have extreme bad breath." (Nice detail.) "Subject is traveling with female companion, but may be found in homosexual communities, resorts or nudist facilities."

Gee whiz, that's a far cry from all the places where the sons of J. Edgar Hoover want us to look.

Compared to Tulsa, the feds' WANTED poster could've been written by John Connolly himself. We're supposed to look for Whitey in the libraries, or maybe on some historic battlefield, because he was a gangster with this voracious love of history, don't ya know. The FBI tells us we might see him strolling by the water's edge, or in the vicinity of an animal shelter, because he and Katherine Greig have this thing for dogs.

The feds were kind to Whitey, tender with his legend. What they've used to decorate Post Office walls doesn't say a thing about Whitey taking refuge in a neighborhood of naked flesh, or in the company of younger guys with younger muscles.

"Now, if he would like to dispute any of that," said Sgt. Mike Huff, a Tulsa homicide detective, "well, Mr. Bulger can just give me a holler. And I'll be glad to hear what he's got to say. All this stuff about the guy being Robin Hood. What he is is a degenerate, that's all."

Mike Huff may have absolutely no respect for The White Man, but don't think he isn't obsessed with finding him, or bringing him back to Tulsa to face what he euphemistically calls "the death chamber."



## Wanted poster lays bare some interesting details

He has been working this case long enough to remember his blood running cold as he looked John Connolly in the face and asked questions about the slaughter of Brian Halloran. Whitey was still very much in the loving embrace of "The Bureau."

Huff has also lived long enough to know that yesterday's murder indictments against Bulger and Stevie Flemmi don't bring the kind of closure either he or Wheeler's son, David, have been hoping for.

The assassination of Roger Wheeler will truly be closed when his former World Jai Alai vice president and ex-G-Man, **H. Paul Rico**, also answers for his alleged role. Rico, of course, was the fed who introduced Stevie Flemmi to the fruits of the informant life. Rico is the man who begat Whitey's favorite Special Agent, John Connolly.

**H. Paul Rico**, as Wheeler's son, David, once said, "just may be the closest thing to the devil I've ever seen." For the record, all the Tulsa cops and D.A. will say is, "the investigation is ongoing." Off the record, they seethe about being "bleeping pissed off."

But let's return to that WANTED poster, shall we? It is definitely not a joke. Before it was placed on the Tulsa police Web site, it had to be cleared by the chief of the department.

Needless to say, it was also run past other seasoned Whitey hunters in law enforcement and, to quote one Tulsa source, "they confirmed everything we put in it."

From the depths of his exhaustion yesterday, David Wheeler, who spent most of his adult life haunting his father's killers, could only laugh out loud when told about the Tulsa WANTED poster.

"I don't even know what the hell to say about that. This case has taken so many weird twists and turns that I suppose it's indicative of just where we are now."

And probably where Whitey is.

True, it may play to The White Man's kinky and degenerate side. But then, as most people on the street well know, he sure as hell had one. How many young, muscled boys went off to jail believing the White Man was the closest thing they had to a father?

Then again, as kinky as the Tulsa WANTED poster may be, it does show a flash of The White Man's cunning. Where better to hide out than a place where everyone is naked under the sun?

Photo Caption: VICTIM: Long-awaited indictment for Roger Wheeler's murder came yesterday.

**Load-Date:** March 15, 2001



## *Wheeler family praises Rico arrest*

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### **Body**

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A police detective gathers evidence from the car in which Tulsan Roger Wheeler was killed May 27, 1981. Tulsa World file

Relatives of slain Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler hailed the arrest of a former FBI agent in Wheeler's death and said Thursday they were "gratified . . . that law enforcement has not lost sight of this great crime."

Authorities in Florida arrested **H. Paul Rico** on a homicide warrant from Tulsa County on Thursday. His lawyer said he had been charged in Wheeler's death.

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

Investigators believe the slaying was linked to Wheeler's purchase of Florida-based World Jai Alai, a sport in which betting is involved.

Larry Wheeler, Roger Wheeler's son, said Rico's arrest isn't the final piece of the puzzle "but it's certainly a good part of it."

"I want the parties who are responsible held accountable. I think it's inaction that has put us in the position we are in now."

A statement by the Wheeler family was released by Frank Libby Jr., who represented them in a civil suit alleging government involvement in Wheeler's death. The statement was attributed to Patricia Wheeler, Roger Wheeler's widow; Pamela Norberg, his daughter; and sons David, Larry and Mark Wheeler.

"This development naturally calls to mind painful memories of a great family tragedy, many years ago, a loss the family suffers to this day," the statement says.

"The Wheelers are gratified, however, to learn that law enforcement has not lost sight of this great crime over the past two decades; that it will pursue the evidence, wherever it leads, and that it will see that justice is done, so that all of those responsible for Mr. Wheeler's murder are called to answer for their crimes."

## Wheeler family praises Rico arrest

Last year, the family brought additional wrongful death claims against Rico in U.S. District Court in Boston "for his role in the conspiracy and the murder itself," the statement says.

The statement says that John Martorano, who confessed to being the gunman in Wheeler's death, has testified that Rico provided a written description of Wheeler, as well as addresses of his home and business. Rico also asked Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi to "enlist Martorano -- a known 'hit man' -- in the plan to murder Wheeler," according to Martorano's testimony.

Ziva Branstetter 581-8378 [ziva.branstetter@tulsaworld.com](mailto:ziva.branstetter@tulsaworld.com)

**TIMELINE** 1975: Boston FBI Special Agent **H. Paul Rico** leaves his job to become chief of security for World Jai Alai. He is hired by then-CEO John B. Callahan.

1978: Tulsan Roger Wheeler purchases World Jai Alai and expresses concerns about Rico's association with "underworld characters," police reports said.

May 27, 1981: Wheeler is shot in the head as he sits in his Cadillac at Southern Hills Country Club. Police suspect the killing was ordered by Boston-area "Winter Hill" gangsters and 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.

July 1982: John B. Callahan is shot and killed in Florida. His body is later found in the trunk of his car at a Florida airport. Prosecutors say Callahan would have faced charges eventually in Wheeler's death.

September 1999: John V. Martorano agrees to plead guilty to the Wheeler murder, a Florida murder and 10 previously unsolved murders. In exchange, he receives multiple concurrent terms in three jurisdictions that would not exceed a 15-year prison sentence.

September 1999: In a 661-page ruling, a federal judge in Boston says 18 FBI agents and supervisors either broke the law or violated FBI regulations and Justice Department guidelines in their handling of two notorious informants, James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi. That ruling, which came amid pretrial motions on behalf of gangsters in a racketeering case, eventually led to changes in the FBI's guidelines on handling confidential informants.

September 2000: A federal indictment is unsealed in Boston that implicates reputed mob leaders Bulger and Flemmi 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.

December 2000: Tulsa Police Sgt. Mike Huff submits an affidavit in Tulsa County District Court seeking charges against "all involved parties" in the Wheeler slaying. Police later confirm that Rico, Bulger, Flemmi and John V. Martorano were named as suspects in the affidavit.

March 2001: Tulsa County District Attorney Tim Harris files a first-degree murder charge against Bulger, Flemmi, and Martorano. Harris did not file charges against Rico, to the disappointment of Wheeler's family and police.

May 3, 2001: Martorano pleads guilty in Tulsa County District Court to second-degree murder in Wheeler's death and is sentenced to 15 years in prison, to run concurrently with other sentences.

May 3, 2001: Rico testifies before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Government Reform during its probe into FBI misconduct in several murder cases, including Wheeler's slaying.

February 2002: When called before the House committee again, Rico invokes his Fifth Amendment Right against self-incrimination and refuses to testify.

Wheeler family praises Rico arrest

May 2002: During the trial for former FBI agent John J. Connolly Jr., confessed hit man John Martorano -- who pulled the trigger on Wheeler -- implicates Rico. Martorano claimed that Rico had furnished information about Wheeler's habits.

September 2002: Connolly is sentenced to 10 years in prison for protecting his top mob informants, including tipping them off to upcoming indictments. Connolly was the FBI's handler for Flemmi and Bulger. Rico had previously been Flemmi's handler.

May: Connolly is granted immunity from further prosecution in exchange for his testimony against other mob agents who had dealings with Bulger.

Thursday: Rico is arrested in Dade County, Fla., on a homicide warrant out of Tulsa County.

From staff and wire reports

**Load-Date:** October 11, 2003

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## *Wheeler murder suspect attacked*

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

December 11, 2003 Thursday Final Home Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Tulsa; Crime; Pg. A15

**Length:** 377 words

**Byline:** NICOLE MARSHALL World Staff Writer

### **Body**

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The extradition of *H. Paul Rico*, a former FBI agent, will be delayed after the jail assault.

The extradition of a former FBI agent charged in a 1981 Tulsa murder has been delayed after he was reportedly assaulted in the Miami-Dade County Jail.

Officials said last week that *H. Paul Rico*, 78, was destined to travel from Florida to Oklahoma this month to face prosecution in the mob-related murder of Roger Wheeler, a Tulsa businessman.

Tulsa County Chief Deputy George Haralson said deputies had hoped to arrange for U.S. marshals to bring Rico back this week, but those plans changed after they learned he was reportedly injured.

"While incarcerated in a jail facility it was reported he was assaulted by one or more inmates and required medical attention," Haralson said. "At this point in time, we are not sure what his medical status is, and therefore his return trip to Tulsa has been delayed."

Rico, a Florida resident, has been in the Miami-Dade County Jail since his Oct. 9 arrest. He appeared in court in Florida by a video teleconference last week but did not say anything.

His defense attorney, Garvin Isaacs, said earlier that Rico, who has heart problems, had improved enough to travel to Tulsa, where he was charged in October with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder. Isaacs has also said that Rico is innocent and will plead not guilty.

Haralson said authorities did not know when Rico will be extradited.

"One requirement to bring someone back by airplane is that he is medically cleared by the jail facility he is incarcerated in," Haralson said. "We have no idea of the extent of injuries at this point, so we are literally waiting on word of medical status."

Wheeler, who was the chairman of the Tulsa-based Telex Corp., was shot in the head May 27, 1981, after a round of golf at Southern Hills Country Club. Rico, a Boston-based agent who retired from the FBI in 1975, was the security chief for World Jai Alai, which Wheeler had bought.

## Wheeler murder suspect attacked

Investigators say Wheeler suspected that money was being skimmed from World Jai Alai -- which had operations in Florida -- by Boston's Winter Hill gang, an Irish mob that fed information to FBI agents on a rival criminal group, the Mafia.

Nicole Marshall 581-8459 [nicole.marshall@tulsaworld.com](mailto:nicole.marshall@tulsaworld.com)

**Load-Date:** December 12, 2003

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End of Document



## *Young Whitey a Hub hustler*

The Boston Herald

February 21, 2006 Tuesday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 004

**Length:** 1165 words

**Byline:** By Howie Carr

### **Body**

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Sunday and yesterday's installments from Herald columnist Howie Carr's blockbuster book, "The Brothers Bulger" (Warner Books, \$25.95), described Whitey's first 22 months as a fugitive from justice.

Today's installment flashes back to Whitey and Billy's teen years in South Boston, and reveals new details about Whitey's early life of crime, including how he learned to pick up and roll male tricks in Bay Village.

The Third of three parts

Even as a youth, Whitey was always in trouble. The first notation on his police record comes in 1943, at age thirteen, for larceny. Quickly he advanced to assault and battery and then robbery, but was never packed off to reform school.

In those days, if the cops "liked" you for a crime but couldn't prove it, they might just give you a beating at the station house. The Boston cops "liked" Whitey a lot in those days.

"He was just a bad kid, always spoiling for trouble," said one retired cop. . . .

In his book (William Bulger's autobiography, "While the Music Lasts: My Life in Politics"), Billy paints a fanciful picture of Whitey's youthful escapades that reads like something out of a novel, a movie, or both.

(Whitey) supposedly dated a stripper he met at the old Howard burlesque house in Scollay Square. She later wrote letters to Whitey after her return to Chicago. She signed them Tiger Lil.

Or so Billy wrote.

'The bus'll kill him.'

Billy may have been the more studious of the brothers, but he couldn't always avoid getting involved with Whitey. Will McDonough, the late Boston Globe sportswriter who was Billy's lifelong friend, used to tell the story of the day he and Billy were walking home from the beach.

## Young Whitey a Hub hustler

They were about thirteen. Suddenly, Whitey pulled over to the curb. He was driving a Cadillac convertible neither McDonough nor Billy had ever seen before. He was bare-chested and wearing a fedora, and he told the two younger boys to get in the car. They climbed in and Whitey took off toward Broadway.

As they drove along, Billy spotted another kid his age pedaling one of those old bicycles with an ice-cream chest attached to the handle bars. His name was O'Hara, and he was trying to make a few extra dollars for the summer.

"I never liked that kid," Billy said, and Whitey just nodded.

He slowed down the Cadillac and pulled behind O'Hara. Then he tapped the back of the bike with the front fender. O'Hara, alarmed, turned around long enough to see who was behind him, and when he saw the Bulgars, he took off as quickly as he could, toward Broadway. Whitey inched up behind him again and tapped the bike. O'Hara sped up even more, and so did Whitey.

"Jimmy," said Billy, "I just said I didn't like him. I didn't say kill him."

Whitey looked over and smiled at his younger brother as O'Hara sped through a stoplight, not even paying attention to the oncoming traffic as he tried to flee.

"We're not going to kill him," Whitey said. "When he gets to Broadway and barrels out into the street, the bus'll kill him."

Even in his youthful pranks, Whitey preferred someone else to do his dirty work for him.

## Prowling for tricks

Other parts of Whitey's youth are mentioned less frequently. He was a handsome boy, blond, and as a teenager he found himself hanging around the Third Street Cafe, a real shabean - the Gaelic word for a bar of low repute. . . . Even in the immediate postwar era, Boston had a flourishing homosexual scene.

The size of the homosexual community in those days is suggested by the police manpower devoted not so much to the enforcement of the anti-sodomy laws, but to the shakedowns of those who broke the unenforceable three-hundred-year-old statutes.

According to the book "Improper Bostonians" compiled by the History Project, at the time Whitey began turning homosexual tricks in the late 1940s, one of the most lucrative police assignments in Boston was to the Rest Room Squad, which patrolled the bathrooms that were still open in many of the MTA subway stations.

The homosexuals would be given a choice: Pay off or be arrested. In the bars of Bay Village, which on certain nights of the week catered to lesbians, the cops took out their shakedowns in trade. Many of the lesbians were blue bloods from Beacon Hill. The prospect of public scandal terrified them enough to accept the cops' smirking offer of a trip out to the prowl car for (oral sex) rather than an arrest . . .

According to survivors of the era, Whitey worked out of a couple of gay bars on Stuart Street, primarily a joint called Mario's, which was also known as the Sail Aweigh. As a young male hustler, he quickly became adept at rolling his tricks - his police record indicates an arrest for "unarmed robbery" on March 18, 1947.

Another of his favorite pickup spots was the Punch Bowl, which was frequently raided by the Vice Squad. According to one patron quoted in "Improper Bostonians", the bartender would flash the "emergency lights" to warn everyone that the police had arrived.

"You had to stop dancing with your boyfriend," he recalled, "since it was illegal back then. You could dance with a lesbian or you could sit down."



## Young Whitey a Hub hustler

Whitey may have been hustling to raise some spending money, but he was never exclusively homosexual. On January 6, 1948, he was arrested by Boston police and charged with assault with intent to rape. The charge was later reduced to assault and battery, and Whitey eventually pleaded guilty to simple assault and paid a fine.

(Whitey joins the Air Force in 1948, but proves to be spectacularly unfit for military life. After getting into a few legal scrapes - including another arrest for suspected rape, reduced to assault - he musters out in August 1952 and returns to South Boston.)

`Impish mischief'

Back in Boston, Whitey . . . was soon again turning occasional tricks in Bay Village, and that was where he met a twenty-six-year-old FBI agent named **H. Paul Rico**.

Rico, a Belmont native and Boston College graduate, had joined the bureau in 1951, and could justify his sojourns to the Bay Village clubs as reaching out to new ``sources."

But Whitey was now less interested in rolling gays than he was in the big money, and he was soon an apprentice wise guy, a hoodlum wannabe. After Whitey's conviction on bank robbery charges in February 1956, **H. Paul Rico** wrote in his pre-sentencing report to the judge that the Boston office of the FBI had long followed Bulger ``because of his suspected implication in tailgate thefts (dumping goods from the backs of trucks). We knew of his extremely dangerous character, his remarkable agility, his reckless daring in driving vehicles, and his unstable, vicious characteristics."

Or, as Billy put it in his book, ``He had an abundance of good humor and a wildly creative talent for impish behavior."

- Excerpted from the upcoming book, ``The Brothers Bulger: How They Terrorized and Corrupted Boston for a Quarter Century," by Howie Carr, available in book stores Feb. 23, 2006. Copyright 2006 by Howie Carr. Printed with permission from Warner Books.

**Load-Date:** February 21, 2006

PREPARED TESTIMONY OF CHAIRMAN DAN BURTON BEFORE THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT REFORM  
COMMITTEE NATIONAL SECURITY, VETERAN'S AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
SUBCOMMI....



**PREPARED TESTIMONY OF CHAIRMAN DAN BURTON**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT REFORM COMMITTEE NATIONAL  
SECURITY, VETERAN'S AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEE**

**SUBJECT - THE FBI'S CONTROVERSIAL HANDLING OF ORGANIZED CRIME  
INVESTIGATIONS IN BOSTON.**

Federal News Service

May 3, 2001, Thursday

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**Section:** PREPARED TESTIMONY; Washington-dateline general news.

**Length:** 1314 words

**Body**

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Good Morning. Today's hearing is going to focus on an injustice done by the FBI that went on for nearly thirty years. We're going to hear about a terrible wrong that was done to one man and his family. As terrible as this story is, it's only one small part of a much larger picture.

I've always supported Federal law enforcement. I've been a strong supporter of the FBI. Over the years, I've worked with Director Freeh on a number of issues. I think he's done a terrific job, and I'm sorry to see him leaving this summer. I think that, on the whole, the FBI has done great work protecting the people of this country.

But we are a nation of laws and not of men. In this country, no one is above the law. If a Federal law enforcement agency does something wrong, they have to be held accountable. That's why we held hearings on the DEA last December. I have a lot of respect for the men and women of the DEA. They have a tough job, and they do it well. But there was a very important drug investigation in Houston. It was shut down because political pressure was brought to bear. And then the head of the Houston office came up here and misled the Congress about it. That can't be tolerated.

And what the FBI did in Boston can't be tolerated.

We're going to hear today from Joseph Salvati. Joe Salvati spent 30 years in prison for a murder he didn't commit. It was a death penalty crime. He went to prison in 1968. He had a wife and four children. His oldest child at the time was 14. His youngest was 6. He wasn't released from prison until 1997.

PREPARED TESTIMONY OF CHAIRMAN DAN BURTON BEFORE THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT REFORM  
COMMITTEE NATIONAL SECURITY, VETERAN'S AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
SUBCOMMI....

The reason Joe Salvati went to jail was because an FBI informant lied about him -- which is terrible.

But the reason that he stayed in jail was because FBI agents knew that their informant lied and they covered it up -- and that's worse. Documents we've received show that this case was being followed at the highest levels of the FBI in Washington. J. Edgar Hoover was kept informed on a regular basis. It's hard to believe he didn't know about this terrible injustice.

The informant who put Joe Salvati in prison was Joseph "The Animal" Barboza. He was a contract killer in Boston. He was also a prized FBI informant. He was considered so valuable that they created the Witness Protection Program to protect him.

Most of the evidence now indicates that Joseph Barboza and his associates planned and executed the murder. Barboza pointed the finger at Joe Salvati because Salvati owed him four hundred dollars. Because of four hundred dollars, Joe Salvati spent 30 years in prison.

Joe Salvati and his wife Marie are going to testify today. I want to express to both of you how deeply sorry we are for everything that was taken away from you and your family. And I want to thank you for being here today.

Joseph Barboza was a criminal. You'd expect him to lie. But the FBI is another story. They're supposed to stand for the truth. The FBI had a lot of evidence that Joe Salvati didn't commit that crime, and they covered it up.

Prior to the murder, the FBI was told by informants that Joseph Barboza and his friend Vincent Flemmi were planning to commit the murder of Teddy Deegan. Two days before Deegan was murdered, J. Edgar Hoover got a memo that Vincent Flemmi, one of the FBI's own informants, was going to kill Deegan. The author of the memo was **H. Paul Rico**, who will testify later today. After the murder, the FBI was told by informants that Barboza and Flemmi had committed the crime. J. Edgar Hoover was told that Barboza and Flemmi had committed the crime.

FBI memos spell all of this out. The FBI was compelled to make these documents public just in the last few months.

They had all of this information that Joe Salvati was innocent, but they let Joseph "The Animal" Barboza testify anyway and put him away for life.

But that wasn't the end of it. In the 1970s, Barboza tried to recant his testimony. The FBI pressured him not to do it. Mr. Barboza's lawyer was F. Lee Bailey. Mr. Bailey is going to testify today about what happened.

Mr. Bailey told the Massachusetts Attorney General's office that his client had lied and the wrong man was in prison. He was ignored. Mr. Bailey asked Joe Barboza to take a lie detector test to make sure he was telling the truth this time. Barboza was in prison at the time on a separate offense. When the FBI got wind of this, they went to the prison and told Barboza not to take the polygraph and to fire his lawyer, or he'd spend the rest of his life in jail.

I think that's just criminal. Not only did the FBI conceal the evidence they had that Joe Salvati was innocent, they went out and actively suppressed other evidence.

To say that what they did was unseemly would be an understatement. It was rotten to the core.

And this is just one small part of the story. Joe "The Animal" Barboza wasn't the only mob informant the FBI cultivated in Boston. There was James "Whitey" Bulger. There was Steve "The Rifleman" Flemmi. There were others.

While they worked with the FBI, they went on a crime spree that lasted for decades. There were dozens of murders. There were predatory sexual crimes. They committed all of these crimes with virtual impunity because they were under the protection of the FBI. When informants emerged that tied these men to crimes, they got tips from the FBI, and the informants were murdered.

PREPARED TESTIMONY OF CHAIRMAN DAN BURTON BEFORE THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT REFORM  
COMMITTEE NATIONAL SECURITY, VETERAN'S AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
SUBCOMMI....

It was apparently a very cozy relationship. We understand that there were FBI agents who got cash from the mobsters. They got cases of wine, tickets for girlfriends, and other favors.

We'll get to these issues in later hearings.

Joseph Barboza committed a murder while he was in the witness protection program. Paul Rico, who will testify today, actually flew out to California to help Barboza's defense. So did a man who is now a Federal judge. I've issued subpoenas to two of the principle FBI agents who were involved with Joseph Barboza -- Paul Rico and Dennis Condon. Mr. Condon is not here today. I understand that he is in very poor health. But that doesn't excuse the things he's accused of doing, and we still have a lot of questions to ask him. I can assure everyone that, one way or another, we will be interviewing Mr. Condon.

Mr. Rico is here. I understand that there's a possibility he may take the Fifth because he's under criminal investigation. I hope that won't be the case. We have a lot of questions, and I think that Joe Salvati and the American people deserve some answers. Years ago, FBI agents would heap scorn when organized crime figures took the Fifth. I hope Mr. Rico does the right thing today and testifies.

One thing that really troubles me about our third panel comes from a document we just got. Paul Rico and Dennis Condon interviewed Joseph Barboza in 1967. Their report is Exhibit 24. Barboza told them that he "would never provide information that would allow James VincentFlemmi to 'fry' but that he will consider furnishing information on these murders."

Mr. Rico and Mr. Condon had lots of evidence that Flemmi was in on the Deegan murder. They knew that Barboza wouldn't incriminate Flemmi. Yet they stood by while Barboza protected his partner and put Joe Salvati in a death penalty crime. I don't know how they can sleep at night.

I think this whole episode is disgraceful. It's the greatest failure in the history of Federal law enforcement. If there's one institution that the American people need to have confidence in, it's the FBI. I think that 99% of the time, the men and women of the FBI are honest and courageous. I don't want to tar the entire organization with the misdeeds of a few. But if we're going to have confidence in our government, we can't cover up corruption when we find it. It needs to have a full public airing. That's what we're going to try to do today.

I want to thank all of our witnesses for being here, and I yield to Mr. Waxman for his opening statement.

END

**Load-Date:** May 8, 2001

TESTIMONY THE FBI'S CONTROVERSIAL HANDLING OF ORGANIZED CRIME INVESTIGATIONS IN  
BOSTON: THE CASE OF JOSEPH SALVATI**TESTIMONY THE FBI'S CONTROVERSIAL HANDLING OF ORGANIZED  
CRIME INVESTIGATIONS IN BOSTON: THE CASE OF JOSEPH SALVATI**

Federal Document Clearing House Congressional Testimony

May 3, 2001, Thursday

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**Section:** CAPITOL HILL HEARING TESTIMONY**Length:** 2440 words**Byline:** HOUSE GOVERNMENT REFORM

DAN BURTON , CONGRESSMAN

**Body**

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Opening Statement Chairman Dan Burton Committee on Government Reform "The FBI's Controversial Handling of Organized Crime Investigations in Boston: The Case of Joseph Salvati" May 3, 2001 Good Morning. Today's hearing is going to focus on an injustice done by the FBI that went on for nearly thirty years. We're going to hear about a terrible wrong that was done to one man and his family. As terrible as this story is, it's only one small part of a much larger picture. I've always supported Federal law enforcement. I've been a strong supporter of the FBI. Over the years, I've worked with Director Freeh on a number of issues. I think he's done a terrific job, and I'm sorry to see him leaving this summer. I think that, on the whole, the FBI has done great work protecting the people of this country. But we are a nation of laws and not of men. In this country, no one is above the law. If a Federal law enforcement agency does something wrong, they have to be held accountable. That's why we held hearings on the DEA last December. I have a lot of respect for the men and women of the DEA. They have a tough job, and they do it well. But there was a very important drug investigation in Houston. It was shut down because political pressure was brought to bear. And then the head of the Houston office came up here and misled the Congress about it. That can't be tolerated. And what the FBI did in Boston can't be tolerated. We're going to hear today from Joseph Salvati. Joe Salvati spent 30 years in prison for a murder he didn't commit. It was a death penalty crime. He went to prison in 1968. He had a wife and four children. His oldest child at the time was 14. His youngest was 6. He wasn't released from prison until 1997. The reason Joe Salvati went to jail was because an FBI informant lied about him -- which is terrible. But the reason that he stayed in jail was because FBI agents knew that their informant lied and they covered it up -- and that's worse. Documents we've received show that this case was being followed at the highest levels of the FBI in Washington. J. Edgar Hoover was kept informed on a regular basis. It's hard to believe he didn't know about this terrible injustice. The informant who put Joe Salvati in prison was Joseph "The Animal" Barboza. He was a contract killer in Boston. He was also a prized FBI informant. He was considered so valuable that they created the Witness Protection Program to protect him. Most of the evidence now indicates that Joseph Barboza and his associates planned and executed the murder. Barboza pointed the finger at Joe Salvati because Salvati owed him four hundred dollars. Because of four hundred dollars, Joe Salvati spent 30 years in prison. Joe Salvati and his wife Marie are going to testify today. I want to express to both of you how deeply sorry we are for

TESTIMONY THE FBI'S CONTROVERSIAL HANDLING OF ORGANIZED CRIME INVESTIGATIONS IN  
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**Load-Date:** May 10, 2001



## [Give Me Secrecy & Give Me Death: An Interview with Lincoln's Bible](#)

Newstex Blogs

Phil's Stock World

April 26, 2020 Sunday 5:45 PM EST

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**Length:** 5717 words

**Byline:** ilene

### Body

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Apr 26, 2020( Phil's Stock World: <http://www.philstockworld.com> Delivered by Newstex) Give Me Secrecy & Give Me Death: An Interview with Lincoln's Bible[1] Courtesy of Greg Olear[2], PREVAIL[3] Putin's POTUS is intentionally bungling the pandemic response. What price will the IC pay to preserve confidentiality?

[https://cdn.substack.com/image/fetch/c\\_limit,f\\_auto,g\\_auto:good/https%3A%2F%2Fbucketeer-e05bbc84-baa3-437e-9518-adb32be77984.s3.amazonaws.com%2Fpublic%2Fimages%2F7f977444-b860-4fee-b94c-03364162349f\\_1600x1201.jpeg](https://cdn.substack.com/image/fetch/c_limit,f_auto,g_auto:good/https%3A%2F%2Fbucketeer-e05bbc84-baa3-437e-9518-adb32be77984.s3.amazonaws.com%2Fpublic%2Fimages%2F7f977444-b860-4fee-b94c-03364162349f_1600x1201.jpeg) This is the third of a three-part series I've written in cooperation with the researcher

known as Lincoln's Bible. In the first,'Tinker, Tailor, Mobster, Trump',[4]we explored Donald John Trump's relationship to organized crime and his career as a Confidential Informant. The second,'From Trump to tRUmp',[5]discussed the transfer of ownership of Trump from the stateside mob to Vladimir Putin. What you are about to read is a Q&A, in which we focus on the questions unanswered by the first two pieces—and I mostly get out of the way and let her speak. Greg Olear: A lot of readers have asked some variation of this question, so let's start here: if the FBI and the CIA and the intelligence community (IC) in general knew about Trump's past as a Confidential Informant and Russian mob asset, why did they allow him to take office in the first place? Lincoln's Bible: This is just a huge question that requires a lot of clarification. So, first, let's make sure everyone knows who we are. Writers. Not spies. Not persons with a security clearance. Not professional analysts (at least, not in terms of being paid by an intelligence agency to be so). We're writers. As for me, I'm also a mother, wife, daughter, niece, sister, aunt, cousin. Somewhere in that relation mix, I have a connection to the 'intelligence community.' I put quotes there, because that can be a very loose term. In my case, the connection is a 35+ year career professional in one of what I call the 'big 3': FBI, NSA, CIA. So, what does that mean—in terms of what I know, personally? Pretty much jack shit. However, I am a little more versed than your average citizen (and learning more every day), and I've had some pretty unique interactions, especially over the past four years. I have a flagpole to run things up, as it were. And when I do, in reply, I often getjack shit. GO: The first rule of Fight Club is don't talk about Fight Club. LB: Ha! Yes, I suppose so. No matter how hard one tries. Here's how it works with family: poker faces and distraction. For decades, when I'd try and prod for answers, oranyreaction, on an international issue or domestic scandal (writers are annoyingly curious), I'd somehow end up on an errand to the grocery store, or playing Pictionary—only to realize days later that I never got an answer to my question or theory. So, after all those years, when I suddenly get an eyebrow raise to,'He's a career money-launderer for organized crime. From the Genovese to the Russian mob'—that's a big fucking deal. You can raise your own eyebrow at that statement, but itisa big deal. It just is. And

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I'll go as far to say that I've not only received raised eyebrows, but some concentrated silence, several laughs, the oh-so-rare 'Interesting,' and with the money-laundering research (including Firtash, Epstein, and Mogilevich), a solid run of 'That's good. What else do you have?' All of the above is a long way of saying that there's no way I can speak for the intelligence community, nor would I. But here's the point: I don't need to. When you boil it all down, they answer to me. And you. WE are the republic, for which it stands. Remember? GO: The Trumpists are trying so hard to make us forget. LB: Put a pin in that. We'll come back to it. Moving on to how things work When it comes to knowledge about donald, the intelligence community as a whole—and the Department of Justice—does not all have the same level of information about his career as a money-launderer for organized crime, or how that career served him up as property to certain foreign intelligence services. These are big, big agencies with many moving parts. GO: They are not monoliths, in other words. They are complex organisms. LB: The idea that the bureaucracies of our intelligence community work like a spy novel is horseshit. It's mostly nerds at desks. And although intel and Justice nerds are far superior to mobsters, they're horrendously compartmentalized. Please get this, readers. See them in your mind's eye. It will help pierce the Jack Bauer fantasy that Greg wrote about earlier[6]. GO: I know, you didn't like my 24 piece. You were concerned that it made the whole thing seem unbelievable. But back to the IC and DOJ who did know about Trump's activities? LB: Handfuls of select individuals, across specific agencies, over several decades. Let's game them out. First, who would know at the Department of Justice/ FBI? A: Anyone who used donald as a Confidential Informant. [Note: Not a typo. LB never capitalizes Trump's first name]. This would include those who had an investigation/case that overlapped with prior information that donald provided and were made privy to his name as a CI (which may or may not be necessary). Here, it's important to remind everyone how donald became a CI—because his propaganda trolls have already tried to spin it as his altruism for the rule of law. donald is a filthy criminal, just like his father. And it isn't just tax laws he breaks. As early as the 1980s, donald faced indictments for laundering blood money from organized crime syndicates through his development projects and casinos (at the very least). This is a well-reported and exhaustively sourced statement of fact. And there were RICO and organized crime investigations around his business partners—on his projects—in the late 70s. As Greg stated in a prior article[7], there is no universe in which donald was not used as a CI in these investigations. To think otherwise, you would have to believe the FBI Organized Crime/Criminal Investigative Division to be a bungling gaggle of nincompoops. GO: Voiceover: The FBI Organized Crime/Criminal Investigative Division is not a bungling gaggle of nincompoops. LB: So, to get out of the indictment noose, donald ratted on the mobsters who owned him. The evidence of this is that he was never indicted (or, an indictment against him was never unsealed). Considering the largess of the known organized crime bosses that donald worked with/for—Roy Cohn, Tony Salerno, John Cody and Paul Castellano, Nicky Scarfo, Vyacheslav Ivankov, Mogilevich—it's safe to assume that donald was a top echelon informant. So, back to your question: Why did they [DOJ/FBI] allow him to become President? 'Allow' is a tricky word. If they 'allowed' him to become President, that implies that they could have stopped him. Since I don't believe any retired or active individual at the DOJ/FBI can stop a Presidential election, I assume that the plethora of folks who ask Greg and me this question (non-stop, BTW) mean, 'Why didn't the DOJ/FBI expose who and what donald really is to the American public before the election?' Or maybe, 'Why didn't they tell donald that if he ran, they would expose him?' In short, what stopped them from stopping him? Well, what are the rules that these individuals must follow, when it comes to: 1) having knowledge of prior DOJ/FBI investigations into donald's crimes; and 2) having damning evidence around his associations with bigger criminals? Answer: SECRECY. That's it, basically. For individuals to have that knowledge, it means they have to keep their mouths shut. Or they wouldn't have the knowledge in the first place. SECRECY. GO: To be fair, there are good reasons to maintain secrecy. Protection of sources and methods, to put it as blandly as possible. Even if your IC relation had blinked three times at one of your theories, there might have been unintended consequences. Once a secret is told, it can't be untold. LB: Yes, sources and methods and other things we have IC jargon for, which brought us to this moment of peril. We'll get to the natural arc of secrecy in a minute. First, there's another, very-uncomfortable-to-talk-about-without-sounding-villainous reason that the Justice Department keeps TE CIs like donald a secret. Culpability. The subject of culpability gets Justice and IC people either super defensive or dismissive. But, at this point, I'd argue they're only hurting themselves by failing to own it. When you get in bed with fucking mobsters and their fronts, your culpability in an informant's continued criminality is part of the game. (A discussion on whether it would be more effective to 'Moneyball' a crime syndicate—putting away all the easily-caught fishes, instead of spreading your legs with them to try and catch the high-ticket players—is for another time). Here's a decent write-up by Patrick Radden Keefe[8] on Whitey Bulger, underscoring the perils of culpability: For John Connolly, Bulger and Flemmi represented a lesser evil: the chief priority for the F.B.I. was to eradicate the Italian Mafia, and, Connolly claimed, his informants



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were indispensable in that effort. Years later, he described the bargain in terms of return on investment. 'We got forty-two stone criminals by giving up two stone criminals,' he says in the biography 'Whitey Bulger.' 'Show me a businessman who wouldn't do that.' But, as Connolly and his colleagues were dismantling La Cosa Nostra, Bulger and Flemmi were quietly consolidating control of Boston's criminal landscape. The F.B.I. never brought cases against them, and when other agencies, like the Massachusetts State Police, tried to target them, the gangsters always seemed to get tipped off. In one terrifying sequence of events that is depicted in the film 'Black Mass,' Bulger and his gang were dismayed when World Jai Alai, a sports betting operation, appointed a new C.E.O., Roger Wheeler. Several Bulger cronies were employed by World Jai Alai, and they regularly skimmed money from its huge gambling revenues. But Wheeler wanted to audit the books. In the film, when Whitey is told that Wheeler cannot be persuaded to sell the company, he announces his intentions with a question: 'Would his widow sell?' To execute Wheeler, Bulger dispatched a schlubby assassin named John Martorano. As Wheeler finished a round of golf at his country club, in Tulsa, Martorano approached his car and shot him in the face. The hit was coordinated with the assistance of World Jai Alai's head of security—H. Paul Rico, Barboza's former handler, who had retired from the F.B.I. so that he could devote more time to criminality. After the murder, a junior member of Bulger's gang, Brian Halloran, approached the F.B.I. in Boston and said that he had information about the execution of Roger Wheeler: it had been ordered by Whitey Bulger. The bureau responded by questioning Halloran's credibility. Fearing for his life, Halloran insisted that the authorities place him in witness protection. They refused. Instead, John Connolly informed Bulger that Halloran had betrayed him, and Bulger tracked Halloran down at a waterfront bar and shot him to death in the parking lot.

GO: The risks of disclosure are unfathomably high. It's much safer to keep it all hush-hush. LB: Up to a point. Then, it becomes navel gazing. SECRECY is not only part of the procedure for securing and running a CI, it's self-preservation. Especially when that CI is as dangerous a criminal as Bulger. Do you really believe the DOJ/FBI wanted it known that Bulger was 'our guy'? And when one considers that donald launders for Mogilevich, sheltered Ivankov, and mixed it up with Epsteindo you think the investigators and prosecutors who used him are itching to tell us that not only do they know what a filthy criminal donald is, but they used him because of his filth and let him keep laundering blood money on a global scale? Or that donald further exploited the fuck out of their rule of secrecy to promote a fake identity, become a reality TV star, and run for President? No wonder he believes he can get deals like no one else can! Telling the world that donald is 'our guy' is a mirror no one wants. Then, consider all the highly-weaponized disinformation spewing out of the rightwing propaganda outlets and operatives. If you were one of the few individuals at the DOJ/FBI with knowledge of who and what donald really is, would you have seen a way to expose him and still protect your institution and self? No. Clearly, if we want to believe in the good guys, that's the answer. It sucks. But we either believe there are good people in these positions of knowledge, or the whole thing is corrupt. I refuse to believe the latter. For the good guys, SECRECY was the only game to keep the machine working and have any hope of finding a way to 'stop him.' Enter: the Special Counsel investigation, led by 'Bobby Three Sticks'—a former DOJ prosecutor and FBI Director who once hunted Mogilevich and the operatives in his global crime empire. GO: The 'three sticks' being the 'III' at the end of his full name: Robert Swan Mueller III. Bobby Three Sticks is such a mob name, it just occurs to me. Wonderfully ironic. LB: I wish I could claim credit for it. Remember the expressed elation of Comey and other former officials when Mueller was appointed? Remember ours—folks who also knew who and what donald is? And despite what the people who couldn't be bothered to read the SC report would have you believe, the report delivers the goods. Even the redacted version. And the unredacted report WILL happen. GO: I remember reading the Mueller Report, and my first thought was, 'Well, he can't run again. This is damning.' Shows how much I know. LB: No. You, like me, just miscalculated the ruthless effectiveness of the bad guys. They're pretty good at being bad guys. The investigation into the crimes of the campaign, which in fact uncovered crimes by the campaign and donald himself, was more than enough to 'stop him'. Enter: BILL fucking BARR. GO: The most dangerous man in Americ[9]a. LB: You didn't think that the global criminals behind donald were just gonna sit on their hands and let him be exposed—thereby exposing them—did you? It's clear to every former prosecutor that Barr is enabling donald's flagrant abuses of power and war against the rule of law. Stop and think about that. The Attorney General is enabling a corrupt President to wage war against the rule of law. The second he thwarted the Special Counsel investigation and lied under oath (to the Senate), Barr should have been impeached and removed. Instead, the Attorney General is enabling a corrupt President to wage war against the rule of law (yes, it's worth repeating that). GO: It is. Barr cockblocked the Mueller Report and stymied the investigations. He's a traitor of the highest order. It's impossible to overstate how much damage that deranged fuck has done to our country. LB: And if you have knowledge of Trump's CI files, isn't corruption of this magnitude a 'break the glass' moment? What good is all the secrecy around

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donald's history as a CI doing for the DOJ now? What is the secrecy actually protecting, if maintaining it means the rule of law itself is being destroyed? Put a pin in that line of thought too. We're gonna connect it once we finally talk about donald's other 'CI' file. The Counter-Intelligence one. Laundering money for Mogilevich (and others) led to donald being owned property of a hostile foreign power(s). There is no realm where the NSA and CIA don't know this. And since the FBI is in the intelligence game too (a post-9/11 shift), and donald was their guy to begin with, there is no realm where donald doesn't have a counter-intelligence file a mile long. We've covered this in a prior piece[10]. When dealing with known money launderers for transnational organized crime—especially businessmen who launder for the Mogilevich syndicate—a counter-intelligence file is immediate. And likely, very fat. And if that launderer is also a Confidential Informant? The two CI files overlap completely. In Russia (and other terror-funding states), the mafia and intelligence services are one and the same. Now, some of our intel folks will say that the mafia is a branch of Russian intelligence—as if there is an operation above the mob that is run by officers who aren't mobsters. No. Fuck that. Putin was installed by the mafia. He's their guy. He admits to doing 'illegal intelligence' (aka, mob shit), when he was a KGB agent in Dresden[11]. He's long been connected to Mogilevich (by valid sources[12]), and was likely placed by Mogilevich at the head of the FSB. Mogilevich absolutely helped elevate Putin to President. And then, Putin became a boss. His mafia and his intelligence services are a single operation. No fucking difference. GO: You say tomato, I say whatever the Russian word for 'tomato' is. LB: ???????. donald is owned. GO: A friend of mine asked me over the weekend—via Zoom, of course—why we bother with Russia, when it has a smaller GDP than the state of Texas. And I said, You're not considering the profits generated by transnational organized crime. That's a huge number, unknowably vast, and that's what we're up against. It's very, very powerful. LB: If you're laundering money for the Russian mafia—for Mogilevich—then you're the property of the Kremlin. Full stop. I don't care when it happened, or if Mogilevich is still as powerful as he once was. Once the Kremlin owns you, they own you for life. Even if our guys are running you, too. Even if our guys ran you first. You belong to the Kremlin. No matter how small your balls are, Putin has them in his pocket. And there's no way that you don't know he owns you. No fucking way. If Helsinki wasn't enough to demonstrate this truth, then just stop reading. What's more? There's no way our intelligence agencies don't know this about donald. There is no universe in which they don't have intercepts, evidence collected by human intelligence, shared intel from our allies, and probably even donald's own recordings and paper (just like Mr. Sater). Still shaking your head? Let's pose it as inquiry, to break through that dissonance: Do you really think our intelligence agencies are so inept that they wouldn't be monitoring a known money launderer for Mogilevich and other Kremlin-connected criminals? Do you actually think that our intelligence agencies are such bungling fools, that they would not use a man who was already a TE Confidential Informant and swimming in social circles with the KGB and Mossad spy Robert Maxwell? Think they wouldn't use him? That he wouldn't be top of the list? Really? Do you really believe that the placement of another Confidential Informant, Felix Sater, in Trump Tower (to launder money, no less, through BayRock) was random? Just a coinky-dink? Just happens like that, who knew? Do you think, for one fucking second, that our allies—who are not constrained against signal collections of U.S. citizens—were not collecting intelligence on the world's most dangerous criminals known to be in business with donald? Do you think they didn't pick up donald's name, or even his voice, on any of donald's 'deals'? Can a famous reality TV personality and 'businessman' with a global brand launder money for the Iranian Revolutionary Guard and NOT be tracked by FiveEye intelligence services? What about our ally, Israel? No collection there? No? They are so terrible at spying that they didn't know about donald laundering for Mogilevich and the Iranians (among others)? Do you believe that before donald's Presidency, none of our allies shared this intelligence with us? Get real. I could ask ten more questions just like this. And for those former CIA/NSA folks with Twitter accounts, who like to jump on my timeline and pooh-pooh me: you can't have it both ways. You can't rightfully promote the skill and scope of your agencies and play dumb about donald. You might not have been on a desk that was aware of his fat fucking file, but you can't stare at all that's in the public domain and pretend he wouldn't have been a tool in your agency's box. You can't play smart and dumb. Choose. Back to the interview question: Why did they [our intelligence agencies] allow him to become President? Well, unfortunately, the answer is the same. SECRECY. And at this point, they're choosing their secrecy over our lives. Literally. GO: What are the risks involved with a senior law enforcement individual coming forward? LB: To them personally, I imagine prison is the big risk. But I'll leave that to lawyers/prosecutors to weigh in. I want to point out again that there have been some attempts to inform us of who and what donald is, from some high-profile individuals. On donald's organized crime file, both Comey and McCabe dropped some serious hints. The 'Sammy The Bull' reference by Comey was pretty damning to those of us who know both the specific history between donald and Sammy, and that Mueller is the one who flipped Sammy against Gotti. Still, there weren't many of us who could

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interpret what Comey was implying. Most of the press just thought it was cute. McCabe wrote that he began his career as a street agent, investigating Russian organized crime. He dropped that gem after being fired—in the opening sentence of his letter to the press. It wasn't cute. It was a shot across the bow, and nearly everyone missed it. And then there's this shot, from the former Company Director: John O. Brennan @JohnBrennan[13] When the full extent of your venality, moral turpitude, and political corruption becomes known, you will take your rightful place as a disgraced demagogue in the dustbin of history. You may scapegoat Andy McCabe, but you will not destroy America. America will triumph over you. <https://t.co/uKppoDbdu>[14] Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump[15] Andrew McCabe FIRED, a great day for the hard working men and women of the FBI - A great day for Democracy. Sanctimonious James Comey was his boss and made McCabe look like a choirboy. He knew all about the lies and corruption going on at the highest levels of the FBI![16] March 17th 2018[17] 94,781 Retweets 232,102 Likes[18] There's nothing 'implied' in that 2018 tweet. He outright says that he knows horrible shit that the public does not. That means there's a big, fat file. Still it's not enough. It's not. Donald is the President. The scope and weight of that position requires an exposure of equal scope and weight. The 'wink, wink, nudge, nudge' tactic is flaccid. If those who can expose Donald fail to do so, the risks involved to our lives, our republic, and their own institutions are catastrophic. There is no surviving this secret. Maybe before the pandemic, we could have gotten past this Presidency, learned all the horrible truths, and been angry about what our intelligence community cost us by keeping us in the dark. But not now. Not after mass death. Because it will come out. That's just the physics of secrecy. It's part of the arc. The world will know, without any doubt, who and what Donald was before he became President. And they'll be raging with that question: 'Why he wasn't stopped?' Americans will forever blame the institutions who chose to protect themselves and their precious secrecy over both the rule of law and the lives of tens of thousands of innocent civilians. GO: Robert Mueller knew better than anyone what Trump was. When Trump found out that Mueller was the SC, he said, 'I'm fucked.' We've already discussed that the release of the report was cockblocked by Bill Barr, but why was Mueller so uninspiring and lame during his hearing? Like, why can't he just SAY that Barr fucked him? LB: Other than what I already outlined in my lengthy diatribe above? I don't know. I would have exposed Barr. I think others would have too. Maybe Mueller is too much of a Boy Scout? I can't disparage the man. I do truly admire and appreciate him. And the work of the Special Counsel was incredible—if thwarted. I believe it will still have a future impact, that benefits us. I may be alone on that island, though. GO: I agree about the Report and the work—and that it will have a future impact. But given all of that labor, and what was at stake, the public interface was such a disappointment. Mueller was the one guy who could have commented on this, who was tasked with exposing Trump's crimes. A few good sound bytes is all we needed. Instead, he chose to give an American public that doesn't have the attention span to watch full episodes of bad TV shows (fuck Quibi) a freakin' book report. But I digress. What would 'release the files' actually look like? I envision a press conference attended by a gaggle of senior people, with a damning prepared statement, and receipts to prove it. LB: That's what I envision too. It's too late for the press to be trusted with a confidential dump. I don't mean because there isn't a trustworthy journalist. There certainly are many. But that it's too late to go to them. Donald was given too much time to fuck with both the legitimacy of the press and the news cycle itself. The Presidency gave him way too much power to damage the Fourth Estate. So, I can't see anything short of a live press conference with receipts (the kind of evidence in the CI files enough to burst any bubble, even a MAGA's). This was done once in Russia, by the organized crime division within the FSB. But by the time the whistleblowers got around to holding a press conference, the agency—and the larger Russian state—had been fully taken over by the mafia (with Putin at the helm). Now, we have the privilege of hindsight to see that that press conference was too late. Once the corruption is complete, there's no getting the rule of law back. I've been tweeting 'remember Litvinenko' for three years, for this very reason. Don't wait until it's too late. Donald must be exposed and removed immediately. GO: In this regard, Obama failed miserably, in my view. He allowed McConnell to steal the Merrick Garland SCOTUS seat, and he didn't sound the alarm when he knew about Russian interference—I think that was in June or July 2016. Even after Trump won the election, Obama had a few months where he could have named a Special Counsel but did not do so. And of course he's been AWOL for the last three years. What do you make of him? LB: Other than liking him as a President, I don't consider my political opinions of much value, no matter how many of them I may have. The machinations of Washington are not my wheelhouse. BUT, as a President who was battling transnational organized crime, Obama was much more successful than most people realize. A jaunt through the Justice and Treasury Departments archives will show you that. On his response to Russian interference in the election? I think he was trapped in a very unusual spot, where there was no prior history to look at for guidance. A fucking Russian mafia-owned, Kremlin puppet was running for President—and the entire Republican party was down with it. What the ass

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fuck? But here's where I think he failed—and where all of our politicians fail us, and our intelligence chiefs fail us. Regularly. We're not your fucking children. We're your boss. Now, I had a bunch of 'motherfuckers' in my first-response rant to your questions. I was going to leave them in. But then I saw that drunken judge on Fox News do her own version of a 'YOU WORK FOR US' rant, and remembered I wasn't a drunken judge. I'm not sure how to best get the following across—how to pierce the navel gazing and reach the would-be hero whistleblowers that we've been lamenting. I know they're out there. I know of at least two who sometimes catch what I write. So, I'm just going to beg. Please. We need you to step outside the procedures you're clinging to. We need you to stop collapsing your methods with love for your agencies. We need you to ask yourself why you love those agencies. Is it for their tactic of secrecy, or because they serve a higher purpose? Is it for yourselves, or for us? We deserve the truth about matters of our national security—no matter how hard it is to stomach. No matter how bad it makes you look. Because it's not about you. I know you know this. I know you're selfless in your duty. I just have to say it. Because YOU ALSO KNOW WHO AND WHAT HE IS. This asshole works for the Kremlin. And if we're going to keep pretending that this Kremlin-controlled fool is a legitimate President, can we please remember who the President works for? Us (motherfuckers)! If a career mob money-launderer is running for President, tell us. And if you tried, but a corporate-owned press fucks up their role because they're foaming for ratings, subscriptions, and ad buys over the sanctity of our republic? Then tell us that too. Again, intel chiefs can't play smart and dumb. Any entry-level analyst could see in 2015-2016 that the press was failing to properly cover Donald's mafia history—which could be found in their own damn archives. The press didn't vet him. At all. And our intel chiefs knew it at the time. So, we end up at those two thoughts that I asked your readers to pin. They both come down to this: the SECRECY is now the thing that endangers us all. It has evolved from the ultimate tool for protecting our republic to the singular vehicle of our destruction. GO: That is the key line in this entire interview, so let me restate it: Secrecy has evolved from the ultimate tool for protecting our republic to the singular vehicle of our destruction. LB: Just think about why our Justice Department and intelligence agencies use it. What is the secrecy employed to do? Keep us safe. Safe from what? I'm talking beyond protecting 'sources and methods' and 'ongoing investigations.' Go macro. What's the big, over-arching thing—the ultimate reason why we even have these agencies? To protect our citizens and the republic itself, right? But protect from what? From falling into the hands of a hostile foreign power, that seeks our annihilation? YEP. That's it. Is there anything bigger? NOPE. Nothing's bigger than that. Nothing's bigger than our own demise. Except, maybe GO: Mass death? LB: Tens of thousands of innocent civilian lives—taken by the president's intentional, failed response to a pandemic. Dead grandmothers, nurses, doctors, first responders, fathers, sons, daughters, wives. Is that big enough? Is there anyone in intelligence that's willing to argue anything bigger than those two things: our republic and our very lives? Come on, now's your chance. Come and get some. If I didn't reach you with the earnest begging, maybe I can get to you by begging for a fight. Come and argue for the survival of your institutions over those two things because, rest assured, they're at odds. You can no longer say that we need your secrecy to survive, when your institutions are gonna die right along with the republic. If the pandemic doesn't get you first. No? No argument, now? Nothing? I hope so. You see, the secrecy failed us the second Trump got into office. Clinging to it now will only ensure the very thing it was meant to protect us against: the destruction of our republic and the wholesale slaughter of innocent Americans. This is the full arc of secrecy. No matter how much a secret protects in the beginning, in the end, it will only destroy. Break the secret, or the secret breaks you. GO: One of my readers had a comment on this [19] that we both loved: 'If Mueller and his ilk are more boy scout than cowboy, 'boy scout' just becomes a euphemism for a 'coward.' If the intelligence community aspires to its moniker, it ought to be able to figure out a way to reveal Trump's mobster background without blowing up the system.' LB: If the Justice department, NSA, CIA still can't fathom that their collective job is to stop both mobsters and agents of hostile foreign powers from committing crimes against the republic and killing innocent civilians on American soil (in their own goddamn homes, no less), we are lost. The defense up to now has been that the DOJ and intelligence communities don't play politics. Well, this isn't playing politics. It's not about holding a President accountable. It's mobsters and spies. The two things those agencies were created and charged to investigate and root out. It's fully in their wheelhouse. In fact, there is no other wheelhouse. No other institutions were created to find and stop mobsters and spies. Not even the press. Trump must be exposed. Release his CI files. Both of them. Now. Photo credit: Lorie Shaul [20], 'Spies in DC.' [ 1]: <https://gregolear.substack.com/p/give-me-secrecy-and-give-me-death> [ 2]: <https://gregolear.substack.com/p/give-me-secrecy-and-give-me-death> [ 3]: <https://gregolear.substack.com/p/give-me-secrecy-and-give-me-death> [ 4]: <https://gregolear.substack.com/p/tinker-tailor-mobster-trump> [ 5]: <https://gregolear.substack.com/p/from-trump-to-trump-how-the-mobs> [ 6]: <https://gregolear.substack.com/p/waiting-for-jack-bauer> [ 7]:

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<https://gregolear.substack.com/p/tinker-tailor-mobster-trump> [ 8]:  
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Low-profile prosecutor leads high-profile hunt  
John Durham of Connecticut digs into origin of Trump collusion claims



**[Low-profile prosecutor leads high-profile hunt](#)**  
**[John Durham of Connecticut digs into origin of Trump collusion claims](#)**

The Hartford Courant

December 8, 2019 Sunday

1 Edition

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**Section:** MAIN; A; Pg. 1

**Length:** 2699 words

**Byline:** Edmund H. Mahony

**Highlight:** In this file photo, John Durham speaks to reporters on the steps of U.S. District Court in New Haven. Durham, Connecticut's U.S. attorney, is leading the investigation into the origins of the Russia probe. He is no stranger to high-profile, highly scrutinized investigations. Bob Child/AP

## **Body**

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U.S. Attorney John H. Durham was back in Connecticut for a retirement dinner earlier this fall and one of the other attendees observed, half facetiously, that he showed no obvious signs of bruising or broken bones.

One might expect otherwise, judging from the news from Washington since May, when Attorney General William Barr put Durham at the center of the most contentious national controversy in years. He is digging into the origins of the FBI's counter-intelligence, Russia-collusion investigation of President Donald J. Trump's 2016 campaign. Was it legally justified? Or was it contrived, as Trump supporters believe, by a "deep state" of senior intelligence and law-enforcement officers to smear Trump and sink his campaign?

Durham, a career prosecutor with a gold-plated resume, will be excoriated no matter what he does. The president's allies have created formidable expectations, predicting Durham will prove Democrats have maligned Trump with a succession of made-up controversies. Top Democrats are calling Durham a tool Trump is using for revenge.

Speculation increased last week with the impending release Monday of Justice Department Inspector General Michael E. Horowitz's report of his investigation of one aspect of the FBI's conduct in the Trump collusion case. If the Horowitz report contains evidence of a violation in the way the bureau obtained a national-security, surveillance warrant targeting a Trump campaign volunteer, prosecution could fall to Durham.

Durham's colleagues say there is no one better able to tune out the partisan noise. They predict he will immerse himself in the work and he may end up frustrating everyone.

"They opened Pandora's Box, when they chose John," said Bill Reiner, a retired FBI agent and longtime Durham colleague. "He is going to go wherever the evidence goes. And he does not care where it goes. There is no politics in John. There is no politics in anything he does."

## Low-profile prosecutor leads high-profile hunt John Durham of Connecticut digs into origin of Trump collusion claims

Over a 41-year career, much of it spent on complex criminal conspiracies, Durham hasn't been a stranger to contention. He helped break up the New England Mafia, unraveled Irish gangster James "Whitey" Bulger's corrupt hold over law enforcement and looked into allegations - for Republican and Democratic administrations - that the CIA destroyed evidence that its post 9/11 interrogations of terror suspects may have amounted to torture.

None of those cases ignited the partisan rancor associated with the so-called "investigation of the investigators," especially after the stakes grew last month when it was widely reported that Durham and his hand-picked, inner circle of Connecticut colleagues have criminal authority. That means they can force recalcitrant witnesses to appear before a grand jury and, ultimately, bring charges for perjury, obstruction or substantive crimes - just as Special Counsel Robert Mueller did when he was appointed in May 2017 to take over the collusion investigation.

Political interest in Durham had been limited mostly to figuring out who he is. That changed when it became clear he can demand that appointees of former President Barack Obama explain why they were justified in what Barr has called "spying" on the Trump campaign.

"These reports, if true, raise profound new concerns that the Department of Justice under AG Barr has lost its independence and become a vehicle for President Trump's political revenge," U.S. House Democrats and impeachment investigators Jerrold Nadler and Adam Schiff said. "If the Department of Justice may be used as a tool of political retribution, or to help the president with a political narrative for the next election, the rule of law will suffer new and irreparable damage."

### Analyzing allied intelligence

Durham and his team - including former assistant U.S. Attorney Nora Dannehy and retired FBI agent John Eckenrode, both of Connecticut - have had remarkable success keeping most of what they are doing secret.

It was Barr who disclosed that Durham has conferred with European governments to learn what friendly intelligence services channeled to their U.S. counterparts about Russia and the Trump campaign. Some governments, including the Baltic states and Ukraine, were early opponents of a Trump candidacy because of his criticism of the NATO alliance and support for Russia.

Durham has been asked to decide - if such intelligence was a basis for the collusion investigation - whether it was obtained and used appropriately under U.S. laws that govern foreign intelligence collection and restrict spying on Americans.

"A Department of Justice team led by U.S. Attorney John Durham is separately exploring the extent to which a number of countries ... played a role in the counterintelligence investigation directed at the Trump campaign during the 2016 election," Barr spokesman Kerri Kupec said a month ago.

While traveling to Italy together, Barr and Durham pressed for information about Joseph Mifsud, the mysterious Maltese academic who started the collusion narrative when, in the spring of 2016, he told George Papadopoulos, a junior Trump Campaign volunteer, that the Russians had "dirt" on then candidate Hillary Clinton. After a \$30 million two-year investigation, Special Counsel Robert Mueller said in his exhaustive report that his investigators had been unable to effectively question Mifsud because Papadopoulos had been criminally uncooperative.

### Mifsud's telephones

Mueller described Mifsud as a Russian agent. Papadopoulos, who served 12 days in jail for lying to Mueller's investigators, believes Mifsud is an agent for Western governments. Mifsud, in press accounts, denies he is anyone's agent and further denies having told Papadopoulos that the Russians had dirt on Clinton.

A cryptic motion filed recently in federal court in Washington suggests Durham may have come back from Italy with something that could help sort out the contradiction.

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Gen. Michael T. Flynn, the former Trump national security adviser fighting a conviction for lying to Mueller, baldly asserts in the motion that Durham obtained "data and meta data" contained on two BlackBerry cellphones used by Mifsud. Flynn's prosecutors won't confirm or deny the claim and said they will only discuss it in a private meeting with the judge.

Flynn's Dallas-based lawyer, Sidney Powell, said she is convinced Durham has the information.

"I believe Mr. Durham has the phones," Powell said. "That's as much as I can say."

If she is right, the phones and data could show who is right about Mifsud. Was he a Russian agent, as Trump critics believe. Or was he, as Trump allies contend, a pawn in a "deep state" conspiracy to create the appearance of collusion.

### The Horowitz report

Durham has been working in tandem with Inspector General Horowitz, whose focus has been whether the FBI complied with the law when it applied for and was granted a warrant from the U.S. Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to spy on Carter Page. Page is a U.S. Naval Academy graduate and short-lived Trump campaign volunteer who worked as an energy consultant and met frequently with Russians.

Trump supporters complain that the agents who applied for the warrant knew, or should have known, that their application contained inaccurate or unverified material. Some material was provided by former British spy Christopher Steele, a one-time FBI informant working for the Democratic National Committee.

Mueller dismissed the warrant's central contention when he concluded there is nothing to "establish that Page coordinated with the Russian government in its efforts to interfere with the 2016 presidential election." What's more, while Page was a target of Russian recruitment, he also had worked in the past with the bureau to locate and prosecute illegal Russian agents.

There were reports last week that Horowitz found an irregularity in the way an FBI lawyer prepared documents for the warrant application. Since the inspector general does not have criminal authority, Durham, who does, will review the Horowitz report for violations and possible prosecution.

The Horowitz report is scheduled for release Dec. 9.

What's become public about Durham's work so far shows he is trying to find out whether the intelligence services of an incumbent administration tried to tip the scales against a candidate trying to replace it.

### Blumenthal

vs. 'Bull' Durham

Even home state Sen. Richard Blumenthal cooled on Durham after the news that he is running a criminal investigation. When he was confirmed as U.S. attorney in February, Blumenthal called Durham "a fierce, fair prosecutor." More recently, Blumenthal worried that Durham is sullying his reputation.

"It is another very professional public servant tasked with a very unprofessional and unbecoming job," Blumenthal said. "This investigation of the investigators is a politically motivated distraction. And it threatens to degrade the career professionals who devote their lives - like John Durham - to law enforcement."

Meanwhile, Trump supporters on the other side of the argument have portrayed Durham as a heroic character ferreting out political misbehavior - by Democrats. Sen. John Cornyn, a Texas Republican, tweeted that Durham may end up charging former Vice President Joseph Biden.

The president himself, in a wild, hourlong interview with Fox News on Nov. 22, predicted "Bull Durham" will uncover the biggest political scandal in U.S. history.



## Low-profile prosecutor leads high-profile hunt John Durham of Connecticut digs into origin of Trump collusion claims

"You have 'Bull Durham,' who's supposed to be the toughest - I never met him, never spoke to him. But he is supposed to be the smartest and best," Trump said.

Colleagues say Durham vacuums up news and political gossip and certainly knows what is being said about him. They said he just as certainly doesn't care.

"John is in a difficult situation," said Stanley A. Twardy, one of the former Connecticut U.S. attorneys for whom Durham worked. "No matter what he does, he's going to be criticized by one side or the other. But the great thing about John is he's not going to care about that. That's his personality. Basically, he sees things as either right or wrong. And he is going to call it the way he sees it."

"Let me just put it this way," Twardy said. "I have people calling me all the time. Trump Forever and Never Trumpers. They're both looking for the answer to the same question: Is John someone who is going to provide an honest answer? And I tell them I have every confidence in him."

Whitey Bulger

and Boston

This is not the first time Durham been encircled by hostile forces.

In 1999, then-U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno sent him to Boston to lead a task force and sort through the law enforcement disaster created by gangster James "Whitey" Bulger. Sensational leaks from a long-running criminal investigation in Boston suggested that Bulger murdered his way to the top of New England organized crime by buying off law enforcement. Durham and his team were supposed to find out what happened and lock up the guilty parties.

Durham wears his regard for law enforcement on his sleeve - in particular for the FBI agents with whom he has worked for decades. When he got to Boston, it was clear that the FBI and just about every other state, federal and local law enforcement agency were embroiled in a take-no-prisoners power struggle.

Federal drug agents and the Massachusetts state police accused the FBI of being in Bulger's pocket. It followed, those accusers said, that FBI fan Durham was part of a federal cover-up. The FBI was aligned against the state police. Because Bulger's criminal enterprise reached across the country, Oklahoma and Florida law enforcement were in the mix and with their own alliances. The agencies were not only refusing to cooperate, they were undercutting one another.

Durham's chief target turned out to be one of the most decorated agents in FBI history, John Connolly. Connolly was said to be so good at recruiting informants that the bureau had him teaching other agents.

Durham persuaded a jury that Connolly had been recruited himself - by Bulger. Bulger's uncanny success at dodging prosecution was revealed to have been the result of tips he was fed by Connolly - tips Bulger used to murder informants and defeat investigations.

After Connolly was convicted of racketeering and obstruction of justice, no one could accuse Durham of folding under pressure.

Freeing an

innocent man

The Bulger case revealed a side of Durham that few noticed.

While sifting through the dark past of another corrupt Boston agent - ***H. Paul Rico*** - Durham uncovered FBI reports proving that Rico conspired with organized crime figures in the 1960s to frame five men for a murder they didn't

## Low-profile prosecutor leads high-profile hunt. John Durham of Connecticut digs into origin of Trump collusion claims

commit. Durham's investigation showed that Rico made a deal with one of the real killers, who he was trying to recruit as an informant.

The frame-up was one of the worst kept secrets in law enforcement. Yet, for three decades, no one in authority did anything about it. In fact, Connolly, a Rico protege, worked behind the scenes to keep the five innocent men in prison.

Durham had the exculpatory FBI reports delivered to two prisoners who were still alive and the families of three who had died in prison of old age. The two survivors and three estates sued the department and collected \$100 million.

Durham personally delivered a set of reports to Victor Garo, the attorney representing Joseph Salvati, an innocent truck driver and family man. Of the five, only Salvati was entirely innocent. Four were innocent of the murder but affiliated with organized crime. Salvati was dropped into the murder because he offended one of Rico's informants. His children were babies when he went to prison. He was a grandfather when he got out.

Garo had been trying decades to exonerate Salvati. He said Durham called him late on Christmas Eve and said he had found some materials that could be of interest to Salvati. Could he drop them off?

"I will never forget John Durham," Garo said.

No leaks

Durham has rarely spoken in public of his work in Boston, or anywhere else. Colleagues trade stories about his reticence. Investigators said he is obsessed by leaks.

During the corruption investigation that sent three-term Republican Gov. John G. Rowland to prison, FBI agents said Durham - a Republican - threatened to polygraph investigators whenever he suspected a leak.

"I've never been able to find out what he is working on - even when he worked for me," said Supreme Court Justice Richard Palmer, a former U.S. attorney, half seriously.

Former U.S. Attorney General Michael Mukasey, who appointed Durham to investigate the destruction of videotapes of post-9/11 CIA waterboarding, said speculation about Durham's work is baseless because the speculators have no idea what they are talking about.

"I can't believe that any of them actually know what he is doing," Mukasey said. "I wouldn't dream of asking him. And if I did, I'm sure he wouldn't answer."

Durham may have spoken in public about his work just once. The occasion was a speech at an unlikely venue: the University of St. Joseph in West Hartford. His audience was a couple of dozen nuns, administrators, guests, students and three reporters.

Leonard Boyle, now Durham's first assistant U.S. attorney, introduced him and pointed out the reporters.

"This may be their only chance to hear John speak about his work, other than in a courtroom," Boyle said. "He's notoriously shy about speaking about himself."

At the time of the speech, Durham already was working in Washington, investigating, coincidentally, leaks, a colleague said. Perhaps not coincidentally, he explained to the St. Joseph audience why he has become so consumed by plugging them:

"One thing that I try to bear in mind, and try to encourage in new young prosecutors, particularly those who are making their bones or cutting their teeth, is an awareness of the incredible power that is wielded by law enforcement, and perhaps federal law enforcement in particular. Issuing a subpoena can destroy somebody's reputation. It can damage their business, hurt their families. It is an awesome power that we have, that should only be used in appropriate instances," Durham said.

Low-profile prosecutor leads high-profile huntJohn Durham of Connecticut digs into origin of Trump collusion claims

"It is as important for the system as for prosecutors to protect the secrecy of proceedings, not because we want them to be secret, but because we're not always right."

**Load-Date:** December 8, 2019

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## [In 'City on a Hill,' a Crime-Ridden Boston Before the 'Miracle'](#)

The New York Times

June 16, 2019 Sunday 16:26 EST

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**Section:** ARTS; television

**Length:** 1710 words

**Byline:** Aisha Harris

**Highlight:** The new Showtime series sets a procedural against the backdrop of a particularly fraught era in the city's history.

### **Body**

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In Showtime's new crime drama "City on a Hill," Jackie Rohr is a cocaine-snorting, corrupt and racist F.B.I. veteran who longs for the days when the "bad men" were in power, and Decourcy Ward is a principled new assistant district attorney from Brooklyn, determined to "rip out the [expletive] up machinery" in 1990s Boston.

The characters — played with flamboyant vigor by Kevin Bacon and simmering fortitude by Aldis Hodge — shouldn't like each other, or even be able to work together. And for much of the pilot episode, they don't.

But one morning last April, as Bacon and Hodge filmed a scene for a later episode in Decourcy's office — actually a set at Steiner Studios in Brooklyn — the mood was different. The characters were on good terms, maybe even kind of pals.

Decourcy shared his uneaten eggs with Jackie. (In between takes, Bacon joked about being too full to partake in the handsomely stocked craft services.) Both sported shiners on their faces but they didn't give them to each other; Decourcy's came from a confrontation with a church minister, Jackie's from an "alcohol-induced haymaker" at the V.F.W. When their easy chatter was interrupted by a distressing call Jackie received on his period-appropriate oversized mobile phone, Decourcy expressed concern and moral support.

Decourcy and Jackie "don't trust each other, but kind of need each other," Hodge said later during a phone interview. "They both represent two sides of the same coin. One is a dark looking into the light, one is a light looking into the dark."

That could be the tagline of "City on a Hill," which takes place during a time when crime rates and racial tensions in Boston were exceedingly high until a coalition of community groups developed an anti-violence mission that would prove successful in the late '90s.

[Read our review of "[City on a Hill](#)."]

The show was created by the relatively unknown writer (and Boston native) Chuck MacLean, but it sports an impressive pedigree of Hollywood veterans, including the executive producers Ben Affleck, Matt Damon and Barry

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Levinson. It's a sprawling ensemble piece that's part procedural and part machismo-fueled interracial buddy tale: Decourcy and Jackie are brought together through their mutual interest in taking on a family of armored car robbers in Charlestown led by Frankie Ryan (Jonathan Tucker). By the end of the pilot, they're swapping personal stories and strategizing how to build a potentially career-defining case over drinks in a bar.

Their dynamic may call to mind [Tibbs and Gillespie](#) or [Murtaugh and Riggs](#), but the show's origins lie in "The Town," the 2010 crime thriller Affleck co-wrote, directed and starred in, which also centered on criminals in the working-class, heavily Irish Charlestown neighborhood.

Affleck was inspired to develop "City on a Hill," he wrote in an email, after "doing so much research for 'The Town' and not being able to tell the scope and scale of the story the research yielded." The series offers a more expansive means "to explore the city and in particular what was going on politically, socioeconomically, racially and culturally at the time I kind of came of age there," he wrote.

Affleck tapped MacLean, a self-described "bum from Quincy, Mass." with an unmistakable accent to match, who had worked with Affleck's brother, Casey, on a script for a movie about the [Boston Strangler](#) that never got made. The veteran writer and producer Tom Fontana, who specializes in character-driven dramas set in distinct environments ("St. Elsewhere," "Homicide: Life on the Streets," "Oz"), was impressed by the pilot and came on as the showrunner and an executive producer after "City on a Hill" was picked up by Showtime.

While this high-wattage project is MacLean's first foray into TV, his fascination with Boston history — his home in Los Angeles contains "wall-to-wall" crime and newspaper memorabilia stretching back to the 1930s — made him a good fit for Affleck's vision.

"I didn't want to spend five years talking about bank robbers and I don't think he did either," MacLean said. "So we started talking about the different things that were going on in Boston in the early '90s."

A lot was going on. The city was plagued by violent crime and racial tension, generating plenty of headlines that the series occasionally rips from, à la "Law & Order."

It begins by citing the notorious case of [Charles Stuart](#), a white Bostonian who in 1989 claimed that a black gunman attacked him and killed his pregnant wife. More than two months passed — during which the police went on a manhunt and Stuart eventually identified someone as the attacker from a lineup — before Stuart's story fell apart. His brother Matthew went to the police and outed him as the real killer.

The incident exacerbated the already tense relationship between law enforcement and the black community. "The Boston police and the city of Boston — from the end of World War II, there was at least one time in every decade where they became a national embarrassment," MacLean said.

"The Stuart one was the first time that I think the circumstances lined up that it was particularly bad, but then in the aftermath of it, it allowed for a lot of good to happen," he added. "That's the theme that I wanted to look at."

MacLean, 33, was a child during the era of "City on a Hill." But the journalist and author Michele McPhee, a writer for the show, was then a young investigative reporter at The Boston Globe, and recalls well the city's struggles during those years.

"A little girl gets shot off a mailbox," McPhee said. "[Jermaine Goffigan](#) — whose face I'll never forget — he's counting Tootsie Rolls from Halloween, still in his costume, when he gets hit by a stray bullet."

"The city had had enough," she added.

Jackie and Decourcy serve as the thematic entry point, their unlikely partnership an explicit allegory for the [Operation Ceasefire](#) program — also known as "The Boston Miracle." Black clergy members, police officers, probation officers and outreach workers — once unaligned with one another — joined forces under the direction of the Harvard University criminologist David M. Kennedy to focus on black youth in high-crime areas. After it was

## In 'City on a Hill,' a Crime-Ridden Boston Before the 'Miracle'

carried out in 1996, Boston began to see a decline in homicides, and similar programs were replicated in other cities like Cincinnati with success.

"These two characters are polar opposites," Fontana said. "But for at least a period of time, [they] need each other and are willing to overlook certain things in an effort to achieve something greater."

The show's creative team is primarily white, a liability for a story that aims to authentically portray a time and place defined largely by racial tension. (This season there was one black writer, J.M. Holmes, and one Latino writer, Jorge Zamacona.) But "City on a Hill," doesn't shy away from depicting its setting's deeply ingrained racism: Within the first minute of the first episode, Jackie flippantly slings around the N-word.

"That was the world I grew up in," MacLean said.

But, he added, he spoke frequently with Hodge and Lauren E. Banks, who plays Decourcy's wife, Siobhan, about their perspectives. "As much as I wanted my story told correctly, I wanted everyone else's involved in this to be told correctly," he said.

Hodge said he "chimes in quite a bit" when it comes to the show's depiction of Decourcy, who is partly inspired by Boston's [first black district attorney, Ralph Martin](#).

"That's something that's a priority going forward, just to get more black voices in the writer's room," he said. "Unless you've actually been the victim [of racism], you actually don't know what it is."

Stories about such fraught but fruitful partnerships risk turning a racist like Jackie into a sympathetic figure by having him work well with Decourcy. But in the early episodes, at least — the first 3 of 10 were made available in advance — the show is less about Jackie learning to not be a terrible human being than Decourcy's struggle to take down the (white) status quo without becoming like it.

Decourcy is the "hero of the series" who must "deal with the devil" Jackie, MacLean said.

For Hodge, the question is: "How far will he go before he turns into Jackie Rohr?"

As for Jackie, a defining quality, Bacon said, is that he's "so narcissistic that his belief that the ends justify the means" allows him to behave unethically. (The character is a loose composite of the F.B.I. agents [H. Paul Rico](#), who was indicted on a charge of murder shortly before his death; John Connolly, who aided the mob boss James (Whitey) Bulger; and Dennis Condon.)

The creative team strove for authenticity in depicting the city of Boston as well, even though it almost never actually films there.

The pilot was shot in and around the city, but the production moved to New York once the series got picked up — exterior scenes were shot in Staten Island, New Rochelle, White Plains and the Bronx. (A few scenes have since been filmed in Boston.)

This decision came down to practicality: Boston lacks soundstages and the city is generally "much prettier now than it was" in the '90s, said McPhee, who served as a kind of Boston credibility consultant.

"I was getting ready to eye-roll and say, 'Oh God, we're never going to get Boston,'" she said. But she was impressed with the attention to detail, adding, "There's a set that represents [the] Bromley Heath [apartments] that I felt like I was walking through the halls of Bromley Heath."

("Believe me, it wasn't my decision," MacLean said of the move to New York.)

It's too early to know whether there will be a second season of "City on a Hill," though MacLean said he's plotted out five seasons' worth of material for the leads. According to Affleck, the plan is to move the action from

In 'City on a Hill,' a Crime-Ridden Boston Before the 'Miracle'

Charlestown to Roxbury if the show gets renewed, and then to a different neighborhood each season, similar to the "The Wire" and its thematically distinct chapters.

"You meet two people from Boston who talk, they never talk about Boston — they talk about the neighborhood where they're from," MacLean explained. "The neighborhood is their vision of what Boston is."

PHOTO: Kevin Bacon and Aldis Hodge star in "City on a Hill," set in 1990s Boston. (PHOTOGRAPH BY Claire Folger/Showtime FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES)

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## *The Beginning of a Beautiful Relationship*

The New York Times

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Late Edition - Final

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A lot was going on. The city was plagued by violent crime and racial tension, generating plenty of headlines that the series occasionally rips from, à la "Law & Order."

It begins by citing the notorious case of Charles Stuart, a white Bostonian who in 1989 claimed that a black gunman attacked him and killed his pregnant wife. More than two months passed -- during which the police went on a manhunt and Stuart eventually identified someone as the attacker from a lineup -- before Stuart's story fell apart. His brother Matthew went to the police and outed him as the real killer.

The incident exacerbated the already tense relationship between law enforcement and the black community. "The Boston police and the city of Boston -- from the end of World War II, there was at least one time in every decade where they became a national embarrassment," MacLean said.

"The Stuart one was the first time that I think the circumstances lined up that it was particularly bad, but then in the aftermath of it, it allowed for a lot of good to happen," he added. "That's the theme that I wanted to look at."

MacLean, 33, was a child during the era of "City on a Hill." But the journalist and author Michele McPhee, a writer for the show, was then a young investigative reporter at The Boston Globe, and recalls well the city's struggles during those years.

"A little girl gets shot off a mailbox," McPhee said. "Jermaine Goffigan -- whose face I'll never forget -- he's counting Tootsie Rolls from Halloween, still in his costume, when he gets hit by a stray bullet."

"The city had had enough," she added.

Jackie and Decourcy serve as the thematic entry point, their unlikely partnership an explicit allegory for the Operation Ceasefire program -- also known as "The Boston Miracle." Black clergy members, police officers, probation officers and outreach workers -- once unaligned with one another -- joined forces under the direction of the Harvard University criminologist David M. Kennedy to focus on black youth in high-crime areas. After it was

## The Beginning of a Beautiful Relationship

carried out in 1996, Boston began to see a decline in homicides, and similar programs were replicated in other cities like Cincinnati with success.

"These two characters are polar opposites," Fontana said. "But for at least a period of time, [they] need each other and are willing to overlook certain things in an effort to achieve something greater."

The show's creative team is primarily white, a liability for a story that aims to authentically portray a time and place defined largely by racial tension. (This season there was one biracial writer, J.M. Holmes, and one Latino writer, Jorge Zamacona.) But "City on a Hill," doesn't shy away from depicting its setting's deeply ingrained racism: Within the first minute of the first episode, Jackie flippantly slings around the N-word.

"That was the world I grew up in," MacLean said.

But, he added, he spoke frequently with Hodge and Lauren E. Banks, who plays Decourcy's wife, Siobhan, about their perspectives. "As much as I wanted my story told correctly, I wanted everyone else's involved in this to be told correctly," he said.

Hodge said he "chimes in quite a bit" when it comes to the show's depiction of Decourcy, who is partly inspired by Boston's first black district attorney, Ralph Martin.

"That's something that's a priority going forward, just to get more black voices in the writer's room," he said. "Unless you've actually been the victim [of racism], you actually don't know what it is."

Stories about such fraught but fruitful partnerships risk turning a racist like Jackie into a sympathetic figure by having him work well with Decourcy. But in the early episodes, at least -- the first 3 of 10 were made available in advance -- the show is less about Jackie learning to not be a terrible human being than Decourcy's struggle to take down the (white) status quo without becoming like it.

Decourcy is the "hero of the series" who must "deal with the devil" Jackie, MacLean said.

For Hodge, the question is: "How far will he go before he turns into Jackie Rohr?"

As for Jackie, a defining quality, Bacon said, is that he's "so narcissistic that his belief that the ends justify the means" allows him to behave unethically. (The character is a loose composite of the F.B.I. agents ***H. Paul Rico***, who was indicted on a charge of murder shortly before his death; John Connolly, who aided the mob boss James (Whitey) Bulger; and Dennis Condon.)

The creative team strove for authenticity in depicting the city of Boston as well, even though it almost never actually films there.

The pilot was shot in and around the city, but the production moved to New York once the series got picked up -- exterior scenes were shot in Staten Island, New Rochelle, White Plains and the Bronx. (A few scenes have since been filmed in Boston.)

This decision came down to practicality: Boston lacks soundstages and the city is generally "much prettier now than it was" in the '90s, said McPhee, who served as a kind of Boston credibility consultant.

"I was getting ready to eye-roll and say, 'Oh God, we're never going to get Boston,'" she said. But she was impressed with the attention to detail, adding, "There's a set that represents [the] Bromley Heath [apartments] that I felt like I was walking through the halls of Bromley Heath."

("Believe me, it wasn't my decision," MacLean said of the move to New York.)

It's too early to know whether there will be a second season of "City on a Hill," though MacLean said he's plotted out five seasons' worth of material for the leads. According to Affleck, the plan is to move the action from

## The Beginning of a Beautiful Relationship

Charlestown to Roxbury if the show gets renewed, and then to a different neighborhood each season, similar to the "The Wire" and its thematically distinct chapters.

"You meet two people from Boston who talk, they never talk about Boston -- they talk about the neighborhood where they're from," MacLean explained. "The neighborhood is their vision of what Boston is."

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/16/arts/television/city-on-a-hill-showtime-boston.html>

## Graphic

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PHOTOS: Top, Kevin Bacon, left, as a corrupt and racist Boston cop, and Aldis Hodge as a principled new assistant district attorney, who form an unlikely partnership. Above, Ben Affleck and Jem Coughlin in "The Town," a 2010 film directed by Affleck that inspired the series. (PHOTOGRAPHS BY FRANCISCO ROMAN/SHOWTIME

CLAIRE FOLGER/WARNER BROS. PICTURES)

**Load-Date:** June 17, 2019

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Billy's turn to squirm should wring a surprise or two



## *Billy's turn to squirm should wring a surprise or two*

The Boston Herald

June 17, 2003 Tuesday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 616 words

**Byline:** By PETER GELZINIS

### **Body**

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Grace Fey, dowager queen of the UMass Board of Trustees, is confident that after Thursday, Billy Bulger will remain the best little president she has ever known.

She knows this, because Billy himself has assured Grace there will be no "surprises" coming out of that congressional hearing room on Capitol Hill.

No surprises?

Listening to Billy say ANYTHING about his psychopathic gangster brother, Whitey, a grant of immunity notwithstanding, will be a huge surprise all by itself. Sort of like the first time silent movie fans heard Al Jolson sing. We're talking about an entirely new experience . . . a maiden voyage.

Remember, if not for the immunity, Billy would still be playing the Sphinx regarding the fugitive brother charged with killing a busload of people. So, even Billy's first few attempts at evasion should prove interesting.

By turns, Mr. President will play the charmer and the put-upon victim, but try as he might, he won't be able to spend his time in the Washington spotlight lost in a fog of "I can't recall."

For the record, no member of the House Government Reform Committee will get too specific about the questions they'll put to Billy.

Off the record, sources say there will be more than a few questions about the pre-arranged phone call Whitey made in 1995 to a "safe house" in Quincy, where Billy sat waiting in a stranger's bedroom to pick up the phone.

Some committee member is bound to ask: "Mr. Bulger, why did you travel a half-dozen miles to a neutral location?" The short answer, of course, is that he wanted to be president of UMass.

Though Billy won't be THAT honest, watching him try to explain how he hoped to slip a possible police wiretap on his home phone, in order to have a "meaningful" conversation with his lamster brother "Jim," should prove highly entertaining.

## Billy's turn to squirm should bring a surprise or two

Billy will obviously be asked many questions about the convicted felon, John "Zip" Connolly, a dear friend and Whitey's FBI manservant. For example: Why did Johnny feel the need to run every new Special Agent-in-Charge of the Boston FBI office up to the State House to meet Billy, in his imperial Senate President's office? Besides Whitey, what mutual interests did they have?

Was this Zip's not-so-subtle way of reminding his gypsy bosses that his connections to Whitey AND Billy were the only connections that mattered in Boston?

There are strong indications that Billy Bulger will be asked about his relationship with the paternal G-man, who molded Zip Connolly in his own rancid image . . . **H. Paul Rico**. Two years ago, a dissipated Rico sat before this same committee and shrugged at the claim he sent four innocent men off to face the electric chair in prison 40 years ago.

It was Rico who put Whitey in jail a half century ago. According to legend, it was Paul Rico who assured Whitey that he would "look after his family." And it was Paul Rico who first screened the young FBI applicant, John Connolly . . . referred to him with Billy Bulger's blessings.

In exploring the strange and unique relationship Billy Bulger has enjoyed with the FBI, there may well be questions about how John Connolly and his partner John Morris came to figure so crucially in the matter of two ex-state senators named Joe DiCarlo and Ronald MacKenzie.

After all, it was Connolly and Morris who "inherited" this corruption case after a first grand jury failed to indict the two pols. And when Joe DiCarlo finally went down, it did help clear the way for Billy to become Senate president . . . for the next 17 years.

Just a coincidence, President Bulger?

Surprises? There should be one or two come Thursday. How often do you get a college president pulling for a serial killer?

**Load-Date:** June 17, 2003

## FINISHING TOUCHES;

**FINISHING TOUCHES;**

Hartford Courant (Connecticut)  
February 22, 2004 Sunday, STATEWIDE

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**Section:** NORTHEAST; Pg. 4; COLUMN; EXCERPT; VERBATIM A MOBSTER TESTIFIES

**Length:** 1865 words

**Body**

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Former mobster Francis P. "Cadillac Frank" Salemme sat down in a secret meeting at the Justice Department last April to tell his tale of murder and mayhem -- and of FBI agents who had slipped over to the dark side. He spoke to representatives for the U.S. House Committee on Government Reform, which was investigating the FBI's use of mob informants.

Salemme's testimony in a federal court in 2002 helped convict a former FBI agent of bribery, obstruction of justice and racketeering -- in effect, of working for the men he had cultivated as mob informants.

In the interview, Salemme explains how the now-deceased FBI agent **H. Paul Rico** helped set up a murder, and later warned him to leave town to avoid an impending indictment. The interview was sealed until recently because Rico was facing a murder trial in Oklahoma. Rico was to be tried for, among other things, charges associated with the murder of Roger Wheeler Sr., whose World Jai Alai owned frontons in Hartford and south Florida. Rico died last month before the trial began. Salemme is in the federal witness protection program and was granted immunity to testify before the committee.

Participating in the interview were attorney James C. Wilson, for the committee, and John H. Durham of the U.S. attorney's office in New Haven.

Here are three excerpts:

MR. DURHAM: You've asked about the Fitzgerald bombing, but there's also a murder that was involved there involving Edward "Wimpy" Bennett that had also occurred prior to the time you're talking about.

MR. WILSON: I was going to inquire about that, but he may as well bring it up right now. If you can give us some information about the Edward Bennett murder, that would be helpful.

MR. SALEMME: Well, Stevie [Flemmi] had a business going with Wimpy Bennett and Peter Poulos, and there was a confrontation in my garage one day in the office between Stevie Flemmi and Peter Poulos about his money. He wasn't getting any money from the numbers business. He pulled a pistol out and put it to Peter Poulos' head, and Peter Poulos was a real nonviolent guy. He handled the books on Stevie's numbers, and he did the books on my football card business, a pretty smart guy with numbers, and he'd take the time and the patience to do it.

## FINISHING TOUCHES;

He claimed that he gave the money to Wimpy to give to him. I could tell he was telling the truth, and I stepped in between Steve and Peter Poulos and told him you can't eliminate this guy, he's telling you the truth, get Wimpy up here with him and we'll decide who's telling the truth, then you can decide. It's your business, really, not mine, except that he was my friend and my partner, but I wasn't in that business. He was my friend and partner in other things, but not that numbers business.

So we got Wimpy up there either that night or the next night at 6 o'clock. There was a meeting with everyone there. And the next thing you know, Peter put it right on him, I gave the money to you, you did it before. Bennett couldn't even explain himself, and so Flemmi took the pistol out and shot him in the head.

\* \* \*

MR. WILSON: ... As far as you're able to [conclude], the reason that Rico gave you the address for [Edward] Punchy McLaughlin was for you to go after Punchy McLaughlin and kill him?

MR. SALEMME: There were two attempts earlier that were unsuccessful, two attempts that I did not want to sanction, but I went ahead and participated in them anyway. After the second one, when he was ambushed and he lost his hand, the first one, he lost his jaw, and that was in the Beth Israel parking lot. Not a good spot at all. The bus stop was much better, boom, boom, and out. But Beth Israel, you had to drive in, they had security, not a good spot, so you couldn't really finish off what you started. We had dressed as rabbis.

MR. DURHAM: ... The first time you tried to kill him, you and Stevie Flemmi tried to kill him at Beth Israel Hospital dressed as rabbis, shot him, took out his jaw.

MR. SALEMME: He was set up by a fellow named Earl Smith.

MR. DURHAM: And there was a second attempt to kill him at a rotary.

MR. SALEMME: Right.

MR. DURHAM: In that one he lost his hand, but there was some other collateral damage to houses and stuff.

MR. SALEMME: There were ricochets. It was a rural area, but there was still houses around, and those high powered weapons, they hit and they ricochet and they travel. There was some collateral damage, as John said, to houses around. So I had a conversation with Paul about it afterwards. He said boy, that was a sloppy piece of work.

MR. WILSON: So you had a conversation with Paul Rico about that second attempt to kill McLaughlin?

MR. SALEMME: Right.

MR. WILSON: To the extent you can remember, and I know it's a long time ago, what did you tell him and what did he say to you?

MR. SALEMME: See, Paul had a way. Paul was a very shrewd individual. He'd make it like, he'd have the papers and say boy, what a sloppy piece of work that was, other people could have got hurt. There were a lot of other words and a lot of other conversation in with that, but the bottom line is Paul, I don't have his address, he's a tough guy to pin down, but I don't know where his starting point is.

MR. WILSON: So you told Rico you didn't know where he was?

MR. SALEMME: Right. Within a day or two days he came back, and he'd just be patting your shoulder like he usually does, and he hit my hand, I went like this, he kept walking, and there was a piece of paper with an address, and I didn't have to ask anymore. I knew who it was. It was Helen Kronis, Punchy's girlfriend or common law wife or whatever. So I went out and started to work on that, and I put the finishing touches on that within three or four days.

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## FINISHING TOUCHES;

MR. WILSON: So you're at Revere Beach and Paul Rico has told you [Robert] Daddeico's going to testify. Is that correct?

MR. SALEMME: Right.

MR. WILSON: And he tells you to get out of town?

MR. SALEMME: Right.

MR. WILSON: Does he tell you anything else at this time?

MR. SALEMME: I'm sure there was conversation, but I can't remember just what again, in retrospect, he didn't have to say too much to make me go. ...

MR. WILSON: If you can walk us through what happened next with your departure from the Boston area.

MR. SALEMME: Well, we drove to Illinois, to Chicago.

MR. WILSON: Let me back you up here. It's my understanding you left with Stephen Flemmi and Peter Poulos and got a car from Peter Poulos. Is that correct?

MR. SALEMME: I don't know if we got the car from him or my garage. I'm not sure. I think it was a Cadillac we left in, so it might have been from the garage. We had access to plates. At that time we had direct access to the registry of motor vehicles. We could go anywhere in the city and get identification, get plates, talk to jurors after hours at night in the court, anything. We had that kind of access in the city of Boston.

But we drove to Chicago, and then we flew to Los Angeles from Chicago. Now, they were going to stay out there, but I didn't think it was a good idea for us to stay together. I don't know how long I stayed there. I don't even think I left the airport. But I flew back to New York, and I hooked up with a fellow by the name of William Candelmo, who was a king man with Raymond Patriarca, with our New England group, and I stayed there. Steve stayed in L.A. and eventually drove back with Poulos, and he eliminated Poulos in Las Vegas, in Clark County.

Now, we got some kind of papers or information from Los Angeles while we were down in Plymouth that prints of Poulos and Flemmi were found in some rooming house or some house in Los Angeles. And when they found the body in Las Vegas they put out an arrest warrant for him and I. And he ends up in New York, Steve Flemmi. He goes to Billy Candelmo's store. There were different places that we had around so in case of emergencies you can go to these people. ... We stayed in Billy's apartment on 8th Avenue and 45th Street. The "Man from La Mancha" was playing right across the street. I used to look out and watch the lines. That's the year it was.

But I got into a conversation, why did you do that to Pete Poulos, there was no plan to eliminate Poulos. He would have been a threat, you know, he witnessed ... Wimpy's murder, he drove Walter there, he would have been a threat. And I said I don't even think Peter Poulos got indicted. To the best of my knowledge, he never got indicted for either one, the car bombing or the Billy Bennett murder. [William and Edward Bennett were brothers.] We didn't know he wasn't getting indicted, and that's why he came. But to eliminate him like that, Steve, you know, come on. Oh, it had to be done, he would have been a weak link, they would have made a witness out of him. That's what happened to him.

MR. WILSON: Just to back up for a second, you've come back to New York, Poulos and Stephen Flemmi are still out in Los Angeles, and then at some point after that Stephen Flemmi comes to New York. Is that correct?

MR. SALEMME: Right, by way of Las Vegas.

MR. WILSON: Let's leave that out, because you don't know that's happening at that point. But you see Stephen Flemmi, you come to this place in New York, and what does he tell you? When did you first learn that Poulos had been killed?



FINISHING TOUCHES;

MR. SALEMME: It was on the news. It came on the news.

MR. WILSON: So you learned about it from the news before talking to Stephen Flemmi?

MR. SALEMME: Right. Billy Candelmo found out because he used to go back and forth to Providence just to talk to Raymond, to talk to JP, Raymond's brother, when Raymond was back in ACI in Rhode Island. Joe Patriarca would go see him and talk to Billy and see what was happening, keeping abreast of things, so he learned that Peter Poulos got killed. ...

MR. WILSON: At that point did you know where Stephen Flemmi was?

MR. SALEMME: When I found out about Poulos, no, but I knew he was there. I mean, I knew Poulos was with him, so it was just a simple deduction to figure out what happened. When I saw it --

MR. WILSON: So when is the next time you saw Flemmi?

MR. SALEMME: When he came to New York.

MR. WILSON: And did he tell you what happened?

MR. SALEMME: Yes, that he would have been a weak link, that he had to do it. ...

That would be his way of operating. He wouldn't do that in front of her, but he'd want to solidify his safety, to travel with a woman and not be traveling alone. He got stopped, too, he said, by a Las Vegas state trooper and he had all kinds of material in the trunk. I said, what do you mean. He said he had a shovel and a rope and all that shit in there. He had a gun under the seat. They didn't hold him, but they did stop him. I don't know if there's any record of that, but they stopped him, him and Poulos, but he couldn't put him under. He said the desert's not soft. I said, what were you thinking, it's the Sahara? I said this is Nevada, this isn't North Africa.

MR. DURHAM: Well, you said he wasn't a planner.

MR. SALEMME: Definitely not a planner, no. The word to describe Steve Flemmi was a spontaneous reactor. If you messed with either one and two or two and one, forget it.

**Load-Date:** February 25, 2004

Kin demans 'justice' on Mob hit; Limone family plans to pack courtroom for new hearing



## [Kin demans 'justice' on Mob hit; Limone family plans to pack courtroom for new hearing](#)

The Boston Herald

December 22, 2000 Friday

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 917 words

**Byline:** By J.M. LAWRENCE and MAGGIE MULVIHILL

### **Body**

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With newly found FBI documents showing the government may have helped frame reputed organized-crime figure Peter J. Limone for a 1965 Mob murder, his family plans to pack a Middlesex courtroom this morning for a hearing on the explosive case.

"It's just a travesty of justice," said Janine Limone, who was 1 when her father went to prison. "Thirty-three years is such a long time."

Judge Marianne B. Hinkle called the hearing after receiving records that had been unearthed during an internal FBI corruption probe that cast doubt on Limone's 1968 conviction as well as verdicts against Joseph Salvati, Henry Tameleo and Louis Greco. "He was innocent. He never did it," Greco's wife of 17 years, Roberta Greco, said yesterday. "I've been saying it for years, and no one would listen."

Greco died in prison, as did Tameleo. Salvati's life sentence was commuted three years ago.

Limone, a grandfather of eight, is still locked up at MCI-Norfolk. "We're hoping they will let him out on bail for Christmas," said Janine Limone, who dreams her father will be able to walk her down the aisle when she gets married in April.

For decades, lawyers and friends of six men convicted in the slaying of gangster Edward "Teddy" Deegan in a Chelsea alley have trumpeted the men's innocence and demanded new trials. Four were slated to die in the electric chair before the state dropped the death penalty in 1974.

Old FBI reports uncovered by the Justice Task Force not only point to other men as Deegan's assassins, but also show agents may have known the Mob planned to kill Deegan days before his murder.

The lead prosecutor in the case, which was tried in 1968, expressed concern yesterday over the stunning revelations springing from yellowed FBI files locked away for years in Washington.

Kin demans 'justice' on Mob hit; Limone family plans to pack courtroom for new hearing

"I am extremely concerned," Boston attorney Jack Zalkind said. "If there were reports in this case, which had exculpatory evidence in them, they should have been turned over to me."

Suffolk County District Attorney Ralph Martin's office, which has opposed Limone's bid for a new trial, refused comment.

"The DA won't own up to this," said Limone's attorney, John Cavicchi. "The DA is still in denial."

Salvati, who was released from prison three years ago, declined comment yesterday. His attorney, Victor Garo, said he wants the courts to clear his name.

"It is time for the government, with all of these amounts of evidence, they should dismiss the charges against Joe Salvati," Garo said. "The time has come."

Information contained in the newly released FBI reports disclosed by the task force shows:

-- The FBI recruited Vincent "Jimmy The Bear" Flemmi - the brother of infamous gangster Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi - as an informant back in 1965 despite knowing he was bent on building a reputation as Boston's "No. 1 hit man."

-- Two days before Deegan was killed on March 12, 1965, an FBI informant told special agent **H. Paul Rico** that Vincent Flemmi planned to kill Deegan and that Mafia boss Raymond L.S. Patriarca approved the hit.

"Flemmi states that Deegan is an arrogant, nasty sneak and should be killed," an FBI agent wrote in the papers.

-- The day after Deegan was killed, an informant told Rico Flemmi admitted taking part in the murder and named four accomplices.

-- In a report later forwarded to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, agent Rico wrote the names of five men who the informant said killed Deegan: Vincent Flemmi, Joseph "The Animal" Barboza, Ronald Cassesso, Wilfred Roy French and Romeo Martin.

But only Cassesso and French were indicted by then-Suffolk County District Attorney Garrett Byrne along with Limone, Salvati, Tameleo and Greco.

Barboza, a ruthless Mob hitman, became the prosecution's star witness in the Deegan case.

"They screwed me, and now I'm going to screw as many of them as possible," Barboza reportedly told another gangster hit man John Martorano - who is cooperating in the government's case against the James "Whitey" Bulger gang.

Agent Rico and his special agent Dennis Condon, both now retired, were the forces who convinced Barboza to flip.

The new information suggests the agents knew Barboza lied on the stand.

"I thought Paul Rico and Denny Condon were absolutely good guys," former prosecutor Zalkind said yesterday. "If they were holding back on me, oh my God."

There is other possible evidence that the men were innocent. Boston attorney Joseph J. Balliro Sr., who represented Vincent Flemmi, said his client told him Limone, Salvati and Tameleo did not participate in the Deegan killing.

Asked what he thought was the FBI's motivation in allowing innocent men to be tried for murder and sentenced to death, Balliro said. "I assume the perception was these were bad men and to hell with them."

Kin demans 'justice' on Mob hit; Limone family plans to pack courtroom for new hearing

"The FBI was trying to protect Steve Flemmi and his brother. How are they going to go after Jimmy (Flemmi) when they were in bed with his brother? You don't think Stevie would have liked that. The FBI was married to Stevie," he said.

Stephen Flemmi was a key informant for the FBI in its quest to destroy the New England Mob.

Balliro was particularly critical of Rico and Condon, saying neither of them were deserving then or now of an FBI badge.

"Paul Rico and Dennis Condon knew these men were being tried and they had critical evidence that they were innocent," Balliro said. "It's unbelievable."

Balliro wants Hinkle release him from attorney-client privilege so he can divulge all he knows to the court.

**Load-Date:** December 22, 2000

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## *The Story of Joe Salvati*

Fox News Network FOX SPECIAL REPORT WITH BRIT HUME (18:20)

May 3, 2001 Thursday

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**Length:** 1481 words

**Byline:** Brit Hume, David Shuster

### **Body**

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THIS IS A RUSH TRANSCRIPT. THIS COPY MAY NOT BE IN ITS FINAL FORM AND MAY BE UPDATED.

HUME: There unfolded in a hearing room on Capitol Hill this day the story of a man wrongly convicted, sitting in jail for decades. Wrongful convictions do sometimes happen, but what's notable about this is that federal law enforcement knew the man was innocent and left him there anyway. Correspondent David Shuster covered the story and joins me now.

Hi, David.

DAVID SHUSTER, FOX CORRESPONDENT: Brit, this is a case about a Boston man named Joe Salvati who spent 30 years in a Massachusetts prison for a murder that the FBI knew from the beginning he did not commit. The FBI, according to documents, was convinced that if the real perpetrator was arrested, a man the FBI had identified, it would blow the cover of FBI informants. These informants, by the way, later went on a murder spree.

As for Joe Salvati and his wife, Marie, they stayed in contact through prison visits every week for 30 years, until their lawyer was able to locate documents proving that the FBI and the Boston Police Department had engaged in a cover-up.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

JOSEPH SALVATI, WRONGFULLY IMPRISONED: I am here to talk about our most precious possession of all, freedom. As you know, I have served 30 long and hard years in prison for a crime I did not commit.

However, I still can -- I still consider our justice system to be the greatest system in the world. But sometimes it fails, as in my case. I became a casualty in the war against crime.

The justice system has finally worked for me, although it has taken over 34 years.

Finally, I'd like to say a few things about my wife. She is a woman of great strength and character. She has always been there for me in darkest hours. She brought up our four children and gave them a caring and loving home.

When God made my Marie, they threw the mold away!

## The Story of Joe Salvati

REP. DAN BURTON (R-IN), GOVERNMENT REFORM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN: That's OK. Take your time.

VICTOR GARO, JOSEPH SALVATI'S ATTORNEY: Mr. Chairman, may I please those last sentences for Mr. Salvati?

BURTON: Sure.

GARO: "When God made my Marie, the mold was thrown away. I am one of the luckiest men in the world to have such a devoted and caring wife. My precious Marie."

MARIE SALVATI, JOSEPH SALVATI'S WIFE: The government stole 30 years of my life. I was unable to share with my husband the joys of being a husband and a wife. The government stole 30 years from my children because they grew up without their father. However, the government was never able to break our spirit. Our love grew stronger, and I always knew my husband was innocent. I know the moral character my husband possessed. I did not expect, as my -- I do not accept as my destiny that my husband would never come home again. I always had faith and love.

Our lawyer, Vic Garo, always instilled in us that the glass was half full and not half empty. We gathered strength from this fact and that he believed Joe was innocent from the very beginning of his representation of my husband and my family. While my husband was imprisoned, the pact between us was I would not inform him of the problems at home -- you know, I used to say to my husband, "You take care of yourself on the inside, and I'll take care of the family on the outside."

From the very beginning of imprisonment, I knew that it would be important for the children to have constant contact with their family -- with their father. And every weekend, you know, I'd dress up, pack a little lunch, and we'd go off to see him for their hugs and their kisses and whatever went on. And he would give them their father's guidance, even though he was not home with -- sometimes it took hours to get there. And then by the time you got there, you were all nervous. My husband and I have (UNINTELLIGIBLE) endured the hardship (UNINTELLIGIBLE) we grew older, and we (UNINTELLIGIBLE) another husband and wife can have. We love each other very much! God bless you all.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

SHUSTER: The committee also heard from the Salvatis' lawyer, Victor Garo, who took this case for free and stayed with it for nearly three decades.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

GARO: There's an apology that should be made to the citizens of the United States and to the press of the United States because you were all taken in by the name of the FBI. It was more important to the FBI that they protected their prized informants than it was for innocent people not to be framed. The truth be damned! Didn't matter, the truth! We want convictions! We don't care what happens to Joe Salvati. We don't care what happens to Marie Salvati. We don't care what happens to their four young children. I care. I have cared for over 26 years.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

SHUSTER: The hearing was emotional, but it also provided a major surprise. A former FBI agent involved in the case, who is now under criminal investigation, was summoned and was expected to assert his 5th Amendment rights against self-incrimination. Instead, the former agent started testifying and seemed to contradict a series of documents, including some he had authored. Committee chair Dan Burton worried about jeopardizing the separate Justice Department investigation, took a break to huddle with staff attorneys. Burton then came back and issued a dramatic warning to the former agent, making sure that Paul Rico knew the testimony could be used against him. After that segment, you will hear Congressman Chris Shays ask if the former agent is sorry about anything that happened to the Salvatis.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

## The Story of Joe Salvati

BURTON: Do you understand that if you knowingly provide this committee with false testimony, you may be violating federal law, including 18 U.S. C-1001? And do you also understand that you have a right to have a lawyer present here with you today?

**H. PAUL RICO**, RETIRED FBI SPECIAL AGENT: Yes.

BURTON: You understand all that?

RICO: Yes. Yes.

BURTON: And you prefer to go on answering questions with your testimony. You're subpoenaed here to answer...

RICO: I have had advice of counsel, and I am not -- I'm not taking my counsel's advice. I am going to -- I'll explain to you whatever you want to know.

REP. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS (R), CONNECTICUT: Do you have any remorse?

RICO: Remorse? For what?

SHAYS: For the fact that you were -- played a role in this.

RICO: I believe that the role I played was the role I should have played. I believe that...

SHAYS: But now you...

(CROSSTALK)

RICO: ... we supplied a witness, and we gave him to the local police, and they're supposed to be able to handle the case from there on. That's it.

SHAYS: No you know...

RICO: Oh, I can't -- I cannot...

SHAYS: So you really don't really -- you don't really care much, and you don't really have any remorse. Is that true?

RICO: Would you like tears or something? What?

SHAYS: Pardon me?

RICO: What do you want, tears?

(END VIDEO CLIP)

SHUSTER: Members of the committee were so outraged that they -- one of them publicly accused Paul Rico of being as corrupt as the Mafia he was investigating 30 years ago. And even though the Boston FBI bureau, to this point, has not apologized to the Salvati family, on this day, Brit, FBI director Louis Freeh has issued a statement saying that the entire FBI bureau will cooperate with the ongoing criminal investigation.

HUME: Tell me what it was that was so terribly important that the FBI thought it was worth this man spending -- this innocent man they knew was innocent spending 30 years in jail?

SHUSTER: Well, Brit, there was an FBI informant named Joseph Barboza, whose friend, a guy by the name of Vincent Flemmi, the FBI knew had committed the murder that this man, Mr. Salvati, was accused with. The FBI was convinced that if, in fact, they let on that they knew that Mr. Salvati was not the right perpetrator in this case, that that would tip off informants that they had as part of other cases and ruin some other trials that they were planning to do.

The Story of Joe Salvati

The problem with this, though, was that Joseph Barboza, the man who was the key witness against Mr. Salvati -- he eventually recanted, and the FBI said, "Look, you're going to have to stick with your story." Furthermore, Barboza went on to commit several murders.

HUME: Now, no apology from -- from this man. Have the police involved in this -- are they -- have they apologized?

SHUSTER: The Boston Police Department has also been largely silent about this, even though some of it was -- it was some of their own internal documents. Many of them had been destroyed and -- and put away. They'd eventually surfaced because they had been misfiled. And because they'd been misfiled, that's the only reason that Mr. Salvati's attorney was able to get his hands on some evidence that would prove his client's innocence on this murder charge.

HUME: All right, David. Thank you very much.

We have to take a quick break for other headlines, but when we return, find out what Al Gore is saying about his political future. The Grapevine is next.

**Load-Date:** July 10, 2003

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End of Document





## **DEATH OF A KILLER; Sources: Authorities suspect mob is responsible for Bulger's demise**

The Patriot Ledger (Quincy, Massachusetts)

October 31, 2018 Wednesday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 1

**Length:** 1253 words

**Byline:** Edmund H. Mahony and Nicholas Rondinone, THE HARTFORD COURANT

### **Body**

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#### WHITEY BULGER SLAIN IN PRISON

Notorious crime boss James "Whitey" Bulger, who used murder, terror and corruption to build a sprawling criminal network, was beaten to death Tuesday in a federal prison in West Virginia and authorities suspect other New England mobsters may be responsible, law enforcement sources said.

Bulger, a South Boston native and longtime Quincy resident, had been beaten almost beyond recognition, law enforcement sources said.

Authorities who spent careers trying to stop Bulger were scrambling to learn what had happened Tuesday when news broke around noon that he was found dead at the federal, maximum-security Hazleton prison at Bruceton Mills, W.Va., where he had been transferred a day earlier.

William J. Powell, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of West Virginia, confirmed Bulger, 89, and in failing health, was dead and said through a spokesman that his office would investigate the circumstances.

"No other information will be released at this time," Powell's office said.

The U.S. Bureau of Prison said Bulger "was found unresponsive" at 8:20 a.m. and that emergency life-saving measures by prison staff were unsuccessful. He was pronounced dead by the county medical examiner.

"The Federal Bureau of Investigation was notified and an investigation has been initiated," the bureau of prisons said in a statement.

However, one of the law enforcement sources said federal investigators have begun looking at gangsters from New England who are confined at the Hazleton prison. There are at least two inmates from New England serving sentences at Hazleton for mob-related murder convictions.

## DEATH OF A KILLER; Sources: Authorities suspect mob is responsible for Bulger's demise

USP Hazelton is a high security facility that houses 1,270 male offenders and is part of a larger federal prison complex.

Bulger was serving a life sentence for 11 murders and dozens of other crimes.

He had been held in a high-security prison in the federal correctional complex at Coleman, Fla. Because of deteriorating health and a heart condition - Bulger was using a wheelchair in prison - law enforcement sources said he was moved in recent days to a prisoner transportation hub in Oklahoma City and was being considered for admission to the federal prison medical center at Springfield, Mo.

When Bulger's health issues failed to qualify him for admission to the medical center, one of the sources said, he was transferred to the Hazelton high-security institution in West Virginia, where inmate-on-inmate violence has been an issue of growing concern.

On Oct. 18, U.S. Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-D.C., called for an investigation of the Hazelton facility after the violent deaths of two Washington-area inmates in the last year and reports of "brutal treatment of others."

Bulger used a corrupt relationship with a handful of FBI agents and other law enforcement officers to take over a small-time gang of hoodlums in his native South Boston and turn it into one of the country's most powerful criminal mobs.

The FBI's Boston office listed Bulger as a top echelon informant. But in his case, it was never clear who was informing to whom. Bulger routinely turned over his criminal competition - from nickel and dime Irish thugs in his native South Boston to powerful figures in the Italian mafia - and in return, was given secret law enforcement intelligence he used to murder anyone informing on him.

When law enforcement finally caught on to Bulger in the 1990s, someone in the FBI tipped him to a pending indictment, and he disappeared for 16 years, eluding an intensive, global dragnet. He was finally located after a tip to a tabloid television program led agents to the Santa Monica, Calif., apartment where he was living with a longtime girlfriend. Stashed inside was more than \$800,000 in cash and an arsenal of firearms.

After a sensational, monthslong trial in federal court in Boston in 2013, a jury convicted Bulger of 11 murders in the 1970s and 1980s while running a national criminal enterprise that collected millions of dollars from gambling, extortion and drug trafficking.

Among other things, the jury put Bulger at the center of an ambitious plot by his Winter Hill gang and a retired Boston FBI agent named ***H. Paul Rico*** to penetrate the U.S. pari-mutuel industry by taking over the World Jai Alai company. At the time, jai alai had a significant presence in Connecticut.

Bulger signed on to the murderous jai alai plot even though he worried from the outset that the law enforcement attention it was certain to generate would be his undoing. Bulger was right. Four of the murders and two of the murder conspiracies of which he was found guilty were related to his gang's attempt to shoot its way into World Jai Alai.

The first to die was World Jai Alai owner Roger Wheeler. Then Winter Hill associates Brian Halloran and John Callahan were gunned down after Bulger's corrupt FBI handler, agent John Connolly, told him the two were or were likely to become witnesses against him in the Wheeler murder.

The fourth victim was Michael Donahue, an innocent bystander who happened to be sitting in a car with Halloran when Bulger opened fire with a machine gun, in broad daylight, on a busy South Boston street, yards from the shiny new courthouse where his two-month trial took place.

For the career of violence, Bulger was sentenced to two life sentences.

## DEATH OF A KILLER; Sources: Authorities suspect mob is responsible for Bulger's demise

"The scope, the callousness, the depravity of your crimes are almost unfathomable," U.S. District Judge Denise Casper told Bulger at his sentencing. "The testimony of the human suffering that you and your associates inflicted on others was sometimes agonizing to hear and painful to watch."

Bulger sat mute during most of his closely followed trial, but occasionally livened things up by flinging obscenities at witnesses who displeased him.

The conviction, and years of investigation preceding it, revealed not only the grotesque violence for which Bulger and his partners were routinely responsible, but the degree to which he had corrupted the local FBI office. There was testimony Bulger paid an agent a quarter million dollars and, in return, repeatedly received information he used to kill witnesses.

The verdicts also shattered whatever remained of the Bulger myth - a myth cultivated by Bulger and his friends in federal law enforcement - that one of the country's most violent criminals was really a "good" bad guy, a hoodlum with a blue-collar heart who, among other things, kept drug dealers out of Irish-American South Boston, his power base.

In the 1980s, when Bulger and fellow mobster Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi were FBI informants, Bulger and his girlfriend, Catherine Greig, lived in a condominium in the Louisburg South complex near Wollaston Beach in Quincy.

The condo was in Greig's name. Some of the most notorious murders for which Bulger was convicted Monday were committed while he lived there - though none of the killings occurred there.

Greig sold the condo in July 1986, and two months later, paid cash for a single-family residence at 16 Hillcrest Road in Quincy's Squantum neighborhood. She fled with Bulger in January 1995, when Bulger was tipped off about federal racketeering indictments.

She was still the owner of record for the property when they were arrested in Santa Monica, Calif. in June 2011.

Greig pleaded guilty in March 2012 to harboring Bulger as a fugitive from justice. She was sentenced to eight years in federal prison, and sold the house to a Quincy developer to pay off a \$150,000 fine.

Material from The Patriot Ledger's archives was used in this report.

## Graphic

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FILE PHOTOS ▪ The late James "Whitey" Bulger through the years, from 1953 until 2011, after he was arrested, ending his 16-year run from police. Bulger

**Load-Date:** November 19, 2018

Sources: Bulger Beaten, Killed Authorities Suspect New England Mobcrime boss



**Sources: Bulger Beaten, Killed  
Authorities Suspect New England Mob  
crime boss**

The Hartford Courant

October 31, 2018 Wednesday

1 Edition

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**Section:** MAIN; A; Pg. 1

**Length:** 1107 words

**Byline:** EDMUND H. MAHONY;and NICHOLAS RONDINONE

[emahony@courant.com](mailto:emahony@courant.com)

**Highlight:** Bulger

## **Body**

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Notorious crime boss James "Whitey" Bulger, who used murder, terror and corruption to build a sprawling criminal network, was beaten to death Tuesday in a federal prison in West Virginia and authorities suspect other New England mobsters may be responsible, law enforcement sources said.

Bulger had been beaten almost beyond recognition, the sources said.

There are at least two inmates from New England serving sentences at Hazleton for mob-related murder convictions, including Fotios "Freddy" Geas, convicted in the 2003 murder of Genovese crime family boss Adolfo "Big Al" Bruno, who authorities were focused on Tuesday night.

Bulger was found dead at the federal, maximum-security Hazleton prison at Bruceton Mills, W.Va., where he had been transferred a day earlier.

William J. Powell, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of West Virginia, confirmed Bulger, 89 and in failing health, was dead and said through a spokesman that his office would investigate the circumstances.

"No other information will be released at this time." Powell's office said.

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Sources: Bulger Beaten, Killed Authorities Suspect New England Mobcrime boss

"The Federal Bureau of Investigation was notified and an investigation has been initiated," the bureau of prisons said in a statement. USP Hazelton is a high security facility that houses 1,270 male offenders and is part of a larger federal prison complex. Recently, it has been beset by a spate of inmate-on-inmate violence.

Bulger was serving a life sentence for 11 murders and dozens of other crimes.

He had been held in a high-security prison in the federal correctional complex at Coleman, Fla. Because of deteriorating health and a heart condition - Bulger was using a wheelchair in prison - law enforcement sources said he was moved in recent days to a prisoner transportation hub in Oklahoma City and was being considered for admission to the federal prison medical center at Springfield, Mo.

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The FBI's Boston office listed Bulger as a top echelon informant. But in his case, it was never clear who was informing to whom. Bulger routinely turned over his criminal competition - from nickel and dime Irish thugs in his native South Boston to powerful figures in the Italian mafia - and in return, was given secret law enforcement intelligence he used to murder anyone informing on him.

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The first to die was World Jai Alai owner Roger Wheeler. Then Winter Hill associates Brian Halloran and John Callahan were gunned down after Bulger's corrupt FBI handler, agent John Connolly, told him the two were or were likely to become witnesses against him in the Wheeler murder.

The fourth victim was Michael Donahue, an innocent bystander who happened to be sitting in a car with Halloran when Bulger opened fire with a machine gun, in broad daylight, on a busy South Boston street, yards from the shiny new courthouse where his two-month trial took place.

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Sources: Bulger Beaten, Killed Authorities Suspect New England Mobcrime boss

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Bulger sat mute during most of his closely followed trial, but occasionally livened things up by flinging obscenities at witnesses who displeased him. When the jury returned the verdict that would take him off the streets forever, he stood silently and watched.

The conviction, and years of investigation preceding it, revealed not only the grotesque violence for which Bulger and his partners were routinely responsible, but the degree to which he had corrupted the local FBI office. There was testimony Bulger paid an agent a quarter million dollars and, in return, repeatedly received information he used to kill witnesses

The verdicts also shattered whatever remained of the Bulger myth - a myth cultivated by Bulger and his friends in federal law enforcement - that one of the country's most violent criminals was really a "good" bad guy, a hoodlum with a blue-collar heart who, among other things, kept drug dealers out of Irish-American South Boston, his power base.

Bulger was expected to take the stand during his trial in the summer of 2013, but later changed his mind.

"And my thing is, as far as I'm concerned, I didn't get a fair trial," Bulger said, when he revealed he would not testify. "And this is a sham. And do what youse want with me. That's it. That's my final word."

**Load-Date:** October 31, 2018



## *BAD MEMORY LANE; Flemmi fails to recognize cohort at mob trial*

The Boston Herald  
June 7, 2018 Thursday  
All Editions

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**Section:** NEWS; Columnist-Howie Carr; Pg. 7; Vol. 36; No. 158

**Length:** 606 words

**Byline:** HOWIE CARR

### **Body**

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Two days shy of his 84th birthday, Stevie Flemmi had a senior moment on the witness stand yesterday.

He couldn't recognize Frank Salemme, his old partner in crime, in the U.S. District courtroom.

"I don't see him," the Rifleman answered when the prosecutor asked him to point out the 85-year-old former boss of the New England Mafia.

"Stand up," prosecutor Fred Wyshak told his star witness.

Stevie got up slowly and peered through thick black glasses around Courtroom 17. His eyes kept drifting away from the defense table, where Salemme sat calmly in a light brown suit, and over to the spectators' gallery.

"I would recognize him if I saw him," Stevie finally mumbled. "But I don't see him."

Afterward, I waved at Frank and got his attention. I asked him about Stevie's inability to point him out.

"He's soft," Frank said. "He had a stroke." Then he stuck his tongue into his cheek and screwed up his mouth into a grimace, to indicate how Stevie was incapacitated.

Earlier, Frankie had dictated a little note to his lawyer, Steve Boozang, to give to me to read.

"Blue Jay is looking over us," the note said. It was signed, "F.S."

Blue Jay was Carl Velleca, an old-time thief who was once imprisoned at MCI-Concord, where he unsuccessfully ran for selectman, counting on the votes of his fellow inmates. He lost. Blue Jay later dropped dead while delivering a sermon at a local church.

I'd forgotten all about Blue Jay until Frankie mentioned him. But that's the kind of day it was — multiple trips down Memory Lane, organized crime division.

## BAD MEMORY LANE; Flemmi fails to recognize cohort at mob trial

Stevie was brought back to Boston to testify against Salemme, who is charged with murdering a bar owner with his now deceased son back in 1993. It's Stevie's final trip back to his hometown — he's doing life plus 30 years for every crime in the book, including 10 murders, which the feds went over one by one.

In a brief recitation Wyshak asked Flemmi if he had pled guilty to the murder of ... Edward Connors, Thomas King, Roger Wheeler, Richard Castucci, Deb Davis, John Callahan, Bucky Barrett, Deb Hussey, John McIntyre.

Yes, Flemmi said in response to every name. Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes. ...

In prison now for the last 23 years, Flemmi is hard of hearing. He mumbles. He confuses murder victims, Thomas Timmons and Thomas King. He misremembers how long he operated out of Somerville. He described murder after murder in the passive voice. For instance, Wyshak asked him, what happened to his criminal associate Peter Poulos?

"He was murdered," Flemmi said.

"By whom?"

"By me."

He was asked what happened to a home invader named Thomas Timmons.

"He disappeared."

Here are a few of the other highlights of Flemmi's first day on the witness stand:

He paid corrupt FBI agent John "Zip" Connolly \$235,000 "and there was other money, too."

He was also tight with an earlier corrupt G-man, **H. Paul Rico** — "I had a relationship with him and Dennis Condon. Quid pro quo. I'd give him information and he'd give us information on the Mafia, what pertained to us."

He was asked why he developed such a close relationship with Whitey Bulger, as opposed to the other principals in the Winter Hill Gang, like Howie Winter and John Martorano. "We weren't involved in the lifestyle of the other guys. We didn't smoke or drink. They were party guys." Another thing Stevie and Whitey had in common: They were pedophiles.

As I left the courthouse, on the red brick sidewalk on Northern Avenue, I saw a shadow of a bird flying above me. I remembered Frank's thought for the day — "Blue Jay is looking over us."

I glanced up. It was a seagull.

*Buy Howie's book about the Whitey Bulger trial, "Ratman," at [howiecarrshow.com](http://howiecarrshow.com).*

## Graphic

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'HE'S SOFT': Stephen 'The Rifleman' Flemmi, left, testified yesterday at the trial of his ex-mob associate Francis 'Cadillac Frank' Salemme, above, charged in the murder of Steve DiSarro, shown below left with Salemme's son, Francis Jr.

HERALD FILE PHOTO, LEFT; AP FILE PHOTO, ABOVE; DOJ PHOTO, BELOW

**Load-Date:** June 7, 2018



BAD MEMORY LANE; Flemmi fails to recognize cohort at mob trial

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ig report shows feds are bent and broken



## [ig report shows feds are bent and broken](#)

The Boston Herald

June 15, 2018 Friday

All Editions

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**Section:** NEWS; Columnist-Howie Carr; Pg. 6; Vol. 36; No. 166**Length:** 613 words**Byline:** HOWIE CARR

### **Body**

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Question: What's the difference between the corrupt old Boston FBI of Zip Connolly and [H. Paul Rico](#), and the new modern FBI of James Comey, Andrew McCabe and Peter Strzok?

Answer: Nothing.

Actually, there are a few differences. In Boston, all the corrupt agents wanted to do was frame a few innocent men and set up informants for hits by their underworld masters, as well as taking hundreds of thousands of dollars in bribes.

The modern FBI agents were involved in an even more nefarious conspiracy — trying to first fix a presidential election, and then, after that backfired, trying to overthrow the duly elected president of the United States.

Some people are disappointed that the 578-page report by the Department of Justice inspector general on the Hillary Clinton email investigation wasn't even more scathing. But it was plenty bad enough.

Let's see, the smirking director of the FBI said last night he's ordering bias training for his Democrats, I mean agents. (Where? At Starbucks?) The IG said the crooked feds' texts "created the appearance that investigation decisions they made were impacted by bias."

So here's the CNN headline: "Report faults Comey but finds no political bias."

I guess it all depends on your definition of "bias."

The FBI has never exactly been on the level, but lately it's devolved into the secret-police arm of the Democratic party, the Beltway's Stasi. Laws? The FBI don't need no stinkin' laws.

Consider the texts between Hillary-worshipping FBI lovebirds Peter Strzok and Lisa Page. First the FBI said they'd "lost" their pillow-talk texts, all 50,000. Then the IG announced he had them all. So the FBI grudgingly released its version, under a Congressional subpoena.

ig report shows feds are bent and broken

But guess what? The FBI edited the transcript to cut out the smoking gun showing just how determined the FBI was to throw the election to the most corrupt candidate in American history. Here are the real texts, as released yesterday.

Girlfriend: "(Trump's) not ever going to become president, right? Right?!"

Boyfriend: "No. No he's not. We'll stop it."

In the version the crooked G-men sent to Congress, only the question is included. They covered up for the bent fed.

By the way, did anyone notice any pro-Trump texts released in those 578 pages yesterday? Apparently, every single agent on the seventh floor of headquarters, from J. Edgar Comey on down, was rabidly in the tank for Hillary.

Was the fix in? Here's an exchange between two G-men in February 2016, after the feds interview one of the IT techs who set up the email server Hillary set up to get around the Espionage Act.

FBI Employee: "How did the (witness) go?"

Agent 1: "Awesome. Lied his ass off... Ridic(ulous)."

FBI Employee: "Would be funny if he was the only guy charged in this deal."

Agent 1: "I know.... Even if he said the truth and didn't have a clearance when handling the secure fax – ain't no one gonna do (bleep)."

Ain't no one gonna do bleep. If the IG had wanted to put a title on his report, that would have been perfect, because it summed the biggest scandal in American political history. The FBI has given up crime fighting. Its mission now is crime fixing. For Democrats.

The Deep State tried its best to broom this corruption. They filed their phony-baloney lawsuit against the Trump Foundation. They ran phony news stories about Michael Cohen "flipping" and Sarah Huckabee Sanders quitting. They leaked the first reports to a leading purveyor of fake news, Bloomberg.

All these swamp creatures should be locked up. They ought to put a wall around the J. Edgar Hoover Building on Pennsylvania Avenue and give everyone inside 3 to 5.

Buy Howie's book about the Whitey Bulger trial, "Ratman," at [howiecarrshow.com](http://howiecarrshow.com).

## Graphic

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AGENTS IN SHAMING: A report released by the Department of Justice inspector general called the actions of former director James B. Comey, above, insubordinate, during the 2016 election.

staff file photo, above, by chris christo; ap file photo, right

**Load-Date:** June 15, 2018



## *McCabe earned Trump tweet; All-caps message justified by misconduct*

The Boston Herald  
April 15, 2018 Sunday  
All Editions

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**Section:** NEWS; Columnist-Howie Carr; Pg. 4; Vol. 36; No. 105

**Length:** 837 words

**Byline:** HOWIE CARR

### **Body**

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Despite what some grammar purists say, sometimes it is appropriate to use all capital letters to deliver a message.

Consider Friday afternoon, when President Trump tweeted out his take on the official Department of Justice reports on the gross misconduct of crooked FBI agent Andrew McCabe:

“He LIED! LIED! LIED!”

You may consider that hyperbole, but not if you’ve actually studied the 35-page report.

I’ve read a lot of perjury indictments over the years, but I have never seen anywhere close to the number of ways in which the inspector general of the Justice Department describes McCabe’s “lack of candor,” as he puts it about 50 times, in describing the dirty trickster’s efforts to cover his slimy tracks.

First, some background on Andrew McCabe, a made member of the Clinton Crime Family. He was a modern bumkissing FBI bureaucrat — metrosexual pajama boy, skilled in sharpening pencils and shuffling papers, petrified by his own service weapon, which was most likely a .22. All McCabe ever did was brief — go to briefings, prepare briefings, deliver briefings, etc. His career on the street — brief, very, very brief.

Nobody had ever heard of McCabe until just before the 2016 election, when he was busted by The Wall Street Journal for the fact that his wife had grabbed \$675,000 from Hillary Clinton operatives when she was running for a state Senate seat in Virginia a year earlier.

In the very ethical FBI of James Comey, the fact that Jill McCabe got \$675,000 in Clinton cash made McCabe the logical person to oversee the feds’ criminal investigation of the racketeering organization known as the Clinton Foundation.

McCabe might not have been the best “special agent” for the broom job, but neither John “Zip” Connolly nor *H. Paul Rico* were available.

McCabe earned Trump tweet; All-caps message justified by misconduct

Bent as he was, McCabe naturally dreamed of becoming director someday — someday being Jan. 20, 2017, after his wife's paymaster Hillary was inaugurated as president. So when he was busted, McCabe freaked out. The IG report describes him as "very unhappy" over the "incredibly damaging" report.

So he decided to follow in the footsteps of his hero Comey and start leaking lies, I mean positive information, about himself.

Alas, McCabe executed yet another poor decision — as his designated leaker he selected Lisa Page, the girlfriend of still another bent G-man, Peter Strzok. She's identified in the IG's report as "Special Counsel," although it might have been more accurate to describe her as "The Other Woman."

Anyway, Hillary lost the election and suddenly, trying to broom a massive Clinton corruption case was no longer considered a good career move — even in an agency as corrosively corrupt as the modern FBI.

The IG of the Justice Department began investigating the unauthorized leaks to make McCabe look good, and McCabe immediately started ... "lacking candor," as the report says.

Here are some of McCabe's excuses, shall we say, as outlined in the report, with both direct quotes and narrative:

"'Did not recall ... no idea ... 'I don't remember' ... he was confused ... 'I don't know what she's referring to' ... 'not that I'm aware of' ... he could not remember ... 'I don't really want to get into discussing this' ... 'on further recollection, I remember authorizing' ... 'so, I misspoke' ... claimed ignorance ... 'I was surprised ...'"

The first few times the IG's sleuths talked to him, it was informal. Then they realized he was behaving like the Clinton stooge that he is — lying his rear end off. They finally put him under oath on May 9, 2017. Does that date ring a bell? It was the day Trump fired Comey and McCabe became acting director of the FBI. It's mentioned, without comment, in a footnote on Page 15. Who says the IG doesn't have a sense of irony?

Here's some more of the ways the IG describes McCabe: "provided a starkly different account ... significant questions whether (McCabe) testified truthfully ... none of the circumstantial evidence providence support for McCabe's account ... no other senior FBI official corroborated McCabe's testimony ... we do not credit his claim ... we did not find this to be a persuasive explanation."

He was a secret cover-up agent for Hillary Clinton. Were they expecting him to tell the truth?

I've never read anything like this in any federal document.

McCabe's lawyer complained that the report "paints Director Comey as a white knight." Wow! Oh how sharper than a serpent's tooth it is, when the crooked cops turn on one another like this?

But McCabe was busted, and he finally cracked. Aug. 18, after he'd been removed in disgrace as director, he copped to everything. He'd been leaking 'n' lying in a Comey-like fashion. The investigators describe his confession:

"As nice as could be, he said yep, yep I did it. ... He kind of just looked down, kind of nodded, and said, 'yeah, I'm sorry.'"

As the old country song goes, "Don't tell you're sorry, I know how sorry you are!"

Or, as President Trump might put it:

"He LIED! LIED! LIED!"

*See Corey Lewandowski with Howie today in Malden at 4 p.m. at Mixx 360. Buy tickets at howiecarrshow.com.*

McCabe earned Trump tweet; All-caps message justified by misconduct

## Graphic

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BRIEF: Andrew McCabe was the target of a President Trump tweet about his alleged misconduct.

AP FILE PHOTO

**Load-Date:** April 16, 2018

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rampant corruption the norm in fbi; Strzok scandal nothing new



## [rampant corruption the norm in fbi; Strzok scandal nothing new](#)

The Boston Herald

July 15, 2018 Sunday

All Editions

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**Section:** NEWS; Columnist-Howie Carr; Pg. 10; Vol. 36; No. 196

**Length:** 881 words

**Byline:** HOWIE CARR

### **Body**

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Before there was Peter Strzok, there was Zip Connolly.

People tend to forget, or maybe never knew, just how corrupt the famous but incompetent Federal Bureau of Investigation has always been. This current scandal is just business as usual for the agency that has metastasized into America's secret police.

Strzok's weaselly testimony last week showed just how far off the rails the crooked feds have gone. And it just so happens that this summer is the 40th anniversary of another horrific crime, one in which this same crew of dirty cops played a supporting, but revealing role.

This is a story about another "decorated G-man," John "Zip" Connolly, currently serving 40 years for a gangland hit in Florida.

Zip will likely be the second gangster/G-man from Boston to end his life in prison, after his FBI mentor, **H. Paul Rico**, who died in an Oklahoma prison in 2003 as he awaited trial for another underworld murder.

This crime involved a place called Blackfriars, a dank, dark club on Summer Street, where there was always a lot of cocaine and cash. In late June 1978, gunmen invaded the club after hours and shot five men to death during the course of a robbery.

The five murders were never officially solved, but one thing is clear: Whitey Bulger, who was paying off at least seven crooked feds in Boston at the time, did not pull the trigger. But Bulger figured he could still make a score off it.

So he called one of his dirty cops, "special" agent Zip Connolly, and ordered him to get the grisly crime scene photos from the Boston Police Department.

Zip Connolly was puzzled, but hey, Whitey was the boss. Like all the crooked feds, Zip was getting rich off drugs and murder. According to Stevie Flemmi's court testimony, when Zip collected two \$25,000 payments from a drug shakedown, he was ecstatic.

rampant corruption the norm in fbi; Strzok scandal nothing new

“He says, ‘I’m in the gang.’”

Indeed he was. At his retirement dinner, another of the corrupt agents described Zip’s gangster-style dress, featuring “enough gold showing to be the envy of most members of the Gambino Crime Family.”

Anyway, Zip gets the grisly crime-scene photos of the five corpses for his boss. Whitey had a plan. The murdered owner of Blackfriars had a business associate named Teddy Berenson. Whitey figured he was “ripe for an extortion,” as Flemmi put it at Bulger’s trial.

That afternoon, Whitey swaggered into Berenson’s office with a manila envelope. Whitey informed Berenson that he would now pay \$60,000 cash to the mob, money that Vincent Solmonte, the club owner, had allegedly owed. Berenson asked why he should be on the hook for the “debt.”

“Because I murdered Solmonte and the others,” Whitey lied. “I have this town tied up. Not only did I kill them all, but I have enough clout that I didn’t even have to leave right away. I stuck around after I killed them.”

Berenson asked Whitey what he meant by that. Whitey opened the envelope he’d brought with him and spread the gruesome photos across his desk.

“He showed him the pictures,” Flemmi recalled in court.

Berenson immediately paid the \$60,000 shakedown. Good old Zip — he always earned his paycheck, from Whitey anyway.

The Blackfriars was far from the worst of Zip’s misdeeds. Through the ’80s, he lobbied to keep four innocent men in prison who had been framed for murder by the FBI’s Rico.

Another Boston fed involved in keeping the innocent men in prison for all those years: Robert Mueller, then the U.S. attorney, now in charge of the 13 angry Democrats charged with framing President Trump in the Russian collusion hoax. One of Mueller’s first hires as special counsel: Peter Strzok.

Mueller can recognize that special kind of FBI talent when he sees it. He saw enough of it in Boston over the years.

The worst crime Zip committed, though, was informing Whitey that one of his gunsels was going to rat him out for one of the earlier hits he’d done for FBI agent Rico. Zip was a student at Harvard at the time, but he got a tip from his FBI boss, John “Vino” Morris, another G-man/gangster.

Zip passed the info to his serial-killing master. The would-be rat and another guy were brutally murdered by Whitey on Northern Avenue.

As a reward for his distinguished service as a finger man for the Mob, Vino Morris was then promoted to director of the FBI’s Academy in Quantico, Va. He was in charge of steeping the new recruits in the FBI’s proud “traditions.”

One of the rookie agents who came through in 1995-96 about the time Vino was running the academy was none other than ... Peter Strzok.

Do you suppose Vino Morris, who took \$7,000 from Whitey for setting up the hit on Northern Avenue, personally instructed Peter Strzok in how to succeed as an FBI agent? Strzok certainly seems to have learned his sordid trade from the best, or should I say the worst, although in the FBI, how can you tell the difference?

Good news for Strzok: Vino Morris is still collecting a pension from the FBI. For his distinguished service as a G-man. No wonder Strzok was sneering Thursday — he’s the very model of a modern FBI agent.

I’ll bet down in prison in Florida Thursday, Zip Connolly was watching Strzok on TV. And no doubt Zip was beaming with pride. The rotten apple doesn’t fall far from the rotten tree.



rampant corruption the norm in fbi; Strzok scandal nothing new

*Read more about decades of FBI corruption in Howie's books "Ratman" and "Rifleman," available at [howiecarrshow.com](http://howiecarrshow.com).*

## Graphic

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INSIDER INFO: Former FBI agent John Connolly, left, speaks with his attorneys in Miami-Dade Circuit Court in Miami in 2009.

PLAYING DIRTY? FBI Deputy Assistant Director Peter Strzok, above, testifies before a House Judiciary Committee joint hearing Thursday. Former FBI agent Former FBI agent John Connolly, below, was sentenced in 2009 to 40 years in prison.

AP FILE PHOTO

AP FILE PHOTOS

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## *rampant corruption the norm in fbi; Strzok scandal nothing new*

The Boston Herald

July 15, 2018 Sunday

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**Section:** NEWS; Columnist-Howie Carr; Pg. 10; Vol. 36; No. 196

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## Graphic

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'RIPE FOR AN EXTORTION': Teddy Berenson, left, is seen with Whitey Bulger and Phil 'Hole in the Head' Wagenheim.

PLAYING DIRTY? FBI Deputy Assistant Director Peter Strzok, above, testifies before a House Judiciary Committee joint hearing Thursday. Former FBI agent Former FBI agent John Connolly, below, was sentenced in 2009 to 40 years in prison.

courtesy PHOTO

AP FILE PHOTOS

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'Rifleman,' 'Cadillac Frank' face off; Ex-mobster testifies against another one



## 'Rifleman,' 'Cadillac Frank' face off; Ex-mobster testifies against another one

The Boston Globe  
June 7, 2018 Thursday

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**Section:** NEWS; Metro; Pg. B,1,1

**Length:** 811 words

**Byline:** By Shelley Murphy, Globe Staff

### **Body**

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Stephen Flemmi and Francis Salemme were partners in crime in the 1960s, but Flemmi became an informant for the FBI in 1964.

#### **BODY**

Decades ago, they plotted and killed together, fearsome allies in Boston's criminal underworld.

But in federal court Wednesday, when the "The Rifleman" came face to face with "Cadillac Frank" for the first time in 19 years, he couldn't spot him.

"I don't know where he's at; I can't see anybody," Stephen Flemmi said, scanning the courtroom from the witness stand.

A prosecutor asked the 83-year-old to stand up, take another look.

"I would recognize him if I see him, but I don't see anybody," said Flemmi, failing again to point out his former cohort, 84-year-old Francis "Cadillac Frank" Salemme, seated just steps away at the defense table.

The botched identification punctuated 90 minutes of testimony Wednesday from Flemmi, who recounted his friendship with Salemme, which began in the 1960s and evolved through the decades as they teamed up on murders, extortion, and other crimes.

Salemme and 62-year-old Paul Weadick, a Burlington plumber, are charged with killing South Boston nightclub owner Steven DiSarro in 1993 to prevent him from cooperating with the FBI in an investigation that was targeting Salemme and his son.

The trial is a throwback to an era when Flemmi, Salemme, and James "Whitey" Bulger were the most feared organized crime figures in the region. Salemme was the boss of the New England Mafia, Bulger ran the so-called Irish mob, and Flemmi was a go-between and committed crimes with both crews.

## 'Rifleman,' 'Cadillac Frank' face off; Ex-mobster testifies against another one

On Wednesday, Salemme listened intently to Flemmi and shook his head in disbelief when his former associate failed to identify him.

"He didn't even recognize me," Salemme, said to reporters after the court proceedings ended. "He's soft," Salemme said. "He had a stroke."

Flemmi, a longtime FBI informant, pleaded guilty in 2004 to 10 murders that occurred in the 1970s and 1980s. He agreed to cooperate with the government and was spared the death penalty, but sentenced to life in prison.

Flemmi testified in Bulger's racketeering case five years ago that he walked in on DiSarro's murder at Salemme's Sharon home on May 10, 1993. Flemmi said Salemme watched as his son, Francis Salemme Jr., strangled DiSarro, while Weadick held his legs off the ground.

On the witness stand Wednesday, Flemmi had yet to talk about the DiSarro killing, but offered a vivid picture of violence, calculated killings, and double-crosses dating back to the gang wars of the 1960s.

He said he met Salemme in 1964, and the two became partners in crime.

Salemme has admitted to participating in eight murders in the 1960s but denies any involvement in DiSarro's slaying.

In 1968, Flemmi said he and Salemme were involved in a plot to kill an Everett lawyer who was representing a mobster-turned-government witness, by blowing up his car. The lawyer lost a leg, but survived.

The pair went on the run, Flemmi said, after a corrupt FBI agent, **H. Paul Rico**, warned him, "You'd better leave, you're going to be indicted."

Flemmi said he went to Montreal and got a legitimate job at a newspaper. He surrendered several years later when the agent tipped him off that the charges against him were about to be dropped.

Salemme hid out in New York City with other mobsters and was eventually captured. He served nearly 16 years in prison for attempted murder of the lawyer.

During Salemme's prison stint, Flemmi said that he sent Salemme's wife \$250 a week, and the Mafia gave her money, as well.

"The money kind of dried up," said Flemmi, adding that the Mafia failed to pay its share. At one point, Salemme's wife said her washing machine and dryer broke. Flemmi said he alerted local mob leaders about the broken appliances, and they sent her \$12,000.

Flemmi didn't talk Wednesday about Salemme's role in the DiSarro killing, but he did offer details on numerous murders, including one that occurred in Salemme's Sharon home in 1968.

The victim, Tommy Timmons, called Salemme for help after he was badly beaten by mobsters for robbing a bookmaker's home, Flemmi said.

"I thought initially they were going to bring him to a hospital," Flemmi said. Instead, a group of mobsters killed Timmons in the basement of Salemme's home, then buried the body in a wooded area nearby, he said

For the last month, jurors have heard testimony from former mobsters, FBI agents, DiSarro's relatives, and people who worked with DiSarro at the Channel nightclub.

In 1999, Salemme began cooperating with federal authorities, and his testimony helped send corrupt former FBI agent John J. Connolly Jr. to prison. Salemme was removed from the federal witness protection program two years ago and charged with DiSarro's murder after his remains were discovered behind an old mill in Providence.

Shelley Murphy can be reached at [shelley.murphy@globe.com](mailto:shelley.murphy@globe.com) Follow her on Twitter @shelleymurph.

'Rifleman,' 'Cadillac Frank' face off; Ex-mobster testifies against another one

**Load-Date:** June 7, 2018

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## [Smearing Robert Mueller; Op-Ed Contributor](#)

The New York Times

April 18, 2018 Wednesday 16:07 EST

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**Section:** OPINION

**Length:** 1241 words

**Byline:** Nancy Gertner

**Highlight:** Sean Hannity and others are blaming the special counsel for one of the F.B.I.'s worst scandals. But there is no evidence to back up their charges.

### **Body**

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Was Robert Mueller, the special counsel, complicit in one of the worst scandals in the F.B.I.'s history — the decades-long wrongful imprisonment of four men for a murder they didn't commit?

This question, which [has been raised before](#), is being addressed again — this time by some of President Trump's most ardent supporters on the right, especially Fox News's Sean Hannity but also Rush Limbaugh and others. My friend Alan Dershowitz, the retired Harvard Law School professor, has also weighed in.

In an [April 8 interview with John Catsimatidis](#) on his New York radio show, Mr. Dershowitz asserted that Mr. Mueller was "the guy who kept four innocent people in prison for many years in order to protect the cover of Whitey Bulger as an F.B.I. informer." Mr. Mueller, he said, was "right at the center of it." Mr. Bulger was a notorious crime boss in Boston, the head of the Winter Hill Gang, and also a secret source for the F.B.I.

There is no evidence that the assertion is true. I was the federal judge who presided over a successful lawsuit brought against the government by two of those men and the families of the other two, who had died in prison. Based on the voluminous evidence submitted in the trial, and having written a 105-page decision awarding them \$101.8 million, I can say without equivocation that Mr. Mueller, who worked in the United States attorney's office in Boston from 1982 to 1988, including a brief stint as the acting head of the office, had no involvement in that case. He was never even mentioned.

The case wasn't about Whitey Bulger but another mobster the F.B.I. was also protecting, the hit man Joseph Barboza, who lied when he testified that the four men had killed Edward Deegan, a low-level mobster, in 1965. Mr. Barboza was covering for the real killers, and the F.B.I. went along because of his importance as an informant.

But the evidence — or rather, lack of it — hasn't stopped the piling on against Mr. Mueller, particularly by Mr. Hannity. [In a March 20 broadcast](#), he said, "Robert Mueller was the U.S. attorney in charge while these men were rotting in prison while certain agents in the F.B.I. under Mueller covered up the truth."

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## Smearing Robert Mueller; Op-Ed Contributor

He returned to this theme on April 9, noting the Catsimatidis interview with Professor Dershowitz, and said: “Four men went to jail. Mueller was involved in the case. Two of them died in jail. They were all later exonerated.”

He made the same case two days later on a show that was promoted by a tweet by President Trump — “Big show tonight on @seanhannity.” [Mr. Hannity laid out his case](#) for “Deep State crime families trying to take down the president,” including the “Mueller crime family.” Among Mr. Hannity’s accusations: “During Mueller’s time as a federal prosecutor in Boston, four — four men wrongfully imprisoned for decades framed by an F.B.I. informant and notorious gangster Whitey Bulger, all while Mueller’s office looked the other way.”

[Rush Limbaugh added his own variant](#) on April 13. “The men would have been cleared but Mueller and the prosecutors withheld evidence from the court,” he said, adding, “Thirty years in jail, four innocent people, from the man of impeccable integrity inside the establishment swamp.”

The record simply doesn’t support these assertions. As I explained in my decision, because of the gravity of the accusations made by the imprisoned men, I analyzed the evidence “with special care in order that the public, and especially the parties, could be fully confident of my conclusions.”

That said, I was unsparing in my criticism of the F.B.I. and Justice Department officials who were responsible for this wrongful imprisonment. I named names where the record supported it. I resoundingly condemned the government in an unusual court session in which I read my conclusions.

Mr. Mueller is mentioned nowhere in my opinion; nor in the submissions of the plaintiffs’ lead trial counsel, Juliane Balliro; nor in “Black Mass,” the book about Mr. Bulger and the F.B.I. written by former reporters for The Boston Globe.

Mr. Barboza, like Mr. Bulger and one of Mr. Deegan’s killers, Vincent Flemmi, was in the Top Echelon Criminal Informant Program started in 1961 by J. Edgar Hoover. The program, as I noted [in my opinion](#), “was strictly confidential, which not only meant that its existence would be kept secret from the general public and other divisions within the federal government, but also from state law enforcement agencies.” Mr. Barboza’s F.B.I. handlers, Dennis Condon and [H. Paul Rico](#), and their superiors, knew that Mr. Barboza had perjured himself and that he was protecting Mr. Flemmi, but they withheld that information from state prosecutors because of his importance as an informant and to protect the informant program.

They continued to withhold the truth during commutation hearings for the men; each time the F.B.I. could have disclosed Mr. Barboza’s lie, it did not. In fact, the agency lobbied against clemency.

Much has been made about an assertion made by Michael Albano, the former mayor of Springfield, Mass., who served on the Massachusetts Parole Board in the 1980s. He has said repeatedly that he saw a letter from Mr. Mueller, written during the period while he was in the United States attorney’s office in Boston, opposing the release of one of the four men.

But no copy of that letter has ever been produced, and Mr. Dershowitz now says in a [statement](#) that several days after making his remarks on the Catsimatidis show, [The Boston Globe](#) “revealed for the first time to my knowledge that no such letter has been found. I never repeated the allegation after that.” Still, he said, “further investigation seems warranted, since absence of evidence is not conclusive evidence of absence, especially in government files.”

Perhaps. But an accusation of such gravity demands more. I found no such letter from Mr. Mueller in the commutation files in the court record. Neither did the lead trial lawyer for the plaintiffs, Ms. Balliro, who has a complete copy of the parole board files of all four men, which were produced in response to a subpoena before the trial. Other letters from federal prosecutors are in those files. But there was nothing from Mr. Mueller.

It wasn’t until the late 1990s that another federal judge, Mark Wolf, held hearings that revealed the [F.B.I.’s refusal](#) to inform the United States attorney in Boston that Mr. Bulger and his confederate Stephen Flemmi, brother of Vincent, were informants. In a [report by the House Committee on Government Reform](#), which looked into the

Smearing Robert Mueller; Op-Ed Contributor

F.B.I.'s use of secret informants, the only reference to Mr. Mueller was a favorable one. He offered, as F.B.I. director, to work with the committee to reform the agency's informant practices.

When Mr. Hannity and others say Mr. Mueller was responsible for the continued imprisonment of those four men, they are simply wrong — unless they have information that I, Ms. Balliro, the House investigators and the “Black Mass” authors did not and do not have. If they do, they should produce it. If they don't, they should stop this campaign to discredit Mr. Mueller.

Nancy Gertner, a judge on the Federal District Court in Massachusetts from 1994 to 2011, is a senior lecturer at Harvard Law School.

PHOTO: Robert Mueller was a United States attorney in 1996. (PHOTOGRAPH BY Dennis Cook/Associated Press FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES)

**Load-Date:** April 20, 2018

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So corrupt, I'm dumb-Strzok!; Dems do their part to cover their own in hearing



## *So corrupt, I'm dumb-Strzok!; Dems do their part to cover their own in hearing*

The Boston Herald

July 13, 2018 Friday

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**Section:** NEWS; Columnist-Howie Carr; Pg. 6; Vol. 36; No. 194

**Length:** 675 words

**Byline:** HOWIE CARR

### **Body**

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If the corrupt Democrats in the FBI and the DOJ have nothing to hide in the investigation of their attempted coup against Donald Trump, then why did their congressional enablers attempt to hijack the FBI corruption hearing yesterday?

Point of order! Point of order! Roll call vote! Mr. Chairman, may the witness be permitted to lie ... I mean, answer the question! Point of parliamentary inquiry!

After hours of "testimony" from Peter Strzok, the most dishonest agent in the squalid history of the FBI, it becomes clear what the Mueller "investigation" is really all about.

It's about providing cover for these bent Democrat dirty tricksters from the FBI to stonewall the investigation into their effort to overthrow the duly elected government of the United States.

Whenever Strzok said "ongoing investigations," replace that phrase with "smear campaign," "frame up" or "Democrat dirty tricks" and you'll see what he really meant. Here's one of Strzok's many non-answers:

"Sir, to get into that would relate to ongoing investigations which, consistent with the department's policy on ongoing investigations ... I'm not authorized to discuss ongoing investigations."

In other words, he was dumb-Strzok. It was embarrassing, deeply corroding to what little remains of the FBI's shattered reputation.

The FBI, you might say, has Strzok out.

Remember ***H. Paul Rico***, another FBI gangster who was dragged before Congress in 2002 to answer questions about an earlier infamous FBI frame up, here in Boston? Rico was about to be indicted for murder for a gangland hit he ordered in Oklahoma, but he was still more cooperative with Congress than Strzok yesterday.

So corrupt, I'm dumb-Strzok!; Dems do their part to cover their own in hearing

Here's how corrupt the FBI now is: The disgraced Strzok was allowed to decide himself what evidence he would turn over in this ongoing probe of unprecedented corruption in the FBI. In other words, he didn't get any special treatment, he was handled exactly the same way the Democrat police state handled Hillary Clinton and James Comey.

Do you suppose the FBI let, say, Paul Manafort, or Michael Flynn or Michael Cohen decide what evidence they were going to turn over to Robert Mueller's 13 angry Democrats?

Peter Strzok wanted to make a few things very clear yesterday.

Yes, he did tell his married girlfriend that he could "SMELL" (his capital letters) Trump supporters in southern Virginia, but he didn't mean it.

Yes, he did tell his galpal that Trump supporters in Loudoun County, Va., were "ignorant hillbillies," but he didn't mean it.

He said he's telling the truth — now — and he's really not at all biased against SMELLY ignorant hillbillies, but how do we know he "means" it?

"Those opinions," he said smugly, under oath, "were expressed out of deep patriotism and an unyielding belief in our great American democracy."

What the corrupt FIB, I mean FBI, and their fellow Democrat dirty tricksters in the Justice Department tried to do was first rig the 2016 presidential election and then, after that failed, tried to frame the new president.

Ask yourself this: Why don't the Democrats want to get to the bottom of this scandal that makes Watergate look like a spitball? A scandal with actual evidence and smoking guns, unlike the Russian collusion hoax.

Peter Strzok is an arrogant, pampered puke who brags about his "26 years of defending our nation."

Defending our nation? Sharpening pencils, shuffling papers and chasing Lisa Page around the desk is defending our nation? Who knew?

"The FBI has a culture," Strzok said. "Look at the entirety of the organization."

Does it ever. In Boston, we know all about the "culture" of the FBI — not just Rico, but Zip Connolly, Vito Morris, Agent Orange, Cloherty, Doc Gianurco. Stevie Flemmi said last month the gangsters here in Boston were paying off at least seven agents in the Boston office.

Seven FBI agents being bribed ... in one office! As we consider the corruption that is now being revealed in these current hearings, do you know what the best way is to describe the old Rico-Connolly days in Boston?

The good old days.

Buy Howie's books at [howiecarrshow.com](http://howiecarrshow.com).

## Graphic

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DIGGING IN: FBI Deputy Assistant Director Peter Strzok prepares to testify before the the House Committees on the Judiciary and Oversight and Government Reform yesterday.

ap photo

So corrupt, I'm dumb-Strzok!; Dems do their part to cover their own in hearing

**Load-Date:** July 13, 2018

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This is your sad FBI, now and forever; Corruption, incompetence hallmark of G-men



## *This is your sad FBI, now and forever; Corruption, incompetence hallmark of G-men*

The Boston Herald  
June 17, 2018 Sunday  
All Editions

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**Section:** NEWS; Columnist-Howie Carr; Pg. 6; Vol. 36; No. 168

**Length:** 760 words

**Byline:** HOWIE CARR

### **Body**

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When the inspector general's report on the most corrupt law enforcement agency in human history came out Thursday, congressman Trey Gowdy said, "This is not the FBI I know."

Trey Gowdy is from South Carolina. I'm from Massachusetts. This is the FBI I know, only too well.

Incompetent, mendacious, greedy, horny and, above all, thoroughly corrupt — this is the FBI in "War and Peace," as the old radio show had it, although now it's more in pieces, and its only war is against the constitution and law-abiding Americans.

In an odd coincidence, just before the report was issued last week, an ancient serial killer named Stevie Flemmi was on the witness stand in federal court here. Flemmi worked as a rat for the Boston FBI for decades as he was murdering 50 people.

The crooked Democrats in the FBI loved him. The G-men didn't care how many people Stevie murdered because he was bribing between five and seven agents in the Boston office. (The number kept fluctuating, the longer he was on the stand.)

At one point, Flemmi was asked a question about the FBI agents he'd been in monkey business with since 1965, and he got confused.

"Which FBI are you talking about?" he asked the lawyer. In other words, the mobster had been paying off multiple generations of agents, and he was having a hard time keeping all the bent G-men straight in his 84-year-old mind.

One of the feds on Flemmi's pad was John "Vino" Morris, an alcoholic he gave \$7,000 to, including \$1,000 in cash so that Morris' girlfriend, a secretary in the office, could join him for an adulterous tryst at an FBI training conference in Georgia.

This is your sad FBI, now and forever; Corruption, incompetence hallmark of G-men

Times have changed, though. Now the women the “special agents” are cheating on their wives with are actual lawyers, not secretaries. No wonder the -G-men don’t even bother to check out solid tips on the Boston marathon bombers, or the Parkland shooter — they’re too busy chasing their gal pals around the water cooler up on the seventh floor of the J. Edgar Hoover building.

After his squalid, well-paid career of identifying informants to be gunned down by the Mob here in Boston, Vino Morris was naturally promoted to director of the FBI training academy in Quantico, Va. You can’t make this stuff up! Vino was training new agents in the mid-’90s, about the time a precocious young moral cipher named Peter Strzok showed up.

Did Vino Morris personally train Peter Strzok? It would certainly seem appropriate, given the utter moral depravity of the Famous But Incompetent FBI.

The difference between the earlier generation of crooked FBI agents and the present criminals operating out of 968 Pennsylvania Avenue is that these new agents are pajama boys, trust funders. Andrew McCabe went to Duke. Strzok went to prep school, and then Georgetown. These are not tough guys, these are pencil pushers, paper shufflers, briefers.

Do you think any of these crooks with badges bragging to their married girlfriends about framing Donald Trump and running what they bragged was the “Hillary cover up operation” have ever made a real pinch?

Back in the day here in Boston, corrupt agents like ***H. Paul Rico*** and Dennis Condon asked gangsters for throw-downs for use in their own hits, and gleefully railroaded innocent men to prison for 35 years. Rico once set up a rubout for Flemmi, and afterwards complimented him, “Nice shooting.” They were street guys, like their fellow gangsters.

Compare that film-noir swagger to the sleazy Democrat G-man who was busted texting “Vive le resistance!” after Trump’s election. This hack had gone from the Hillary cover up to the Trump frame up to Robert Mueller’s hoax investigation.

By the way, the mobster Stevie Flemmi was testifying against this week, Cadillac Frank Salemme, has his own long history with the FBI. Back in 1968, after Rico and his partner, another corrupt Democrat named Dennis Condon, framed the four innocent men for a gangland hit, Salemme confronted the two crooked feds to express his outrage.

Salemme was especially angry about the FBI’s railroading of a World War II hero named Louie Greco, who had moved to Florida weeks before the murder.

To which Dennis Condon, a future appointee of Democrat Gov. Mike Dukakis, replied with a chuckle:

“How does Louie Greco like going from Miami to Death Row? He wasn’t even there!”

Some things never change, and the FBI is one of them. There used to be another old radio show back in the late 1940s, “This Is Your FBI.”

And it still is. Corrupt then, corrupt now, corrupt forever. This is your FBI.

*Buy Howie’s book about the Whitey Bulger trial, “Ratman,” at [howiecarrshow.com](http://howiecarrshow.com).*

## Graphic

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SALEMME

RICO

This is your sad FBI, now and forever; Corruption, incompetence hallmark of G-men

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FLEMMI

AP FILE PHOTO

**Load-Date:** June 18, 2018

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Who can explain?; Genduso's past should have kept her off state police force



## [Who can explain?; Genduso's past should have kept her off state police force](#)

The Boston Herald

March 7, 2018 Wednesday

All Editions

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**Section:** NEWS; Columnist-Howie Carr; Pg. 6; Vol. 36; No. 66

**Length:** 671 words

**Byline:** HOWIE CARR

### **Body**

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Is anyone going to lose his or her \$150,000-a-year state pension over this Leigha Genduso scandal?

That's always the ultimate question in the hackerama — how is whatever-it-is going to affect my kiss in the mail?

Among all the multiple scandals in Massachusetts, this one seems different. Some cops will always go bad, just like people in any other line of work. But usually police don't go over to the dark side until they've had their badge and their gun and their cruiser (and in Leigha's case her K-9) for a while.

Think bent G-men Zip Connolly, *H. Paul Rico*, Vito Morris and a host of others, or trooper Richard Schneiderhan, or BPD detective/hitman Bill Stuart. Corrupt as they all were, they were at least nominally clean when they were sworn in.

Not Leigha. Her attention-grabbing past was there for all to see. And somebody has to answer for this, or should, although I have my doubts about the ongoing MSP internal investigation into how she was hired.

At her boyfriend's trial, she admitted under a grant of immunity to committing a host of major felonies — kingpin-level drug dealing, perjury, income tax evasion and money laundering. But even if you put all that aside, what exactly were her qualifications for being a state trooper?

She was a cocktail waitress at Scuttlebutts in Salem. Period.

Oh, I forgot, she's also a web designer of sorts. When her gangster boyfriend, Sean Bucci, decided to set up a website to identify law enforcement informants, she's the one who came up with the name — WhosARat.com.

Here's what the cops said about Leigha's website:

"Although BUCCI posted a disclaimer that the website's intent is to assist in criminal defense, it clearly has an underlying intimidation aspect."

Who can explain?; Genduso's past should have kept her off state police force

Nice, huh?

This website — which is still around — was such a big deal that the fat thug Bucci actually appeared on Geraldo Rivera's TV show in 2007. You can still watch the segment on YouTube. When asked about the peril posed to informants by being listed as rats, Bucci replies:

"Don't come crying because you're on a website, because you've already done the damage. You already signed up for the program. Deal with it."

Nobody noticed any of this? Nobody? Leigha Genduso was in the crosshairs of a major federal drug kingpin takedown — I count at least six local and state cops, six DEA agents.

And you're telling me nobody realized that this gangster's moll — the Bonnie to Sean Bucci's Clyde — had gone on the job and was making \$151,000 a year?

Has anyone seen Sean Bucci lately? He was sentenced to 151 months, and the feds seized \$2.7 million in assets. This proud "Irish-Italian," as he described himself, much to the chagrin of all Irish and Italians, has been out of prison since October 2015.

Do you suppose Bucci ever hooks up with his ex? Probably not, considering his public disdain for rats and snitches, which Leigha Genduso most assuredly is, in addition to all of her other attributes.

And where is Gov. Charlie "Tall Deval" Baker on all this? I know he's got a whole host of other scandals in state government that he's very busy ignoring, but consider how quickly he moved against the state trooper known as "Big Irish."

I'm not defending Big Irish's rude comments on that cop website. But seriously, if making asinine comments in an internet chat room becomes a firing offense, there's not going to be anybody left to bag groceries at Market Basket, let alone patrol the Southeast Expressway.

I'm sure Tall Deval is working hard to get to the bottom of his latest state police scandal. Like AG Maura Healey, he will leave no stone unturned — except the one Leigha is hiding under.

Meanwhile, wherever she's stashed now, Leigha still has a listing on a "talent" website.

"Age 36 Female Boston MA. Height 5'3". Weight 116 lbs. Body Type Petite. Ethnicity Caucasian. Hair Color Brown. Eye Color Brown."

As for her resume, the website notes that Leigha has "not yet provided this information."

One final question for Leigha: Is Scuttlebutts hiring?

*Buy Howie's new book "What Really Happened" at [howiecarrshow.com](http://howiecarrshow.com).*

## Graphic

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STATIE SCANDAL: Trooper Leigha Genduso, above, is on paid administrative leave amid yet another scandal within the Massachusetts State Police. Gov. Charlie Baker, left, has remained mum on the issue.

herald file photo, above; staff file photo, left, by angela rowlings

**Load-Date:** March 7, 2018

Who can explain?; Genduso's past should have kept her off state police force

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## [Hill, FBI colluded to ambush Trump](#)

The Boston Herald

October 27, 2017 Friday

All Editions

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**Section:** NEWS; Columnist-Howie Carr; Pg. 8; Vol. 35; No. 300

**Length:** 475 words

**Byline:** HOWIE CARR

### **Body**

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The FBI has always been dirty — consider local G-men Zip Connolly and **H. Paul Rico**, who were both Mob hitmen, not to mention John “Vino” Morris and a host of other very “special” agents in the Boston office.

Still, the Famous But Incompetent crew has never been as corrupt as it is now shown to be.

The Uranium One Clinton bribery scandal and the dodgy dossier are Watergate on steroids.

That so-called dossier — a remake of “From Russia with Love.” Commissioned and paid for by Hillary Clinton and the Democratic National Committee, it’s 35 pages of fabrications about the Republican candidate for president, breathlessly peddled for months by the Democratic operatives of the alt-left media. When Hillary stopped paying for it, the G-men stepped in as paymasters. They saw it as part of their job — to fix the election.

The FBI was going to use taxpayer funds to buy agitprop from Russia to undermine the one candidate whose spouse hadn’t collected \$500,000 cash from the Kremlin. Talk about collusion.

It gets worse. The dossier’s “unverified and salacious” allegations, in the words of bent former FBI director James Comey, may have been used to get warrants to surveil Trump and his associates. And they said Nixon was into dirty tricks?

If a cop lies to obtain a warrant, whatever evidence he collects from that warrant is thrown out of court. They call it fruit of the poisoned tree. What allegations in the dirty dossier have ever panned out? Now the card-carrying Hillary apologists are claiming it was just “opposition research,” but there’s no real research in it.

The best spin the Democrats can put on the dossier is that the most serious fabrications in the dossier “remain unproven” or “uncorroborated.”

And if the dossier were really on the level, then why did Hillary and the DNC adamantly deny for a year, sanctimoniously, as The New York Times put it, and sometimes in front of congressional committees, that they had paid for the anti-Trump smear campaign. They lied, for a year, over and over and over again. Just ask the Times reporters.

## Hill, FBI colluded to ambush Trump

The fake-news dossier was released in January by BuzzFeed, a cat-video website owned by NBC News. You know, the outfit of Chelsea Clinton, the Rev. Al Sharpton, Brian Williams and Mike Barnicle. NBC News killed Ronan Farrow's expose on Harvey Weinstein, one of the Clintons' biggest campaign contributors.

Naturally the alt-left media, now that a scandal seems likely to afflict Democrats, has lost interest in it.

Three months ago, these Democrat hacks were literally accusing Donald Trump Jr. of treason for a 10-minute meeting with a Russian lawyer. Now it turns out that the Democrats funneled \$9.2 million to a law firm that then worked with Russians to sabotage the presidential election, and all they can say is, "Everybody does it."

Buy Howie's new book, "Kennedy Babylon," at [howiecarrshow.com](http://howiecarrshow.com).

## Graphic

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NOT ME? Hillary Clinton is linked to Trump dossier.

ap file photo

**Load-Date:** October 27, 2017

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Hill, FBI colluded to ambush TrumpHill, FBI colluded to ambush Trump



## [Hill, FBI colluded to ambush TrumpHill, FBI colluded to ambush Trump](#)

The Boston Herald

October 27, 2017 Friday

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**Byline:** HOWIE CARR

### **Body**

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Hill, FBI colluded to ambush TrumpHill, FBI colluded to ambush Trump

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## Graphic

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NOT ME? Hillary Clinton is linked to Trump dossier.

ap file photo

**Load-Date:** October 27, 2017

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## *Prosecution of FBI agents rarely happens*

The Oregonian (Portland Oregon)

July 2, 2017 Sunday

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**Section:** A; Pg. 09

**Length:** 645 words

**Byline:** Aimee Green The Oregonian/OregonLive

### **Body**

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The pursuit of criminal charges against an FBI agent for allegedly lying about firing his gun at Robert “LaVoy” Finicum in January 2016 is a rare occurrence.

Only a fraction of the FBI’s agents have faced prosecution for alleged malfeasance on the job. Currently, the FBI employs about 13,000 agents.

Among those convicted in the past few years are a Los Angeles-area agent who stole drug money to pay for cars and plastic surgery, an agent who fed his drug addiction by stealing heroin seized as evidence, and a high-ranking agent who perjured himself about his dealings with a Boston gangster.

On Wednesday, FBI agent W. Joseph Astarita, 40, made his first appearance in a federal courtroom in Portland. He heard an indictment accusing him of making false statements and trying to obstruct justice after twice firing his rifle toward Finicum after Finicum crashed into a snowbank on Jan. 26, 2016. Law enforcement officers had set up a roadblock as Finicum made his way from the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge 100 miles north to John Day.

Louis Bertram, a former FBI agent who now works as a consultant in Salt Lake City, said embarrassment and fear of the career-damaging consequences might motivate an agent to lie about discharging a weapon — especially if the agent acted hastily and had bad aim.

In this case, investigators say Astarita struck the roof of Finicum’s car with one bullet and completely missed with another bullet.

“It happens, but you own up to it,” Bertram said.

Many details of the case have yet to come out, Bertram said, but he wonders about the possible role of Astarita’s colleagues. Sources have said that the five FBI agents assigned to the traffic stop told investigators that none of them fired at Finicum’s Dodge pickup after it crashed at the roadblock.

It would be astonishing to have multiple agents involved in a cover-up, he said.



## Prosecution of FBI agents rarely happens

Deschutes County Sheriff Shane Nelson, whose staff investigated the case, confirmed an ongoing inquiry, but authorities offered no other details.

Here's a summary of some high-profile criminal cases pursued against FBI agents and employees:

2016: Former FBI agent Scott M. Bowman of Southern California was sentenced to three years in prison for pocketing more than \$136,000 in drug money during FBI busts, falsifying documents and tampering with a witness. He used \$15,000 of the money to pay for his wife's plastic surgery and \$60,000 to buy a sports car and outfit it with a premium sound system and other perks, investigators said.

2016: Robert Fitzpatrick, a high-ranking former agent in the FBI's Boston office, was sentenced to probation for committing perjury and obstructing justice for inflating his personal credentials and claiming he'd tried to stop the agency's corrupt relationship with gangster James "Whitey" Bulger.

2015: Former agent Matthew Lowry was sentenced to three years in prison for stealing heroin seized as evidence, then snorting it in his car, to feed his drug addiction over the course of a year.

2008: Former agent John J. Connolly Jr., the longtime handler of Bulger, was convicted for his role in the 1982 murder of businessman John Callahan.

2003: Retired agent **H. Paul Rico** was indicted in 2003 on accusations of murder for his alleged role in planning the assassination of a millionaire with Bulger. Rico died in 2004 before the case went to trial.

2001: Security analyst James Hill of the FBI's Las Vegas office was charged with selling classified records and documents on criminal cases and grand jury investigations involving the mafia. He pleaded guilty.

1984: Richard W. Miller was the first FBI agent arrested for espionage. Miller was convicted in 1990 for passing classified documents to the Soviet Union. A federal judge reduced Miller's sentence to 13 years and he was released from prison in 1994.

Lynne Palombo contributed to this story. [agreen@oregonian.com](mailto:agreen@oregonian.com); @o\_aimee

## Graphic

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Indictment\_sketch.jpg

**Load-Date:** October 9, 2017

scandal-ridden fbi must be abolished; 'Secret Society' is one controversy too far to tolerate



***scandal-ridden fbi must be abolished; 'Secret Society' is one controversy too far to tolerate***

The Boston Herald

January 24, 2018 Wednesday

All Editions

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**Section:** NEWS; Columnist-Howie Carr; Pg. 6; Vol. 36; No. 24

**Length:** 602 words

**Byline:** HOWIE CARR

## **Body**

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It's time to abolish the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The G-men have degenerated into nothing more than a racketeering enterprise, a banana republic-style criminal conspiracy of vast proportions.

Now we know that the FBI was plotting a coup against President-elect Trump.

The crooked cops even had a name for their Democrat cabal — the Secret Society. It's all laid out in black and white, in the post-election texts the FBI neglected to delete as part of their ongoing obstruction of justice.

How many scandals does the FBI get a pass on?

As a society, we've eradicated earlier threats to the public order — the American Communist Party and La Cosa Nostra, among others. Is the current police-state incarnation of the FBI any less sinister than either of those two mobs?

The solution is very simple — we have the DEA take over all federal police functions, just like they did with the Whitey Bulger investigation here in Boston because the FBI was too corrupt to be trusted. Maybe the U.S. Marshals could help out, too. They're a lot better at finding fugitives than Famous But Incompetent.

Abolishing the FBI may sound like a radical solution, but they have metastasized into a clear and present danger to the Republic.

This latest attempted coup is so much worse than Watergate or any of the earlier scandals that have rocked the Bureau.

This Comey-Strzok-Page gang didn't need no stinkin' warrants. Or, if they did bother to get them, they made up the evidence they took to the courts — like the dodgy dossier.

scandal-ridden fbi must be abolished; 'Secret Society' is one controversy too far to tolerate

And now we find out the FBI is claiming that 50,000 smoking-gun texts between the two crooked lovebirds, Peter Strzok and Lisa Page, have disappeared due to a "misconfiguration."

Do you believe this? Me neither. This is, after all, the FBI. They lie like a rug, always have, always will.

Think about Zip Connolly — "decorated" FBI agent now doing life in a Florida prison for a gangland hit in Florida. Or **H. Paul Rico**, another G-man who died in a prison hospital in Oklahoma after being arrested for yet another organized-crime rubout in Oklahoma. And this is just the Boston office, where gangster Stevie Flemmi told the DEA that he and Whitey Bulger were bribing six — six! —agents.

Boston, the same FBI office where the agents knew that a hood named Teddy Deegan was going to be hit, and by whom. Yet they let it happen and then allowed four innocent men to be framed for the murder in order to protect the serial-killing brother of Flemmi, who after all was paying them all off.

As evil as all this stuff is, it pales in comparison to what it now appears was an attempted coup by the top brass of the FBI.

The "Secret Society," as the plotters call themselves, is now desperately trying to cover up how they attempted to rig a presidential election on behalf of the most corrupt candidate in American history, Hillary Clinton, using a fake document largely produced by Vladimir Putin's operatives.

That's the real Russian collusion — the FBI using Kremlin-generated disinformation that Hillary Clinton paid millions for to violate the civil rights of American citizens.

And now the G-men claim they've "lost" the evidence, just like the Deep State "lost" Hillary Clinton's 33,000 emails and IRS crook Lois Lerner's hard drive.

It's time to put the FBI out of business, throw as many of these corrupt G-men into prison as possible, raze the J. Edgar Hoover Office Building in D.C., sow the land with salt, hold an exorcism and turn it into a parking lot.

There is only one way to restore the rule of law and order. The FBI must be abolished.

*Order Howie's new book, Kennedy Babylon, at [howiecarrshow.com](http://howiecarrshow.com).*

## Graphic

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A HOUSE DERIDED: FBI headquarters in Washington — the J. Edgar Hoover Office Building — finds itself in a familiar role at the center of yet another storm, with the agency's current leaders at odds with President Trump.

AP file photo

**Load-Date:** January 24, 2018

finally, it's quittin' time for d.c. hacks!



## *finally, it's quittin' time for d.c. hacks!*

The Boston Herald

January 18, 2017 Wednesday

All Editions

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**Section:** NEWS; Columnist-Howie Carr; Pg. 6; Vol. 35; No. 18

**Length:** 470 words

**Byline:** HOWIE CARR

### **Body**

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I'm going down to the inauguration, and the greater the angst I see in D.C. this week, the more I'm going to enjoy myself.

They're all gnashing their teeth, they're mourning, they're grieving, they're ... they're doing everything but giving up their phony-baloney federal sinecures, even though all these paper-shufflers and pencil-pushers in Langley and Foggy Bottom said they were going to resign in protest against having an evil president from the Dreaded Private Sector.

Go ahead, quit. Make our day. All you pampered Valerie Plame-type hacks, see if you can find yourself another job where you can make \$150,000 a year "telecommuting" from your nice \$2 million home in the Beltway suburbs while never actually going to work, or working at all for that matter.

Somebody gave me a red "45" baseball cap yesterday. It'll look great when I wear it on the Metro on Friday.

How 'bout that Toby Keith guy? Who needs Paul Anka when you got Toby singing?

Now U.S. Rep. Alcee Hastings says he's not going to the inauguration. Alcee Hastings — who was removed as a federal judge after a sting by Winter Hill gangster **H. Paul Rico**. (You can't make this stuff up.) And Rep. John Conyers — is his wife still in prison or was she pardoned by Obama too?

Let 'em all boycott the inauguration. If they don't show, it just means more tickets for deplorables and bitter clingers who don't have either Obamaphones or EBT cards.

America to the Beltway: Nobody ever felt our pain while Obama et al. were trying to wreck the USA these last eight years. Why the hell are we now supposed to feel sorry for you?

On their way out the door, in fact, Obama's wrecking crew is still doing its damndest for every terrorist and criminal menacing the American people.

Headlines yesterday:

finally, it's quittin' time for d.c. hacks!

"Obama Releases 10 More GITMO Detainees Just Before Leaving Office."

"State Department Held Stress Workshops After Trump's Win."

"Obama agrees not to extradite U.S. fugitives from Cuba." (This includes convicted Black Panther thug cop-killers.)

"Obama commutes sentence of Puerto Rican terrorist who murdered 4 in NY."

"Obama to commute hundreds of federal drug sentences in final grants of clemency."

So yesterday he cuts loose Bradley, er Chelsea Manning, who leaked national secrets to ... WikiLeaks. But s/he is a "transgender woman," so I guess that makes it okay. If only Bowe Bergdahl had decided to go the Bruce Jenner route, he too might be packing his gear to return home this morning ...

Let 'em put out all the fake news they want on CNN. It'll all be over in 48 hours. How much damage can they still do, although I probably shouldn't be asking that question, not while Dzhokhar Tsarnaev is still out there in Florence, Colo., awaiting that call from the White House.

All together now: "Make America Great Again!"

*Listen to Howie from 3-7 p.m. on WRKO AM 680.*

## Graphic

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IT WILL ALL BE OVER SOON: With just two days left until the inauguration, how much damage can Obama & Co. possibly do? Oops, better not to ask.

AP PHOTO

**Load-Date:** January 24, 2017

finally, it's quittin' time for d.c. hacks!



## *finally, it's quittin' time for d.c. hacks!*

The Boston Herald

January 18, 2017 Wednesday

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**Length:** 470 words

**Byline:** HOWIE CARR

### **Body**

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I'm going down to the inauguration, and the greater the angst I see in D.C. this week, the more I'm going to enjoy myself.

They're all gnashing their teeth, they're mourning, they're grieving, they're ... they're doing everything but giving up their phony-baloney federal sinecures, even though all these paper-shufflers and pencil-pushers in Langley and Foggy Bottom said they were going to resign in protest against having an evil president from the Dreaded Private Sector.

Go ahead, quit. Make our day. All you pampered Valerie Plame-type hacks, see if you can find yourself another job where you can make \$150,000 a year "telecommuting" from your nice \$2 million home in the Beltway suburbs while never actually going to work, or working at all for that matter.

Somebody gave me a red "45" baseball cap yesterday. It'll look great when I wear it on the Metro on Friday.

How 'bout that Toby Keith guy? Who needs Paul Anka when you got Toby singing?

Now U.S. Rep. Alcee Hastings says he's not going to the inauguration. Alcee Hastings — who was removed as a federal judge after a sting by Winter Hill gangster **H. Paul Rico**. (You can't make this stuff up.) And Rep. John Conyers — is his wife still in prison or was she pardoned by Obama too?

Let 'em all boycott the inauguration. If they don't show, it just means more tickets for deplorables and bitter clingers who don't have either Obamaphones or EBT cards.

America to the Beltway: Nobody ever felt our pain while Obama et al. were trying to wreck the USA these last eight years. Why the hell are we now supposed to feel sorry for you?

On their way out the door, in fact, Obama's wrecking crew is still doing its damndest for every terrorist and criminal menacing the American people.

Headlines yesterday:

finally, it's quittin' time for d.c. hacks!

"Obama Releases 10 More GITMO Detainees Just Before Leaving Office."

"State Department Held Stress Workshops After Trump's Win."

"Obama agrees not to extradite U.S. fugitives from Cuba." (This includes convicted Black Panther thug cop-killers.)

"Obama commutes sentence of Puerto Rican terrorist who murdered 4 in NY."

"Obama to commute hundreds of federal drug sentences in final grants of clemency."

So yesterday he cuts loose Bradley, er Chelsea Manning, who leaked national secrets to ... WikiLeaks. But s/he is a "transgender woman," so I guess that makes it okay. If only Bowe Bergdahl had decided to go the Bruce Jenner route, he too might be packing his gear to return home this morning ...

Let 'em put out all the fake news they want on CNN. It'll all be over in 48 hours. How much damage can they still do, although I probably shouldn't be asking that question, not while Dzhokhar Tsarnaev is still out there in Florence, Colo., awaiting that call from the White House.

All together now: "Make America Great Again!"

*Listen to Howie from 3-7 p.m. on WRKO AM 680.*

## Graphic

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IT WILL ALL BE OVER SOON: With just two days left until the inauguration, how much damage can Obama & Co. possibly do? Oops, better not to ask.

AP PHOTO

**Load-Date:** January 24, 2017



## Arrest escalates FBI mafia scandal Boston FBI mafia scandal escalates

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

October 12, 2003, Sunday

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**Section:** News; Pg. P5A

**Length:** 830 words

**Byline:** Jeff Donn The Associated Press

### **Body**

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BOSTON - Boston's FBI scandal was already disturbing enough: agents taking bribes, shrugging off gangsters' crimes, and shielding informants from police. Now, it has turned almost unthinkable: A retired agent is charged with aiding a mob hit on a reputable businessman.

"I think this does take things a step further, despite all the problems the FBI has had," said Ronald Kessler, a journalist and historian of the FBI. "I think murder is the ultimate crime."

The arrest of ***H. Paul Rico*** is likely to complicate FBI efforts to shake off its legacy of missteps with violent mob informants in Boston, said several experts on the bureau. The arrest could further dent the agency's reputation and supply more fodder for roughly \$ 2 billion in lawsuits accusing the government of wrongdoing in the scandal.

"This is an ugly affair in the FBI's history, probably the worst," said Allan May, who writes for the Web site Americanmafia.com. "I think the most important thing for the FBI to do is to deal with this and get this thing behind it."

The nation's leading police agency has suffered embarrassments in the past when agents were exposed as wrongdoers. They have broken into homes of social activists in programs like the discredited COINTELPRO, and they have occasionally acted as enemy spies, most notoriously in the case of Robert Hanssen. In Boston and elsewhere, agents have let violent informants run amok in exchange for their tips.

In 1990, FBI agent Mark S. Putnam in Kentucky even pleaded guilty to strangling a female tipster to stop her from exposing their affair - another case of an agent corrupted by an informant relationship. The FBI said then it was the first time an agent was charged with murder.

Putnam's case, as sad and awful as it was, sprang from "an emotional situation," said Robert Fitzpatrick, a former assistant chief of the FBI's Boston bureau.

Rico's arrest is something different.

"What ... hasn't happened in the past is a [former] FBI agent that is charged with colluding with the wiseguys in a murder. That doesn't happen - and that's shocking," Fitzpatrick said.



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Rico was arrested on the first-degree murder charge Thursday at his home near Miami. A brief bond hearing was held Friday as a technical requirement, since he could not have been released on bail for the charge. Another hearing was set for Tuesday in Miami on sending him back to Oklahoma to face the charge.

"He flat-out categorically denies this," said Rico's attorney, William Cagney III. "He never assisted the Winter Hill Gang in trying to get inside information so they could ... do away with people."

FBI leaders and many outside experts on the bureau said the vast majority of agents are honest and well-intentioned.

Bureau representatives in Washington and Boston downplayed the significance of the arrest. They said the agency has already taken steps to control corruption since the scandal broke.

"No one in this office has ever worked with Paul Rico. They don't even know him," added Gail Marcinkiewicz, a spokeswoman for the FBI office in Boston, from which Rico has been gone for a generation.

However, Kessler, who has written widely about the FBI and its history, said, "It certainly turns your stomach to think that someone who spent his life in the FBI would be allegedly involved in murder, and you have to blame in part ... the FBI's supervision in Boston, which let all this seamy corruption go on for so long."

"I think this guy will be seen as a retired FBI agent who just went beyond some of the other agents ... who did corrupt things," said Robert Bloom, a Boston College law professor who has studied informant abuses.

Victor Garo, a lawyer for a man wrongly imprisoned in a mob case that Rico helped build, said the ex-agent's arrest may open new dimensions in the Boston scandal, which has been unfolding since one of Rico's old mob informants was arrested in 1995 and began ratting on his former FBI protectors.

"I would imagine that right now, many people are concerned about what he knows and what he will say," the lawyer said of Rico.

They include members of the House Government Reform Committee, which has been investigating Boston's FBI scandal.

However, U.S. Rep. John Tierney, a Massachusetts Democrat on the committee, said he hopes Rico's arrest, in the end, "will be part of the path toward ... good credibility by the FBI."

**Load-Date:** October 14, 2003



## ***Bad goes to worse in FBI informant scandal***

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

October 11, 2003, Saturday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 866 words

**Byline:** By JEFF DONN, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** BOSTON

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Bad goes to worse in FBI informant scandal

AP Photo FLYV102

**Load-Date:** October 12, 2003

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End of Document



## *Bad goes to worse in FBI informant scandal*

The Associated Press

October 10, 2003, Friday, BC cycle

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**Section:** Domestic News

**Length:** 847 words

**Byline:** By JEFF DONN, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** BOSTON

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AP Photo FLYV102

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Associated Press International

October 12, 2003 Sunday

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 846 words

**Byline:** JEFF DONN; Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** BOSTON

### **Body**

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**Load-Date:** October 13, 2003



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The Associated Press

October 11, 2003, Saturday, BC cycle

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**Section:** Domestic News

**Length:** 847 words

**Byline:** By JEFF DONN, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** BOSTON

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AP Photo FLYV102

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An FBI official in Washington, speaking on condition of anonymity, said, "It is in very rare instances where we have individuals who have participated in criminal activity. The vast majority of our employees have a high integrity level."

"No one in this office has ever worked with Paul Rico. They don't even know him," added Gail Marcinkiewicz, a spokeswoman for the FBI office in Boston, where Rico has been gone for a generation.

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Victor Garo, a lawyer for a man wrongly imprisoned in a mob case that Rico helped build, said the ex-agent's arrest may open new dimensions in the Boston scandal, which has been unfolding since one of Rico's old mob informants was arrested in 1995 and began ratting on his former FBI protectors.

"I would imagine that right now, many people are concerned about what he knows and what he will say," the lawyer said of Rico.

They include members of the House Government Reform Committee, which has been investigating Boston's FBI scandal.

However, U.S. Rep. John Tierney, a Massachusetts Democrat on the committee, said he hopes Rico's arrest, in the end, "will be part of the path toward ... good credibility by the FBI."

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EDITOR'S NOTE - Jeff Donn has covered the FBI's informant scandals as the AP's Boston-based Northeast regional writer.

## Graphic

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Bad goes to worse in FBI informant scandal

**Load-Date:** October 11, 2003

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## **Boston FBI informant scandal gets worse**

Deseret News (Salt Lake City, Utah)

October 11, 2003, Saturday

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**Section:** WIRE;

**Length:** 828 words

**Byline:** By Jeff Donn Associated Press

### **Body**

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BOSTON -- Boston's FBI scandal was already disturbing enough: agents taking bribes, shrugging off gangsters' crimes and shielding informants from police. Now, it has turned almost unthinkable: A retired agent is charged with aiding a mob hit on a reputable businessman.

"I think this does take things a step further, despite all the problems the FBI has had," said Ronald Kessler, a journalist and historian of the FBI. "I think murder is the ultimate crime."

The arrest of ***H. Paul Rico*** is likely to complicate FBI efforts to shake off its legacy of missteps with violent mob informants in Boston, said several experts on the bureau. The arrest could further dent the agency's reputation and supply more fodder for roughly \$2 billion in lawsuits accusing the government of wrongdoing in the scandal.

"This is an ugly affair in the FBI's history, probably the worst," said Allan May, who writes for Americanmafia.com. "I think the most important thing for the FBI to do is to deal with this and get this thing behind it."

The nation's leading police agency has suffered embarrassments in the past when agents were exposed as wrongdoers. They have broken into homes of social activists in programs like the discredited COINTELPRO, and they have occasionally acted as enemy spies, most notoriously in the case of Robert Hanssen. In Boston and elsewhere, agents have let violent informants run amok in exchange for their tips.

In 1990, FBI agent Mark S. Putnam in Kentucky even pleaded guilty to strangling a woman tipster to stop her from exposing their affair -- another case of an agent corrupted by an informant relationship. The FBI said then it was the first time an agent was charged with murder.

Putnam's case, as sad and awful as it was, sprang from "an emotional situation," said Robert Fitzpatrick, a former assistant chief of the FBI's Boston bureau.

Rico's arrest is something different.

"What . . . hasn't happened in the past is a (former) FBI agent that is charged with colluding with the wiseguys in a murder. That doesn't happen -- and that's shocking," Fitzpatrick said.



## Boston FBI informant scandal gets worse

One of the architects of the FBI's mob informant program, Rico helped the agency make some of its first Mafia cases in New England in the 1960s -- with the help of violent informants. When he retired in 1975, he did not entirely abandon his old collaborators: He went to work instead for a mob-connected company that sponsored jai alai games, where players fling balls at high speeds with wicker baskets. A new company head there, Roger Wheeler, wanted to root out the mob influence. In their charge against Rico, Oklahoma prosecutors say he fed information that helped his old mob sources in Boston's Winter Hill Gang find and kill Wheeler in 1981.

Rico was arrested on the first-degree murder charge Thursday at his home near Miami. A brief bond hearing was held Friday as a technical requirement, since he could not have been released on bail for the charge. Another hearing was set for Tuesday in Miami on sending him back to Oklahoma to face the charge.

"He flat-out categorically denies this," said Rico's attorney, William Cagney III. "He never assisted the Winter Hill Gang in trying to get inside information so they could . . . do away with people."

FBI leaders and many outside experts on the bureau said the vast majority of agents are honest and well-intentioned.

Bureau representatives in Washington and Boston downplayed the significance of the arrest. They said the agency has already taken steps to control corruption since the scandal broke.

"No one in this office has ever worked with Paul Rico. They don't even know him," added Gail Marcinkiewicz, a spokeswoman for the FBI office in Boston, where Rico has been gone for a generation.

However, Kessler, who has written widely about the FBI and its history, said, "It certainly turns your stomach to think that someone who spent his life in the FBI would be allegedly involved in murder, and you have to blame in part ... the FBI's supervision in Boston, which let all this seamy corruption go on for so long."

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**Load-Date:** October 11, 2003



## [Corruption connection eventually reaches Hub](#)

The Boston Herald

May 20, 2015 Wednesday

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**Section:** NEWS; Columnists; Pg. 10; Vol. 33; No. 140

**Length:** 451 words

**Byline:** HOWIE CARR

### **Body**

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When it comes to corruption, there's always a connection back to Boston. Always.

Just ask U.S. Rep. Alcee Hastings (D-Fla.), who is demanding a pay raise for Congress, up from \$174,000.

According to Roll Call, Alcee is the second-poorest member of Congress, with a net worth of negative \$2.23 million.

Most of the debt involves legal bills associated with his 1989 removal from the federal bench on corruption charges by the Congress in which he now serves.

Judge Hastings' downfall began when his bagman accepted \$150,000 from an FBI agent who he thought was a gangster.

That FBI agent was [H. Paul Rico](#) of Boston, and as it turned out, Rico was in fact both an FBI agent and a gangster.

He died in 2004 while in an Oklahoma jail awaiting trial for arranging the gangland murder of his boss at a jai-alai company.

Hastings now serves in the same House that voted 416-3 to remove him. He says he and the people who voted to convict him are underpaid. You can't make this stuff up.

'I think,' Hastings said Monday, 'we've proved to the American public that we're responsible.'

Well, his bagman has anyway. William Borders, B.O.P. #14385-016, paid his debt to society. He was freed from Club Fed in October 1989.

'We have more than 50 members - probably as many as 75 or more - living in their offices.'

## Corruption connection eventually reaches Hub

It's better than living in a jail cell, which is where a panel of federal judges said you should be living. Alcee beat the rap in 1983, after BOP #14385-016 refused to testify against him, but when the House began impeachment proceedings, a judicial panel said Hastings had lied under oath 32 times at his trial.

What happened was, the FBI knew that Hastings was running his courtroom as a racketeering enterprise. The G-men decided to run a sting. They debated for about 10 seconds which agent could convincingly play a gangster before settling on ... Harold Paul Rico of Boston, by way of Belmont High and BC.

After Alcee beat the federal criminal rap, Congress felt it had no choice but to impeach him. The vote in the Senate to convict was 69-26. Hastings blamed it all on racism.

After his removal from the bench, Hastings was elected to the U.S. House. More than a decade later, Rico was subpoenaed to testify before that same House about framing some gangsters in Boston for a 1965 murder they did not commit. This was a year before Rico was arrested for setting up the gangland hit in Oklahoma.

A Congressman asked Rico if he had any remorse for his crimes.

'What do you want?' Rico sneered. 'Tears.'

And now the hack Rico brought down, Alcee Hastings, says he deserves a lot more than \$174,000. Alcee says he's broke.

Hey Congressman, what do you want, tears?

Listen to Howie today from 3-7 p.m. on WRKO AM 680.

**Load-Date:** May 21, 2015

DID THE FBI HINDER THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE 1980S JAI ALAI KILLINGS?; A TALE OF MURDER  
AND FRUSTRATION

**DID THE FBI HINDER THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE 1980S JAI ALAI  
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A TALE OF MURDER AND FRUSTRATION**

Hartford Courant (Connecticut)

November 9, 1997 Sunday, STATEWIDE

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**Section:** MAIN; Pg. A1**Length:** 5715 words**Byline:** EDMUND MAHONY and LYN BIXBY; Courant Staff Writers**Body**

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Two months after the Mafia-style execution of Roger Wheeler, Bible Belt millionaire and owner of World Jai Alai, investigators hundreds of miles apart got what would prove to be their most credible, enduring and yet frustrating lead.

Wheeler, they were told, was shot between the eyes on the orders of a gang of Irish thugs from Boston.

That was in 1981. There have been six more killings since then linked in some fashion to World Jai Alai, the Miami-based company that owned the now-closed Hartford fronton and four others in Florida. The original police tip about thugs from Boston is, if anything, more credible than ever. An arrest in the homicide is just as remote.

But one aspect of the Wheeler investigation has changed. Detectives from Connecticut, Oklahoma, Massachusetts and Florida say they now know why so many promising leads came to dead ends in Boston: The prime suspects in the Wheeler killing turned out to be prize informants for the FBI.

FBI agents in Boston were so consumed by their own pursuit of the local Mafia, Wheeler investigators say, that they squelched information linking the informants to the killing. In doing so, they prevented the investigators from interviewing a witness who claimed to have evidence crucial to the Wheeler case -- a witness who himself was killed soon after talking with the FBI.

The witness' statement, given to the FBI seven months after Wheeler was killed, implicated the informants -- James "Whitey" Bulger and Steven "The Rifleman" Flemmi -- and **H. Paul Rico**, the FBI agent who recruited them, in a conspiracy to murder Wheeler.

Moreover, the statement suggested a broader conspiracy by organized crime to infiltrate the jai alai industry, a scheme Connecticut investigators had been trying to crack since 1976. The motive for Wheeler's killing, according to the witness, was protecting a \$1 million-a-year skimming operation at World Jai Alai.

## DID THE FBI HINDER THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE 1980S JAI ALAI KILLINGS?; A TALE OF MURDER AND FRUSTRATION

The information came from Edward Brian Halloran, a disaffected Winter Hill leg breaker whom the FBI spent six weeks debriefing. Rather than share his information with the agencies investigating Wheeler's killing, the FBI decided Halloran was not credible and put him back on the street. The other agencies never got a chance to interview Halloran themselves, either: Soon after the FBI cut him loose, Halloran was gunned down in an apparent mob hit in South Boston.

Bulger and Flemmi, on the other hand, seemed blessed by good fortune. State and local detectives could not get to them. Three times in the early 1980s, Massachusetts State Police detectives tried to bug the pair; and each time, Bulger and Flemmi seemed to learn in advance of the hidden microphones. Eventually, the detectives were assigned to an FBI task force and put to work on cases not involving Bulger and Flemmi.

Other out-of-town detectives believe they were followed by the FBI when in Boston to investigate links between the Winter Hill Gang and World Jai Alai.

Rico declined to be interviewed for this story. He said any talking he does about Bulger, Flemmi and World Jai Alai will take place at a continuing hearing in federal court in Boston that is examining, among other things, how the FBI used informants.

The experience of the Wheeler investigation -- 16 years of frustratingly futile work -- has left a particularly bitter taste with state and local detectives. At first, the detectives were inclined to ascribe the FBI's conduct to inter-agency rivalry or poor judgment. Now, they say, they believe the bureau's motives were something worse.

"In some cases I think you can probably say it was stupidity on their part," a Massachusetts detective said. "But, you know, it's not possible that they could be that stupid for that long."

Said a Connecticut investigator: "You can't justify not solving a murder case in order to do another kind of case. At least you shouldn't."

Federal prosecutors and the FBI say they are prevented by a court order from discussing the Wheeler case. The Department of Justice has assembled a team of investigators who have been trying to figure out exactly what an earlier generation of FBI agents and prosecutors did during the jai lai cases.

State and local detectives who discussed the case do not to be identified for a variety of reasons. Some don't want a public dispute with the FBI. Others anticipate being subpoenaed to testify about the case in the future. Still other retired officers don't want to be drawn into a continuing debate about a years-old case.

Investigators on the jai lai case, notably those from the Connecticut State Police and the Tulsa Police Department, followed leads about murder, drug dealing and money laundering across the country and to Switzerland's secretive banks. But when the leads played out, it was always in Boston where they died.

Boston, coincidentally, is where the plan to bring jai lai to the United States was conceived.

### Mob Moves On Jai Lai

Jai lai in the United States, a South Florida institution for most of its history, was developed by a group of wealthy Bostonians. It was financed by the First National Bank of Boston, a leading name in American banking -- until the bank pleaded guilty to laundering \$1.2 billion, much of it the mob's, in 1983. The investors ran their company, World Jai Alai, without change for decades, often taking advice from their bankers.

In the early 1970s, World Jai Alai directors decided to find professional business leadership for the company. To assist in their search, they hired a Boston-based consulting company owned in part by John B. Callahan, who, police informants and other witnesses said, was then an associate of and financial adviser to the Winter Hill Gang, a criminal gang of Irish thugs from around Boston. Callahan emerged as the leading contender to become World Jai Alai's chief executive.

## DID THE FBI HINDER THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE 1980S JAI ALAI KILLINGS?;A TALE OF MURDER AND FRUSTRATION

The directors hired Callahan after a contentious vote in December 1974; his employment was approved by one vote after a director had a last-minute change of heart.

Callahan immediately hired his partner from the consulting business, Richard Donovan, to be his second in command. He hired Rico, the retired FBI man, as vice president and security chief. He appointed the director who had changed his vote to a senior position in the company.

Suddenly World Jai Alai was changing faster than people could keep track of. Under Callahan, administrative costs grew by \$1 million annually, the result of a pattern of hiring his detractors in the company described as cronyism.

For example, Callahan hired Boston pal Brian McNeeley, another reputed Winter Hill associate, as head of World Jai Alai's food and beverage operation in 1975. McNeeley is described in a police report as "a brawler and strong arm bouncer type individual, hardly the type of person to handle mathematics necessary to direct the food and beverage accounts of World Jai Alai."

McNeeley was ultimately let go by World Jai Alai. After his departure, he was arrested in connection with a series of crimes in the Miami area, then he dropped from sight.

Callahan also hired a computer consultant from Boston. He was paid \$50,000, which his peers at World Jai Alai thought was fairly generous in the middle 1970s. Investigators have not been able to figure out exactly what the consultant did. But the computer system became the subject of intense scrutiny as the possible vehicle for skimming money; a skim was never proved. The consultant has also dropped out of sight.

Until the proliferation of legalized gambling, jai alai was a profitable parimutuel business. Around the time Callahan was joining the business, the industry was trying to expand beyond South Florida. It became a hot item in Connecticut.

The state's General Assembly voted to legalize jai alai gambling in 1972. Before the first fronton opened in 1976, allegations surfaced that mob-connected businessmen from Florida were trying to expedite the Connecticut licensing process with a substantial cash payment.

Similar allegations surfaced in New Jersey, where the FBI's ABSCAM investigation turned up politicians willing to back jai alai for payola. A name that surfaced in New Jersey was that of Meyer Lansky, the elderly Murder Inc. alumnus who is credited with organizing organized crime. Lansky was then the most powerful gangster in Florida.

World Jai Alai decided to build a fronton in Hartford. Stung by the earlier allegations of corruption, Gov. Ella T. Grasso ordered state investigators to put World Jai Alai and any other potential fronton operator through a rigorous background process. The resulting investigation led to a break that would color everything that followed.

### Trip To The Playboy Club

Callahan, then World Jai Alai's top operating officer, was a big, gregarious Boston Irishman with a captivating knack for storytelling. Connecticut State Police investigators examined his background, but much of that investigation relied on inquiries to Boston-based police agencies. They reported no damaging information on Callahan. It took a stroke of good fortune to lead police to the goods on Callahan.

In March 1976, Callahan was in Hartford on jai alai business. Bruce Haines, a state police detective, and Austin J. McGuigan, the state's organized crime and political corruption prosecutor, took the opportunity to interview him in his room at the Sonesta Hotel on Constitution Plaza.

Callahan was amusing as ever, but cut the meeting short. He said he had to get to Bradley Field to catch a shuttle back to Miami. But there was no afternoon shuttle to Miami, as McGuigan and Haines knew. Haines told a detective to follow Callahan, who bypassed the airport altogether and ended up at Boston's Playboy Club, where he joined a group of Winter Hill Gang members.

## DID THE FBI HINDER THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE 1980S JAI ALAI KILLINGS?; A TALE OF MURDER AND FRUSTRATION

Connecticut detectives joined the Boston Police Department and mounted surveillance of Callahan. Surveillance logs show that, in March 1976 alone -- the height of licensing proceedings in Hartford -- Callahan was seen meeting with Winter Hill members such as John Martorano and Halloran 10 times.

Connecticut investigators, planning a bit of legal theater, wanted to spring the surveillance logs on Callahan during the spring of 1976 when he was scheduled to testify before state gaming regulators considering his Connecticut license. Somehow, Callahan and World Jai Alai learned of the ostensibly secret surveillance, and Callahan did not show for the hearing.

Rico and Donovan appeared instead and announced that Callahan had resigned from World Jai Alai to pursue other interests. That apparently satisfied state gaming regulators, who licensed World Jai Alai's Hartford fronton.

During Rico's testimony, McGuigan demanded to know how World Jai Alai learned of the results of the surveillance. Rico declined to answer, and the state gambling regulators declined to make him. Much later, Rico told the FBI he learned of the surveillance from "sources" in Boston and that he told World Jai Alai about it to spare it embarrassment.

### Dead Fish And A Bullet

Changes at World Jai Alai continued. The stockholders, led by Boston native Alan Trustman, author of the Steve McQueen screenplays "Bullitt" and "The Thomas Crown Affair," ultimately decided to sell the business.

There were two curious events about the time of this decision. Trustman became alarmed after finding a dead cod on the bank of his freshwater pond, far from the ocean in Concord, Mass. Another World Jai Alai officer found a bullet on his front step. Forensic analysis showed that someone had taken the trouble of firing the bullet from a gun into a soft substance before placing it on the step.

Rico became a key player in the effort to sell World Jai Alai. The first potential deal involved a man named Jack B. Cooper.

Not long before, a lengthy organized crime investigation in South Florida had identified Cooper as a business associate of Meyer Lansky. Rico had participated in that investigation, a Florida detective who supervised the case said, as an FBI expert on organized crime.

Rico's attorney, William P. Cagney III of Miami, said Rico pursued the sale to Cooper because the courts in Florida had ruled that Cooper, regardless of his business associations and criminal record, was a licenseable gaming operator under Florida law.

The negotiations with Cooper ultimately were killed by bad publicity when word leaked to law enforcement and news reporters that an associate of Meyer Lansky was trying to buy a substantial portion of the American jai alai industry.

The next suitor was Bally Manufacturing, the country's leading maker of slot machines. That sale died the same death amid disclosures that Bally had unsavory connections to organized crime figures.

With sales twice quashed by bad publicity, World Jai Alai's bankers from First National Bank of Boston entered the talks. The bank's loan officer identified Wheeler as a prospective buyer. Wheeler found the deal attractive and, with a loan from the bank, he bought World Jai Alai in December 1977 for about \$60 million.

### Take Her Up For A Spin

Wheeler, chairman of Telex Corp. who made a fortune in electronics, oil, mining and other interests, signed the sales contract in spite of a curious clause inserted by the bank. It prevented Wheeler from tinkering with World Jai Alai's top management. The clause said that if for some reason Wheeler wanted to fire Richard Donovan, who was

## DID THE FBI HINDER THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE 1980S JAI ALAI KILLINGS?; A TALE OF MURDER AND FRUSTRATION

Callahan's replacement as chief executive, the bank reserved the right to reinsert Callahan. The clause was written after Callahan had resigned from World Jai Alai amid disclosures about his ties to the Winter Hill Gang.

Wheeler closed the deal anyway, perhaps because there were questions about enforceability of the clause. He also told his family he felt protected because there were so many ex-FBI agents working for World Jai Alai -- chief among them Paul Rico.

But Wheeler had not been long established as owner when he began expressing concerns about his safety and the possibility that criminals had penetrated the business and were stealing money. That behavior is documented by investigative reports and a family member.

Wheeler was a hard-nosed businessman. If there was one thing he could not abide, it was the thought of someone stealing from him. In conversations with trusted associates, he expressed concern about a skim and began toying with the idea of changing the company's leadership. He had an unfocused fear about the New England Mafia.

Events connected with Connecticut's fledgling jai alai industry could not have been reassuring. The state police had redoubled investigations of possible game fixing, suspected skimming and possible links to the Winter Hill Gang. By 1980, Wheeler had decided to sell the Hartford fronton. He hoped such a move would cut World Jai Alai's geographical link to the New England Mafia, while grouping his four remaining frontons in Florida.

Wheeler spoke continually with Connecticut State Police detectives. He recorded his telephone calls and trained his staff in stress analysis so they could review the recordings and speculate about who was lying to him. He became so concerned for his safety that he once had his pilot take his private jet up for a spin around the airport in Tulsa before he boarded a flight to Connecticut.

Target: Angiulo

While authorities in Connecticut focused on jai alai irregularities and the Wheeler killing, the FBI was reaching a critical point in its years-long investigation of Jerry Angiulo, who as underboss in Boston for New England's Patriarca crime family was the city's Mafia captain. As Raymond Patriarca's man in Boston, Angiulo controlled the Italian mob's extensive gambling and loansharking rackets in eastern New England. The bureau had been after the slippery Angiulo for decades. In the early 1980s, the FBI's Angiulo investigation would cement the bureau's relationship with Bulger and Flemmi.

Patriarca, Angiulo and the Italian mob firmly established themselves as the undisputed criminal power in Boston after a bloody war between rival Irish mobs in the early 1960s. Winter Hill was victorious in the Irish war, but remained subservient to Angiulo. By the 1980s, Bulger and Flemmi, by virtue of being alive, out of jail or not hiding from the law, were the de facto Winter Hill leaders.

The Winter Hill gang established a complicated relationship with Angiulo's Italian mob. The Irish gangsters had to pay a percentage of whatever they earned to Angiulo. But they also did "work" -- the odd strong-arm job or killing -- for the Italians. As a result, Bulger and Flemmi became intimately familiar with Angiulo's operation.

When Rico recruited Bulger and Flemmi as informants for the FBI, it was the beginning of the end for Angiulo and his crew. The work they did, in fact, may make them the FBI's most important Boston informants ever. They are credited with providing the information the bureau needed to install bugs in Angiulo's northend Boston headquarters.

No one disputes that Angiulo ran an extensive bookmaking and loansharking operation in eastern Massachusetts. But there is disagreement about who was the most violent and clever criminal force in Boston -- Angiulo and his crew or the FBI's two pet informants. In the very wiretaps Bulger and Flemmi helped make possible, they are described by Angiulo and his associates as two of the Italian mob's most trusted hired killers.

By 1980, Bulger and Flemmi were giving the FBI the evidence it needed to install hidden microphones in Angiulo offices. In 1981, the bugs were in place and a federal grand jury was investigating the Angiulo operation.



## DID THE FBI HINDER THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE 1980S JAI ALAI KILLINGS?;A TALE OF MURDER AND FRUSTRATION

### He Has To Die

There was another event in 1981, in January, that, if it really happened, would bear out Wheeler's gravest fears. Longtime Winter Hill gangster Edward Brian Halloran said he was summoned to a meeting with Callahan, Bulger and Flemmi. Halloran told no one in authority about the alleged meeting until a year later, when he described it to the FBI.

When taking the information from Halloran, the FBI reduced it to a written report. But the bureau, according to other police agencies, did not share that information. The Courant has obtained a copy of the FBI's report. Information in the report cannot be independently verified, but Halloran's account follows:

Callahan telephoned Halloran and asked for a meeting at Callahan's apartment at 10 Commercial Wharf in Boston. When Halloran arrived, he found Callahan, Bulger and Flemmi present. They exchanged pleasantries. Then Callahan got to the point: He said Wheeler had to be killed.

Callahan said he had an "operation" at World Jai Alai that Wheeler was threatening. In Callahan's opinion, Wheeler had become so dangerous to the operation that he could put Callahan in jail. Wheeler had to be "moved on," Callahan said, because he had discovered something was not right with World Jai Alai.

Callahan said Wheeler had begun to fire Callahan's people at World Jai Alai and replace them with his own. Big money, \$1 million or more, was at stake, Callahan said. He said that if Wheeler was "moved on," Callahan would have no trouble controlling his World Jai Alai operation.

Flemmi chimed in. He predicted friends of the Winter Hill Gang at World Jai Alai would fold under the pressure if Wheeler called the police. Halloran got the impression that Bulger and Flemmi either had, or were about to get, a piece of the World Jai Alai action.

Callahan said that he, Bulger and Flemmi were going to get Wheeler set up and "take him out of the box." Callahan said he wanted Halloran to "whack" Wheeler. Callahan described Rico as a close associate who would probably set Wheeler up. Flemmi said that he trusted Rico, whom he had known since he was a "kid." Callahan said that gang member John Martorano knew about the plan and would probably take a part.

The meeting lasted about an hour. Halloran said he did not agree to kill Wheeler and asked whether the problem could be resolved without "hitting the guy." Halloran said it was his impression that Bulger and Flemmi believed Wheeler had to be killed. Halloran said he left the meeting with the impression that the group would discuss the matter again in the near future.

Two weeks later, Callahan called Halloran again. Callahan told him the group had decided it would be best if Halloran did not participate in the Wheeler hit. Callahan paid Halloran \$20,000 in \$100 bills simply for attending the meeting.

Meanwhile, business at World Jai Alai proceeded as usual. As the spring of 1981 unfolded, Wheeler continued to behave in a manner disturbing to anyone stealing money. In March, he sold the Hartford fronton. In May he sent a son to World Jai Alai headquarters in Miami to evaluate the company computer system. He told his son he suspected something was amiss with the business. He asked his son to "keep his ears open" while in Miami.

Late in the afternoon of May 27, Wheeler walked out of Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa after his customary Wednesday round of golf. Two men watched from a nearby parked car. Wheeler slid into his Cadillac. One of the watchers, carrying a paper bag, approached Wheeler as if to speak. He stuck the bag in the Cadillac driver's side window and, with the pistol it contained, shot Wheeler between the eyes from a distance of about 2 inches. The killer walked back to his car and drove away with his accomplice.

### Halloran Wants Out

## DID THE FBI HINDER THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE 1980S JAI ALAI KILLINGS?; A TALE OF MURDER AND FRUSTRATION

Wheeler's killing was big news. Reports across the country described it as a mob hit. Reporters probed possible links to the jai alai industry. Connecticut detectives redoubled their skimming and game-fixing investigations, thinking therein lay the motive for the killing. Tulsa detectives pored over physical evidence and teamed up with Connecticut.

Two months later, in July 1981, Tulsa and Connecticut investigators got their first tip from sources in Boston that the Winter Hill Gang was somehow involved. But the investigation went no further.

In January 1982, a year after allegedly meeting with Callahan, Bulger and Flemmi, Halloran showed up at the FBI offices in Boston and announced that he wanted to tell his story about the contract to kill Wheeler. Halloran's life, such as it was, was coming apart.

He had been arrested and charged with murder in the killing of a convicted cocaine dealer in Boston's Chinatown. Halloran had become more a user than seller of cocaine. He had so antagonized some of Boston's other Irish gangsters that he was convinced they were planning to kill him. He wanted to cooperate with the authorities and join the federal witness protection program.

The FBI began a six-week debriefing of Halloran, moving him from safehouse to safehouse around the Boston area. They introduced him to Jeremiah O'Sullivan, who led New England's federal organized crime strike force. At the time, O'Sullivan and the FBI were building their case against Angiulo, the Patriarca underboss in Boston. Halloran had no way of knowing that Bulger and Flemmi, two of the men he was implicating in Wheeler's killing, were the government's ace informants in the Angiulo case.

Halloran said Callahan had been friendly with Winter Hill members, including Bulger and Flemmi, since 1974. In fact, Halloran said, it was he who introduced Callahan to the mob. The mob liked Callahan, he said, because Callahan was a "fun guy" who liked to party, had a lot of "broads" and spent a lot of money. Halloran said Callahan volunteered to permit himself to be robbed as he carried jai alai proceeds from his office to the security company that handled the money.

To corroborate his story, Halloran agreed to be fitted with a hidden microphone and chat with Callahan and others, to engage them in incriminating statements about the Wheeler killing. But no one would talk to Halloran. Word had spread around Boston's underworld that he had become an informant.

O'Sullivan and the FBI decided that, without corroboration, Halloran was not a credible witness. They denied him entry to the witness protection program. They also did not disseminate the report of his debriefing to other agencies working the Wheeler killing and jai alai cases.

On May 12, 1982, while sitting in a car outside the Topside Bar on Northern Avenue in South Boston, Halloran and a friend, Michael J. Donahue, were ambushed and shot dead. Halloran made a dying declaration to the first Boston police officer to arrive at the scene. He named the man he thought shot him, another Winter Hill associate, but the man was later acquitted at trial.

With Halloran's very public execution, word of his cooperation with the FBI began to leak out, bit by bit. It was widely suspected in the underworld. There were sketchy press reports that Halloran was an informant. Other informants told Massachusetts and Connecticut state police a version of the Halloran-Callahan-Bulger-Flemmi meeting that was strikingly similar to Halloran's.

The informant information picked up by Connecticut and Massachusetts state police was shared by the two agencies and with the Tulsa Police Department, which had primary jurisdiction over the Wheeler homicide. But the state and local police agencies said the FBI did not disclose to them the report of Halloran's debriefing. Months after Halloran was killed, a federal prosecutor confirmed that Halloran had tried to join the witness protection program -- but by then, it was too late to re-interview Halloran.

Few Witnesses Alive

## DID THE FBI HINDER THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE 1980S JAI ALAI KILLINGS?;A TALE OF MURDER AND FRUSTRATION

With the information they had, detectives in Tulsa, Connecticut and Massachusetts became more convinced than ever that Wheeler's death was related to some sort of Winter Hill skim from World Jai Alai. But they were running out of live witnesses. They needed someone linked to the plot whom they could roll over on the others. Almost simultaneously, they zeroed in on Callahan.

While the FBI was working with Bulger, Flemmi and Halloran, detectives in Connecticut were writing an investigative book on Callahan. They learned he was traveling regularly from Boston to South Florida. He was speaking with Lansky's man, Jack B. Cooper; there is some indication he may have been part of Cooper's attempt to buy World Jai Alai. And Callahan was a visitor to Switzerland.

Swiss employees of some swank European strip joints said Callahan had become a well-known customer beginning in 1981. They said he dressed to the nines, wore flashy jewelry, drank the best champagne and tipped generously with crisp \$50 bills. Sometimes, after closing, he entertained the performers at his hotel. In Geneva, Callahan was considered a real nice guy.

On the other side of the earth, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration said Callahan was a suspect in narcotics smuggling. Callahan, drug agents said, was tailed to a California hotel in 1979 where he is suspected of setting himself up in order to coordinate a ground crew unloading narcotics at a remote air strip. For reasons that are not clear, the drug delivery never materialized and no arrests were made.

### No Bets On Callahan

The detectives working the jai alai cases had high hopes for Callahan. He had never been arrested. They figured he might cooperate if confronted with a long stretch in jail. The problem was, no one could find him. The detectives were starting to fear that Callahan, too, was dead. More sanguine officers in Florida bet in an office pool on how long Callahan would live.

In the summer of 1982, state and local detectives descended upon Boston in search of Callahan. They had no luck. In July, two Tulsa detectives, two detectives from the Connecticut State Police and a Massachusetts State Police detective decided to interview O'Sullivan, the strike force head leading the case against Angiulo.

The detectives wanted to know more about the snippets of information they had heard suggesting Halloran might have had information about the Wheeler killing. They complained to O'Sullivan that the FBI was holding out on them. Two detectives made notes on the meeting.

O'Sullivan conceded that Halloran had tried to get into the witness protection program, but it appears the concession was reluctant at best. He first said he had learned third hand that Halloran was offered the murder contract on Wheeler. Later in the interview, O'Sullivan said he got that information directly from Halloran.

But the bottom line, according to O'Sullivan, was that Halloran's information couldn't be corroborated. He said half of what Halloran told the bureau was probably true. What's more, O'Sullivan said Halloran would not take a lie detector test and was probably tailoring his statements to keep what few remaining friends he had left out of trouble with the law.

O'Sullivan said nothing about Bulger and Flemmi.

The detectives still had no idea the two were top federal informants and were giving O'Sullivan the evidence he needed to bug Angiulo's phones and headquarters. But they raised doubts about the FBI and questioned O'Sullivan about whether the bureau could be trusted, particularly when it came to matters concerning the Winter Hill Gang. In a report written by one of the detectives, O'Sullivan "tried to downplay this."

### What About Rico?

O'Sullivan did raise questions about Rico. He said Rico was "connected with the Winter Hill Gang" and had "formed close associations with them while working for the Boston FBI." But, O'Sullivan qualified his answer, saying Rico

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was "connected" to Winter Hill members at a time when the FBI had no jurisdiction over the gang's activities. Finally, O'Sullivan said Rico was "somewhat of a rogue and would go drinking and playing pool with the subjects such as Bulger and Flemmi."

When questioned for this story about meeting the detectives in 1982, O'Sullivan first said he couldn't remember what was discussed. When informed there were notes on the meeting that might prod his memory, he said the matter was confidential. Rico's attorney said that if Rico was associating with Winter Hill members, it was because he was cultivating them as informants.

The detectives left Boston no closer to finding Callahan than they had been back in Connecticut and Oklahoma. But they kept working.

Connecticut prosecutors and state police, aware that there was a Florida grand jury looking at jai alai, began formulating plans to attack Callahan in conjunction with their Florida colleagues.

On Aug. 3, 1982, the Connecticut investigators flew to Miami. The day they arrived, Callahan's rotting body was found in the trunk of his Cadillac in the terminal garage at Miami International Airport. His killers had shot him repeatedly in the head and left a dime on his chest, a not-very-subtle message that whoever killed Callahan suspected he had dropped a dime to the authorities and become an informant.

#### Good Eats, No Help

Three months later, on Nov. 3, 1982, the Department of Justice organized a meeting in Tulsa. A year and a half after Wheeler was killed, Justice wanted the agencies involved to trade notes and crank the investigation up. Prosecutors and detectives from Connecticut, Massachusetts, Florida, Oklahoma and the federal government attended the three-day meeting. Justice paid the bill.

Participants said it was a curious gathering. They ate and drank well and slept in nice hotel rooms. But, they said, nothing much happened. It was as if the federal people were trying to learn what the state and locals had in the way of evidence.

The conference went snoringly until its conclusion, when a Justice Department moderator rose and announced that it was time for anybody with damaging information about Rico to speak up. Rico, the moderator said, was being called from retirement to serve as point man in an undercover investigation of a federal judge in South Florida. If there was any information that could damage Rico's credibility and weaken a potential case against the judge, the moderator said, the Justice Department wanted it.

Participants in the meeting, long leery of Rico, balked at the request. The Tulsa Police Department earlier had asked for a federal grand jury on the Wheeler homicide and that Rico be called as a witness. The Connecticut delegation, having recently heard O'Sullivan describe Rico as a "rogue" who palled around with mobsters, decided to leave as soon as the question was asked.

The meeting resulted in little more than a quick trip to the Bible Belt for a lot of out-of-town policemen. Not long after, the Wheeler investigation withered and the inquiry into the rest of the so-called jai alai crimes effectively died.

As years passed, detectives retired or were transferred to more potentially productive assignments, the unsolved killings moved to cold-case files.

The Angiulo prosecution was a stunning success. Bulger and Flemmi helped the FBI insert enough microphones into Angiulo headquarters that none of the gang's secrets were safe. Jerry Angiulo is serving a life sentence at the federal penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kan.

Bulger and Flemmi, many police sources say, became the most powerful criminals in Boston as the FBI systematically plucked their rivals off the street.

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But the pair's luck eventually changed as the evidence piled up against them. Both are now under federal indictment. Flemmi is in jail awaiting trial and is said to be building a defense arguing that whatever he did, he did for the government. Bulger disappeared and is a fugitive.

Perhaps the lonliest detective in the country is Sgt. Michael Huff of the Tulsa Police Department, the only investigator actively working on the Wheeler case.

"I've stayed on this case since the moment of the first call on Wheeler's death from Southern Hills Country Club," said Huff, who has chased leads in Boston and Miami the last two years. "We've maintained an active case file and there has literally been not more than a week that goes by that investigation has not been followed up on. We're optimistic that there is a possibility of a successful closure on this case.

"If there is anyone with any information, they can call me, write me, e-mail me or whatever they want to."

Huff believes a continuing hearing in federal court in Boston, which is examining the FBI's relationship with Bulger and Flemmi, may be the last best hope for solving Wheeler's murder.

### Graphic

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PHOTOS: (2 b&w) mugs

GRAPHIC: (b&w)

; PHOTO 1: Wheeler

PHOTO 2: Rico

GRAPHIC: The Halloran debriefing

\* Excerpts from the lengthy statement reputed Winter Hill Gang member Edward Brian Halloran gave the FBI in 1982 concerning the gang's alleged conspiracy to kill former World Jai Alai owner Roger Wheeler Sr.

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DID THE FBI HINDER THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE 1980S JAI ALAI KILLINGS?; A TALE OF MURDER  
AND FRUSTRATION

**DID THE FBI HINDER THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE 1980S JAI ALAI  
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Two months after the Mafia-style execution of Roger Wheeler, Bible Belt millionaire and owner of World Jai Alai, investigators hundreds of miles apart got what would prove to be their most credible, enduring and yet frustrating lead.

Wheeler, they were told, was shot between the eyes on the orders of a gang of Irish thugs from Boston.

That was in 1981. There have been six more killings since then linked in some fashion to World Jai Alai, the Miami-based company that owned the now-closed Hartford fronton and four others in Florida. The original police tip about thugs from Boston is, if anything, more credible than ever. An arrest in the homicide is just as remote.

But one aspect of the Wheeler investigation has changed. Detectives from Connecticut, Oklahoma, Massachusetts and Florida say they now know why so many promising leads came to dead ends in Boston: The prime suspects in the Wheeler killing turned out to be prize informants for the FBI.

FBI agents in Boston were so consumed by their own pursuit of the local Mafia, Wheeler investigators say, that they squelched information linking the informants to the killing. In doing so, they prevented the investigators from interviewing a witness who claimed to have evidence crucial to the Wheeler case -- a witness who himself was killed soon after talking with the FBI.

The witness' statement, given to the FBI seven months after Wheeler was killed, implicated the informants -- James "Whitey" Bulger and Steven "The Rifleman" Flemmi -- and **H. Paul Rico**, the FBI agent who recruited them, in a conspiracy to murder Wheeler.

Moreover, the statement suggested a broader conspiracy by organized crime to infiltrate the jai alai industry, a scheme Connecticut investigators had been trying to crack since 1976. The motive for Wheeler's killing, according to the witness, was protecting a \$1 million-a-year skimming operation at World Jai Alai.

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The information came from Edward Brian Halloran, a disaffected Winter Hill leg breaker whom the FBI spent six weeks debriefing. Rather than share his information with the agencies investigating Wheeler's killing, the FBI decided Halloran was not credible and put him back on the street. The other agencies never got a chance to interview Halloran themselves, either: Soon after the FBI cut him loose, Halloran was gunned down in an apparent mob hit in South Boston.

Bulger and Flemmi, on the other hand, seemed blessed by good fortune. State and local detectives could not get to them. Three times in the early 1980s, Massachusetts State Police detectives tried to bug the pair; and each time, Bulger and Flemmi seemed to learn in advance of the hidden microphones. Eventually, the detectives were assigned to an FBI task force and put to work on cases not involving Bulger and Flemmi.

Other out-of-town detectives believe they were followed by the FBI when in Boston to investigate links between the Winter Hill Gang and World Jai Alai.

Rico declined to be interviewed for this story. He said any talking he does about Bulger, Flemmi and World Jai Alai will take place at a continuing hearing in federal court in Boston that is examining, among other things, how the FBI used informants.

The experience of the Wheeler investigation -- 16 years of frustratingly futile work -- has left a particularly bitter taste with state and local detectives. At first, the detectives were inclined to ascribe the FBI's conduct to inter-agency rivalry or poor judgment. Now, they say, they believe the bureau's motives were something worse.

"In some cases I think you can probably say it was stupidity on their part," a Massachusetts detective said. "But, you know, it's not possible that they could be that stupid for that long."

Said a Connecticut investigator: "You can't justify not solving a murder case in order to do another kind of case. At least you shouldn't."

Federal prosecutors and the FBI say they are prevented by a court order from discussing the Wheeler case. The Department of Justice has assembled a team of investigators who have been trying to figure out exactly what an earlier generation of FBI agents and prosecutors did during the jai lai cases.

State and local detectives who discussed the case do not to be identified for a variety of reasons. Some don't want a public dispute with the FBI. Others anticipate being subpoenaed to testify about the case in the future. Still other retired officers don't want to be drawn into a continuing debate about a years-old case.

Investigators on the jai lai case, notably those from the Connecticut State Police and the Tulsa Police Department, followed leads about murder, drug dealing and money laundering across the country and to Switzerland's secretive banks. But when the leads played out, it was always in Boston where they died.

Boston, coincidentally, is where the plan to bring jai lai to the United States was conceived.

### Mob Moves On Jai Lai

Jai lai in the United States, a South Florida institution for most of its history, was developed by a group of wealthy Bostonians. It was financed by the First National Bank of Boston, a leading name in American banking -- until the bank pleaded guilty to laundering \$1.2 billion, much of it the mob's, in 1983. The investors ran their company, World Jai Alai, without change for decades, often taking advice from their bankers.

In the early 1970s, World Jai Alai directors decided to find professional business leadership for the company. To assist in their search, they hired a Boston-based consulting company owned in part by John B. Callahan, who, police informants and other witnesses said, was then an associate of and financial adviser to the Winter Hill Gang, a criminal gang of Irish thugs from around Boston. Callahan emerged as the leading contender to become World Jai Alai's chief executive.

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The directors hired Callahan after a contentious vote in December 1974; his employment was approved by one vote after a director had a last-minute change of heart.

Callahan immediately hired his partner from the consulting business, Richard Donovan, to be his second in command. He hired Rico, the retired FBI man, as vice president and security chief. He appointed the director who had changed his vote to a senior position in the company.

Suddenly World Jai Alai was changing faster than people could keep track of. Under Callahan, administrative costs grew by \$1 million annually, the result of a pattern of hiring his detractors in the company described as cronyism.

For example, Callahan hired Boston pal Brian McNeeley, another reputed Winter Hill associate, as head of World Jai Alai's food and beverage operation in 1975. McNeeley is described in a police report as "a brawler and strong arm bouncer type individual, hardly the type of person to handle mathematics necessary to direct the food and beverage accounts of World Jai Alai."

McNeeley was ultimately let go by World Jai Alai. After his departure, he was arrested in connection with a series of crimes in the Miami area, then he dropped from sight.

Callahan also hired a computer consultant from Boston. He was paid \$50,000, which his peers at World Jai Alai thought was fairly generous in the middle 1970s. Investigators have not been able to figure out exactly what the consultant did. But the computer system became the subject of intense scrutiny as the possible vehicle for skimming money; a skim was never proved. The consultant has also dropped out of sight.

Until the proliferation of legalized gambling, jai alai was a profitable parimutuel business. Around the time Callahan was joining the business, the industry was trying to expand beyond South Florida. It became a hot item in Connecticut.

The state's General Assembly voted to legalize jai alai gambling in 1972. Before the first fronton opened in 1976, allegations surfaced that mob-connected businessmen from Florida were trying to expedite the Connecticut licensing process with a substantial cash payment.

Similar allegations surfaced in New Jersey, where the FBI's ABSCAM investigation turned up politicians willing to back jai alai for payola. A name that surfaced in New Jersey was that of Meyer Lansky, the elderly Murder Inc. alumnus who is credited with organizing organized crime. Lansky was then the most powerful gangster in Florida.

World Jai Alai decided to build a fronton in Hartford. Stung by the earlier allegations of corruption, Gov. Ella T. Grasso ordered state investigators to put World Jai Alai and any other potential fronton operator through a rigorous background process. The resulting investigation led to a break that would color everything that followed.

### Trip To The Playboy Club

Callahan, then World Jai Alai's top operating officer, was a big, gregarious Boston Irishman with a captivating knack for storytelling. Connecticut State Police investigators examined his background, but much of that investigation relied on inquiries to Boston-based police agencies. They reported no damaging information on Callahan. It took a stroke of good fortune to lead police to the goods on Callahan.

In March 1976, Callahan was in Hartford on jai alai business. Bruce Haines, a state police detective, and Austin J. McGuigan, the state's organized crime and political corruption prosecutor, took the opportunity to interview him in his room at the Sonesta Hotel on Constitution Plaza.

Callahan was amusing as ever, but cut the meeting short. He said he had to get to Bradley Field to catch a shuttle back to Miami. But there was no afternoon shuttle to Miami, as McGuigan and Haines knew. Haines told a detective to follow Callahan, who bypassed the airport altogether and ended up at Boston's Playboy Club, where he joined a group of Winter Hill Gang members.



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Connecticut detectives joined the Boston Police Department and mounted surveillance of Callahan. Surveillance logs show that, in March 1976 alone -- the height of licensing proceedings in Hartford -- Callahan was seen meeting with Winter Hill members such as John Martorano and Halloran 10 times.

Connecticut investigators, planning a bit of legal theater, wanted to spring the surveillance logs on Callahan during the spring of 1976 when he was scheduled to testify before state gaming regulators considering his Connecticut license. Somehow, Callahan and World Jai Alai learned of the ostensibly secret surveillance, and Callahan did not show for the hearing.

Rico and Donovan appeared instead and announced that Callahan had resigned from World Jai Alai to pursue other interests. That apparently satisfied state gaming regulators, who licensed World Jai Alai's Hartford fronton.

During Rico's testimony, McGuigan demanded to know how World Jai Alai learned of the results of the surveillance. Rico declined to answer, and the state gambling regulators declined to make him. Much later, Rico told the FBI he learned of the surveillance from "sources" in Boston and that he told World Jai Alai about it to spare it embarrassment.

### Dead Fish And A Bullet

Changes at World Jai Alai continued. The stockholders, led by Boston native Alan Trustman, author of the Steve McQueen screenplays "Bullitt" and "The Thomas Crown Affair," ultimately decided to sell the business.

There were two curious events about the time of this decision. Trustman became alarmed after finding a dead cod on the bank of his freshwater pond, far from the ocean in Concord, Mass. Another World Jai Alai officer found a bullet on his front step. Forensic analysis showed that someone had taken the trouble of firing the bullet from a gun into a soft substance before placing it on the step.

Rico became a key player in the effort to sell World Jai Alai. The first potential deal involved a man named Jack B. Cooper.

Not long before, a lengthy organized crime investigation in South Florida had identified Cooper as a business associate of Meyer Lansky. Rico had participated in that investigation, a Florida detective who supervised the case said, as an FBI expert on organized crime.

Rico's attorney, William P. Cagney III of Miami, said Rico pursued the sale to Cooper because the courts in Florida had ruled that Cooper, regardless of his business associations and criminal record, was a licenseable gaming operator under Florida law.

The negotiations with Cooper ultimately were killed by bad publicity when word leaked to law enforcement and news reporters that an associate of Meyer Lansky was trying to buy a substantial portion of the American jai alai industry.

The next suitor was Bally Manufacturing, the country's leading maker of slot machines. That sale died the same death amid disclosures that Bally had unsavory connections to organized crime figures.

With sales twice quashed by bad publicity, World Jai Alai's bankers from First National Bank of Boston entered the talks. The bank's loan officer identified Wheeler as a prospective buyer. Wheeler found the deal attractive and, with a loan from the bank, he bought World Jai Alai in December 1977 for about \$60 million.

### Take Her Up For A Spin

Wheeler, chairman of Telex Corp. who made a fortune in electronics, oil, mining and other interests, signed the sales contract in spite of a curious clause inserted by the bank. It prevented Wheeler from tinkering with World Jai Alai's top management. The clause said that if for some reason Wheeler wanted to fire Richard Donovan, who was

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Callahan's replacement as chief executive, the bank reserved the right to reinsert Callahan. The clause was written after Callahan had resigned from World Jai Alai amid disclosures about his ties to the Winter Hill Gang.

Wheeler closed the deal anyway, perhaps because there were questions about enforceability of the clause. He also told his family he felt protected because there were so many ex-FBI agents working for World Jai Alai -- chief among them Paul Rico.

But Wheeler had not been long established as owner when he began expressing concerns about his safety and the possibility that criminals had penetrated the business and were stealing money. That behavior is documented by investigative reports and a family member.

Wheeler was a hard-nosed businessman. If there was one thing he could not abide, it was the thought of someone stealing from him. In conversations with trusted associates, he expressed concern about a skim and began toying with the idea of changing the company's leadership. He had an unfocused fear about the New England Mafia.

Events connected with Connecticut's fledgling jai alai industry could not have been reassuring. The state police had redoubled investigations of possible game fixing, suspected skimming and possible links to the Winter Hill Gang. By 1980, Wheeler had decided to sell the Hartford fronton. He hoped such a move would cut World Jai Alai's geographical link to the New England Mafia, while grouping his four remaining frontons in Florida.

Wheeler spoke continually with Connecticut State Police detectives. He recorded his telephone calls and trained his staff in stress analysis so they could review the recordings and speculate about who was lying to him. He became so concerned for his safety that he once had his pilot take his private jet up for a spin around the airport in Tulsa before he boarded a flight to Connecticut.

Target: Angiulo

While authorities in Connecticut focused on jai alai irregularities and the Wheeler killing, the FBI was reaching a critical point in its years-long investigation of Jerry Angiulo, who as underboss in Boston for New England's Patriarca crime family was the city's Mafia captain. As Raymond Patriarca's man in Boston, Angiulo controlled the Italian mob's extensive gambling and loansharking rackets in eastern New England. The bureau had been after the slippery Angiulo for decades. In the early 1980s, the FBI's Angiulo investigation would cement the bureau's relationship with Bulger and Flemmi.

Patriarca, Angiulo and the Italian mob firmly established themselves as the undisputed criminal power in Boston after a bloody war between rival Irish mobs in the early 1960s. Winter Hill was victorious in the Irish war, but remained subservient to Angiulo. By the 1980s, Bulger and Flemmi, by virtue of being alive, out of jail or not hiding from the law, were the de facto Winter Hill leaders.

The Winter Hill gang established a complicated relationship with Angiulo's Italian mob. The Irish gangsters had to pay a percentage of whatever they earned to Angiulo. But they also did "work" -- the odd strong-arm job or killing -- for the Italians. As a result, Bulger and Flemmi became intimately familiar with Angiulo's operation.

When Rico recruited Bulger and Flemmi as informants for the FBI, it was the beginning of the end for Angiulo and his crew. The work they did, in fact, may make them the FBI's most important Boston informants ever. They are credited with providing the information the bureau needed to install bugs in Angiulo's northend Boston headquarters.

No one disputes that Angiulo ran an extensive bookmaking and loansharking operation in eastern Massachusetts. But there is disagreement about who was the most violent and clever criminal force in Boston -- Angiulo and his crew or the FBI's two pet informants. In the very wiretaps Bulger and Flemmi helped make possible, they are described by Angiulo and his associates as two of the Italian mob's most trusted hired killers.

By 1980, Bulger and Flemmi were giving the FBI the evidence it needed to install hidden microphones in Angiulo offices. In 1981, the bugs were in place and a federal grand jury was investigating the Angiulo operation.

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### He Has To Die

There was another event in 1981, in January, that, if it really happened, would bear out Wheeler's gravest fears. Longtime Winter Hill gangster Edward Brian Halloran said he was summoned to a meeting with Callahan, Bulger and Flemmi. Halloran told no one in authority about the alleged meeting until a year later, when he described it to the FBI.

When taking the information from Halloran, the FBI reduced it to a written report. But the bureau, according to other police agencies, did not share that information. The Courant has obtained a copy of the FBI's report. Information in the report cannot be independently verified, but Halloran's account follows:

Callahan telephoned Halloran and asked for a meeting at Callahan's apartment at 10 Commercial Wharf in Boston. When Halloran arrived, he found Callahan, Bulger and Flemmi present. They exchanged pleasantries. Then Callahan got to the point: He said Wheeler had to be killed.

Callahan said he had an "operation" at World Jai Alai that Wheeler was threatening. In Callahan's opinion, Wheeler had become so dangerous to the operation that he could put Callahan in jail. Wheeler had to be "moved on," Callahan said, because he had discovered something was not right with World Jai Alai.

Callahan said Wheeler had begun to fire Callahan's people at World Jai Alai and replace them with his own. Big money, \$1 million or more, was at stake, Callahan said. He said that if Wheeler was "moved on," Callahan would have no trouble controlling his World Jai Alai operation.

Flemmi chimed in. He predicted friends of the Winter Hill Gang at World Jai Alai would fold under the pressure if Wheeler called the police. Halloran got the impression that Bulger and Flemmi either had, or were about to get, a piece of the World Jai Alai action.

Callahan said that he, Bulger and Flemmi were going to get Wheeler set up and "take him out of the box." Callahan said he wanted Halloran to "whack" Wheeler. Callahan described Rico as a close associate who would probably set Wheeler up. Flemmi said that he trusted Rico, whom he had known since he was a "kid." Callahan said that gang member John Martorano knew about the plan and would probably take a part.

The meeting lasted about an hour. Halloran said he did not agree to kill Wheeler and asked whether the problem could be resolved without "hitting the guy." Halloran said it was his impression that Bulger and Flemmi believed Wheeler had to be killed. Halloran said he left the meeting with the impression that the group would discuss the matter again in the near future.

Two weeks later, Callahan called Halloran again. Callahan told him the group had decided it would be best if Halloran did not participate in the Wheeler hit. Callahan paid Halloran \$20,000 in \$100 bills simply for attending the meeting.

Meanwhile, business at World Jai Alai proceeded as usual. As the spring of 1981 unfolded, Wheeler continued to behave in a manner disturbing to anyone stealing money. In March, he sold the Hartford fronton. In May he sent a son to World Jai Alai headquarters in Miami to evaluate the company computer system. He told his son he suspected something was amiss with the business. He asked his son to "keep his ears open" while in Miami.

Late in the afternoon of May 27, Wheeler walked out of Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa after his customary Wednesday round of golf. Two men watched from a nearby parked car. Wheeler slid into his Cadillac. One of the watchers, carrying a paper bag, approached Wheeler as if to speak. He stuck the bag in the Cadillac driver's side window and, with the pistol it contained, shot Wheeler between the eyes from a distance of about 2 inches. The killer walked back to his car and drove away with his accomplice.

### Halloran Wants Out

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Wheeler's killing was big news. Reports across the country described it as a mob hit. Reporters probed possible links to the jai alai industry. Connecticut detectives redoubled their skimming and game-fixing investigations, thinking therein lay the motive for the killing. Tulsa detectives pored over physical evidence and teamed up with Connecticut.

Two months later, in July 1981, Tulsa and Connecticut investigators got their first tip from sources in Boston that the Winter Hill Gang was somehow involved. But the investigation went no further.

In January 1982, a year after allegedly meeting with Callahan, Bulger and Flemmi, Halloran showed up at the FBI offices in Boston and announced that he wanted to tell his story about the contract to kill Wheeler. Halloran's life, such as it was, was coming apart.

He had been arrested and charged with murder in the killing of a convicted cocaine dealer in Boston's Chinatown. Halloran had become more a user than seller of cocaine. He had so antagonized some of Boston's other Irish gangsters that he was convinced they were planning to kill him. He wanted to cooperate with the authorities and join the federal witness protection program.

The FBI began a six-week debriefing of Halloran, moving him from safehouse to safehouse around the Boston area. They introduced him to Jeremiah O'Sullivan, who led New England's federal organized crime strike force. At the time, O'Sullivan and the FBI were building their case against Angiulo, the Patriarca underboss in Boston. Halloran had no way of knowing that Bulger and Flemmi, two of the men he was implicating in Wheeler's killing, were the government's ace informants in the Angiulo case.

Halloran said Callahan had been friendly with Winter Hill members, including Bulger and Flemmi, since 1974. In fact, Halloran said, it was he who introduced Callahan to the mob. The mob liked Callahan, he said, because Callahan was a "fun guy" who liked to party, had a lot of "broads" and spent a lot of money. Halloran said Callahan volunteered to permit himself to be robbed as he carried jai alai proceeds from his office to the security company that handled the money.

To corroborate his story, Halloran agreed to be fitted with a hidden microphone and chat with Callahan and others, to engage them in incriminating statements about the Wheeler killing. But no one would talk to Halloran. Word had spread around Boston's underworld that he had become an informant.

O'Sullivan and the FBI decided that, without corroboration, Halloran was not a credible witness. They denied him entry to the witness protection program. They also did not disseminate the report of his debriefing to other agencies working the Wheeler killing and jai alai cases.

On May 12, 1982, while sitting in a car outside the Topside Bar on Northern Avenue in South Boston, Halloran and a friend, Michael J. Donahue, were ambushed and shot dead. Halloran made a dying declaration to the first Boston police officer to arrive at the scene. He named the man he thought shot him, another Winter Hill associate, but the man was later acquitted at trial.

With Halloran's very public execution, word of his cooperation with the FBI began to leak out, bit by bit. It was widely suspected in the underworld. There were sketchy press reports that Halloran was an informant. Other informants told Massachusetts and Connecticut state police a version of the Halloran-Callahan-Bulger-Flemmi meeting that was strikingly similar to Halloran's.

The informant information picked up by Connecticut and Massachusetts state police was shared by the two agencies and with the Tulsa Police Department, which had primary jurisdiction over the Wheeler homicide. But the state and local police agencies said the FBI did not disclose to them the report of Halloran's debriefing. Months after Halloran was killed, a federal prosecutor confirmed that Halloran had tried to join the witness protection program -- but by then, it was too late to re-interview Halloran.

Few Witnesses Alive

## DID THE FBI HINDER THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE 1980S JAI ALAI KILLINGS?; A TALE OF MURDER AND FRUSTRATION

With the information they had, detectives in Tulsa, Connecticut and Massachusetts became more convinced than ever that Wheeler's death was related to some sort of Winter Hill skim from World Jai Alai. But they were running out of live witnesses. They needed someone linked to the plot whom they could roll over on the others. Almost simultaneously, they zeroed in on Callahan.

While the FBI was working with Bulger, Flemmi and Halloran, detectives in Connecticut were writing an investigative book on Callahan. They learned he was traveling regularly from Boston to South Florida. He was speaking with Lansky's man, Jack B. Cooper; there is some indication he may have been part of Cooper's attempt to buy World Jai Alai. And Callahan was a visitor to Switzerland.

Swiss employees of some swank European strip joints said Callahan had become a well-known customer beginning in 1981. They said he dressed to the nines, wore flashy jewelry, drank the best champagne and tipped generously with crisp \$50 bills. Sometimes, after closing, he entertained the performers at his hotel. In Geneva, Callahan was considered a real nice guy.

On the other side of the earth, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration said Callahan was a suspect in narcotics smuggling. Callahan, drug agents said, was tailed to a California hotel in 1979 where he is suspected of setting himself up in order to coordinate a ground crew unloading narcotics at a remote air strip. For reasons that are not clear, the drug delivery never materialized and no arrests were made.

### No Bets On Callahan

The detectives working the jai alai cases had high hopes for Callahan. He had never been arrested. They figured he might cooperate if confronted with a long stretch in jail. The problem was, no one could find him. The detectives were starting to fear that Callahan, too, was dead. More sanguine officers in Florida bet in an office pool on how long Callahan would live.

In the summer of 1982, state and local detectives descended upon Boston in search of Callahan. They had no luck. In July, two Tulsa detectives, two detectives from the Connecticut State Police and a Massachusetts State Police detective decided to interview O'Sullivan, the strike force head leading the case against Angiulo.

The detectives wanted to know more about the snippets of information they had heard suggesting Halloran might have had information about the Wheeler killing. They complained to O'Sullivan that the FBI was holding out on them. Two detectives made notes on the meeting.

O'Sullivan conceded that Halloran had tried to get into the witness protection program, but it appears the concession was reluctant at best. He first said he had learned third hand that Halloran was offered the murder contract on Wheeler. Later in the interview, O'Sullivan said he got that information directly from Halloran.

But the bottom line, according to O'Sullivan, was that Halloran's information couldn't be corroborated. He said half of what Halloran told the bureau was probably true. What's more, O'Sullivan said Halloran would not take a lie detector test and was probably tailoring his statements to keep what few remaining friends he had left out of trouble with the law.

O'Sullivan said nothing about Bulger and Flemmi.

The detectives still had no idea the two were top federal informants and were giving O'Sullivan the evidence he needed to bug Angiulo's phones and headquarters. But they raised doubts about the FBI and questioned O'Sullivan about whether the bureau could be trusted, particularly when it came to matters concerning the Winter Hill Gang. In a report written by one of the detectives, O'Sullivan "tried to downplay this."

### What About Rico?

O'Sullivan did raise questions about Rico. He said Rico was "connected with the Winter Hill Gang" and had "formed close associations with them while working for the Boston FBI." But, O'Sullivan qualified his answer, saying Rico

## DID THE FBI HINDER THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE 1980S JAI ALAI KILLINGS?; A TALE OF MURDER AND FRUSTRATION

was "connected" to Winter Hill members at a time when the FBI had no jurisdiction over the gang's activities. Finally, O'Sullivan said Rico was "somewhat of a rogue and would go drinking and playing pool with the subjects such as Bulger and Flemmi."

When questioned for this story about meeting the detectives in 1982, O'Sullivan first said he couldn't remember what was discussed. When informed there were notes on the meeting that might prod his memory, he said the matter was confidential. Rico's attorney said that if Rico was associating with Winter Hill members, it was because he was cultivating them as informants.

The detectives left Boston no closer to finding Callahan than they had been back in Connecticut and Oklahoma. But they kept working.

Connecticut prosecutors and state police, aware that there was a Florida grand jury looking at jai alai, began formulating plans to attack Callahan in conjunction with their Florida colleagues.

On Aug. 3, 1982, the Connecticut investigators flew to Miami. The day they arrived, Callahan's rotting body was found in the trunk of his Cadillac in the terminal garage at Miami International Airport. His killers had shot him repeatedly in the head and left a dime on his chest, a not-very-subtle message that whoever killed Callahan suspected he had dropped a dime to the authorities and become an informant.

#### Good Eats, No Help

Three months later, on Nov. 3, 1982, the Department of Justice organized a meeting in Tulsa. A year and a half after Wheeler was killed, Justice wanted the agencies involved to trade notes and crank the investigation up. Prosecutors and detectives from Connecticut, Massachusetts, Florida, Oklahoma and the federal government attended the three-day meeting. Justice paid the bill.

Participants said it was a curious gathering. They ate and drank well and slept in nice hotel rooms. But, they said, nothing much happened. It was as if the federal people were trying to learn what the state and locals had in the way of evidence.

The conference went snoringly until its conclusion, when a Justice Department moderator rose and announced that it was time for anybody with damaging information about Rico to speak up. Rico, the moderator said, was being called from retirement to serve as point man in an undercover investigation of a federal judge in South Florida. If there was any information that could damage Rico's credibility and weaken a potential case against the judge, the moderator said, the Justice Department wanted it.

Participants in the meeting, long leery of Rico, balked at the request. The Tulsa Police Department earlier had asked for a federal grand jury on the Wheeler homicide and that Rico be called as a witness. The Connecticut delegation, having recently heard O'Sullivan describe Rico as a "rogue" who palled around with mobsters, decided to leave as soon as the question was asked.

The meeting resulted in little more than a quick trip to the Bible Belt for a lot of out-of-town policemen. Not long after, the Wheeler investigation withered and the inquiry into the rest of the so-called jai alai crimes effectively died.

As years passed, detectives retired or were transferred to more potentially productive assignments, the unsolved killings moved to cold-case files.

The Angiulo prosecution was a stunning success. Bulger and Flemmi helped the FBI insert enough microphones into Angiulo headquarters that none of the gang's secrets were safe. Jerry Angiulo is serving a life sentence at the federal penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kan.

Bulger and Flemmi, many police sources say, became the most powerful criminals in Boston as the FBI systematically plucked their rivals off the street.

## DID THE FBI HINDER THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE 1980S JAI ALAI KILLINGS?;A TALE OF MURDER AND FRUSTRATION

But the pair's luck eventually changed as the evidence piled up against them. Both are now under federal indictment. Flemmi is in jail awaiting trial and is said to be building a defense arguing that whatever he did, he did for the government. Bulger disappeared and is a fugitive.

Perhaps the lonliest detective in the country is Sgt. Michael Huff of the Tulsa Police Department, the only investigator actively working on the Wheeler case.

"I've stayed on this case since the moment of the first call on Wheeler's death from Southern Hills Country Club," said Huff, who has chased leads in Boston and Miami the last two years. "We've maintained an active case file and there has literally been not more than a week that goes by that investigation has not been followed up on. We're optimistic that there is a possibility of a successful closure on this case.

"If there is anyone with any information, they can call me, write me, e-mail me or whatever they want to."

Huff believes a continuing hearing in federal court in Boston, which is examining the FBI's relationship with Bulger and Flemmi, may be the last best hope for solving Wheeler's murder.

### Graphic

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PHOTOS: (2 b&w) mugs

GRAPHIC: (b&w)

; PHOTO 1: Wheeler

PHOTO 2: Rico

GRAPHIC: The Halloran debriefing

\* Excerpts from the lengthy statement reputed Winter Hill Gang member Edward Brian Halloran gave the FBI in 1982 concerning the gang's alleged conspiracy to kill former World Jai Alai owner Roger Wheeler Sr.

**Load-Date:** November 12, 1997



## **EX-AGENT IMPLICATED IN '60S GANG SLAYING TESTIMONY TIES RICO TO AMBUSH**

The Boston Globe  
October 24, 2003, Friday  
THIRD EDITION

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**Section:** METRO/REGION;

**Length:** 836 words

**Byline:** By Shelley Murphy, Globe Staff

### **Body**

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A retired FBI agent who was recently charged with helping gangster informants James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi kill a Tulsa businessman in May 1981 has been implicated in another gangland murder in the 1960s.

Former New England Mafia boss Francis "Cadillac Frank" Salemme testified in a closed-door session before congressional staffers last March that former FBI agent **H. Paul Rico** helped him and Flemmi ambush a Charlestown gangster at the height of a violent gang war in Boston, according to several people familiar with the testimony.

Salemme, who is in the federal witness protection program, testified in the deposition that he and Flemmi had unsuccessfully tried to kill Edward "Punchy" McLaughlin twice, then could not find him because he had gone into hiding.

That's when Rico, an agent assigned to the organized crime squad, stopped by Salemme's Roxbury auto shop to deliver a note containing the address of the Canton home where McLaughlin was staying with a girlfriend, according to Salemme.

After following McLaughlin for two weeks, Flemmi and Salemme gunned him down at a West Roxbury bus stop on Oct. 20, 1965, according to Salemme.

The House Committee on Government Reform has been holding public hearings as part of a two-year investigation into the FBI's handling of informants, particularly in Boston.

Salemme was allowed to testify privately because he is in the witness protection program, and his testimony has yet to be made public.



## EX-AGENT IMPLICATED IN '60S GANG SLAYING TESTIMONY TIES RICO TO AMBUSH

Salemme admitted that he and Flemmi killed McLaughlin, as well as others with gangland ties, when he took the stand last May at the federal racketeering trial in Boston of another former FBI agent, John J. Connolly Jr. He did not mention Rico's alleged role in the McLaughlin slaying at that time.

Rico, 78, was arrested at his Miami Shores, Fla., home on Oct. 9 for the murder of Roger M. Wheeler, the chairman of Telex Corp. who was allegedly killed on orders from Bulger and Flemmi so their gang could skim profits from his company, World Jai Alai. Rico, who retired from the FBI in 1975 and worked as head of security at World Jai Alai, is accused of providing Bulger and Flemmi with Wheeler's work habits so he could be ambushed.

Yesterday a judge denied an emergency motion for a medical furlough for Rico, whose lawyers wanted the ailing man to be taken to the Miami Heart Institute in Miami Beach to be examined by his doctor.

Instead, the judge ordered that Rico be taken to the prison wing of neighboring Jackson Memorial Hospital, where most prisoners are treated. Dr. Eugene Sayfie and a pacemaker technician would be able to examine Rico there this afternoon, the judge said.

Responding to the latest allegations, Boston attorney E. Peter Parker, one of the lawyers representing Rico, said yesterday: "I'm sick of hearing about how Paul Rico was directing all these events in the criminal underworld, particularly when it only comes from people like Frank Salemme, who intends to file his own [multimillion-dollar] FBI misconduct suit and has an interest in making accusations like these."

Referring to Salemme, Flemmi, and John Martorano, the hitman who admitted killing Wheeler, Parker said, "None of these guys needed help finding people to kill. They all have a staggering number of bodies under their belts without any help from anybody."

Rico recruited Flemmi as an informant in 1965 when rival gangs were embroiled in a war that claimed 60 lives. Flemmi was aligned with Somerville's McLean gang against Charlestown's McLaughlin gang.

Boston attorney Anthony Cardinale, who represented Salemme, said evidence disclosed in 1998 federal court hearings in Boston revealed that Rico and his FBI partner were backing the McLean faction as part of a strategy to curry favor with Flemmi.

"The hope was that by helping the McLean side . . . that when all the dust cleared, their man Flemmi would be in a top position and would be able to give them a lot more information," Cardinale said.

Keith Ausbrook, chief counsel to the Committee on Government Reform, said yesterday that the committee has yet to decide whether to release Salemme's deposition.

He said the committee has finished reviewing testimony taken last June from former University of Massachusetts president William M. Bulger, brother of Whitey Bulger, but has yet to decide its next step.

James Wilson, who was chief counsel to the reform committee under former chairman Representative Dan Burton, Republican of Indiana, said, "It's most unfortunate that the committee has decided to bury important documents and interviews. It really is inexplicable."

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the House Committee on the Judiciary said yesterday that the chairman, Representative F. James Sensenbrenner Jr., a Wisconsin Republican, plans to look at the FBI's handling of informants to determine whether abuses uncovered in Boston happened in other FBI field offices.

But the spokesman, Jeff Lungren, said the committee has yet to decide whether to hold hearings or conduct private interviews.

**Load-Date:** October 24, 2003

EX-AGENT IMPLICATED IN '60S GANG SLAYING TESTIMONY TIES RICO TO AMBUSH

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End of Document

EX-AGENT: INFORMANT EXPECTED HIS DEATH; MURDERS RELATED TO JAI ALAI CENTRAL TO PROSECUTION'S CASE; BULGER TRIAL



**EX-AGENT: INFORMANT EXPECTED HIS DEATH; MURDERS RELATED TO JAI ALAI CENTRAL TO PROSECUTION'S CASE; BULGER TRIAL**

Hartford Courant (Connecticut)

July 16, 2013 Tuesday

FINAL - 5 EDITION

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**Section:** CONNECTICUT; Pg. B1

**Length:** 1159 words

**Byline:** EDMUND H. MAHONY, , [emahony@courant.com](mailto:emahony@courant.com)

**Dateline:** BOSTON

## **Body**

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-- Edward Brian Halloran, an admitted killer and strong-arm man, went to the FBI in 1981 looking for a deal. In return, he handed agents the solution to an audacious crime -- the penetration by criminals and corrupt FBI agents of the U.S. jai alai industry.

Five months later Halloran was dead, cut down by machine-gun fire on a busy South Boston street.

A retired FBI agent testified Monday at James "Whitey" Bulger's racketeering trial about how Halloran approached the bureau, how he implicated Bulger and partner Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi in a string of jai alai murders and how, despite rigorous measures by the bureau to protect him, Halloran anticipated his own death.

"He said that if either Bulger or Flemmi had any indication that he was cooperating with the FBI, that they would go to any extreme, even if it meant killing innocent bystanders, including members of his family," retired agent Gerald Montanari testified.

Halloran's death is one of 19 in which Bulger is charged in a broad racketeering indictment that also accuses him of narcotics, extortion, loan sharking, gambling and money laundering offenses.

The government has made Halloran's death and three others associated with the jai alai industry a central part of its case, as prosecutors argue that it shows how Bulger paid corrupt law enforcement officers for inside information and used it to kill witnesses who threatened the millions of dollars he collected annually from a variety of illegal activities.

A former Bulger partner testified earlier in the trial that the cut to Bulger and his Winter Hill Gang from jai alai was to be \$10,000-a-week skimmed from cash concessions at frontons in Florida and Connecticut. Other testimony,

## EX-AGENT: INFORMANT EXPECTED HIS DEATH; MURDERS RELATED TO JAI ALAI CENTRAL TO PROSECUTION'S CASE; BULGER TRIAL

including from Flemmi at a trial in Miami five years ago, suggests the Gang hoped for an outright takeover of World Jai Alai.

Montanari testified that Halloran was in deep trouble when he "reached out" to Montanari's former partner, Leo Bruno, in 1982. Halloran had fallen out with Bulger and Flemmi, who had taken control of the Winter Hill Gang. Halloran told the agents there had been repeated attempts on his life. Worse, he had been charged by Massachusetts authorities with killing another gangster.

Halloran wanted federal intercession on the state murder charge and possible admission to a witness relocation program, Montanari testified. In return, Halloran was willing to unload his considerable first-hand knowledge about murders and others crimes by Winter Hill members.

Most importantly, Montanari said, Halloran claimed he could solve a high-profile crime that had become one of the bureau's top priorities -- the May 1981 murder of Roger Wheeler, the successful Tulsa, Okla., businessman who had then recently acquired World Jai Alai. World was a substantial player in the U.S. pari-mutuel industry. Patrons could wager on the fast-paced Basque game in frontons the company operated in Connecticut and Florida.

Wheeler had been shot once between the eyes after finishing his regularly scheduled weekly round of golf at his Tulsa country club. In the weeks before his death, Wheeler had expressed an unfocused fear to gaming regulators in Connecticut that organized criminals were targeting his company.

Montanari testified that he and agent Leo Brunnick, with the knowledge of a limited number of senior FBI officials, began dozens of confidential debriefing sessions with Halloran. Concerned about Halloran's safety, Montanari said the bureau moved Halloran, with his wife and two children, to a safe house on Cape Cod. Reports of the debriefings were kept in a special safe and disseminated only to senior bureau officials.

Over the winter of 1982, Montanari said, he was told by Halloran that former World Jai Alai president John B. Callahan was behind the plot to kill Wheeler. Montanari said Callahan had been forced out from World Jai Alai by Connecticut gaming regulators after the Hartford Courant reported he was a secret associate of the Winter Hill Gang. Among other things, Halloran reported that Callahan had fenced \$200,000 in stolen diamonds through a contact in Switzerland.

Halloran told the agents that Callahan had devised a way to embezzle money from World Jai Alai and he was afraid that personnel changes by Wheeler would kill the scheme.

Montanari also testified that Halloran claimed to have been personally recruited by Callahan, in the presence of Bulger and Flemmi, to kill Wheeler. Halloran claimed to have been told by Callahan at the meeting that retired Boston FBI agent H. Paul Rico -- who continued to work at World Jai Alai after being hired as security director by Callahan -- would help set up Wheeler to be killed.

Reading from a debriefing report, Montanari testified Monday that "Halloran said Callahan bragged that he was paying Rico \$65,000 a year and he laughed and said Rico would do anything he asked him to do for the money... He said that Paul Rico had a pipeline into the FBI offices, namely Boston and Miami."

Montanari testified that Halloran said he was later told by Callahan that he wasn't needed in the Wheeler plot and was paid \$20,000, apparently to keep his mouth shut. Later, Halloran told the agents he read in the newspaper that Wheeler had been shot to death.

At the time of Halloran's death, Montanari testified, the bureau had been involved in a bit of gamesmanship with him. He said Halloran was not complying with its rules regarding security and other matters, so the agents told him they were cutting him loose. In reality, Montanari said, the agents were trying to goad Halloran into greater cooperation.

"We had hoped that this would be a reality check with him," Montanari said. "We were hoping that this would bring him back into compliance."

EX-AGENT: INFORMANT EXPECTED HIS DEATH; MURDERS RELATED TO JAI ALAI CENTRAL TO PROSECUTION'S CASE; BULGER TRIAL

Halloran left Cape Cod and returned to South Boston, where he was killed in May 1982.

What Montanari and Brunnick did not know was that Halloran's cooperation had been leaked to an agent to whom Bulger had paid more than \$200,000 for information.

Montanari said Brunnick had turned for advice about Halloran to former agent John Morris, who supervised the FBI's organized crime squad in Boston. Unknown to Brunnick and Montanari, Morris disclosed the information to his subordinate and close friend, former agent John Connolly.

Two former Bulger partners who are now cooperating with prosecutors have testified that Connolly leaked the information to Bulger. Another cooperating witness, former Bulger protégé Kevin Weeks, said he was present when Bulger donned a wig and phony mustache and ambushed Halloran in South Boston. Also killed was Michael Donahue, an innocent bystander who had offered Halloran a ride home.

Connolly is serving a prison sentence in Florida for leaking information to Bulger that the Winter Hill Gang then used to kill witnesses. Morris, who has admitted taking \$7,000 and gifts of wine from Bulger, said he shared the information with Connolly innocently.

Montanari is expected to testify further on Tuesday.

**Load-Date:** July 16, 2013



## [Ex-Agent in Mob Slaying to Be Extradited](#)

Associated Press Online

December 5, 2003 Friday

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**Section:** DOMESTIC NEWS

**Length:** 265 words

**Dateline:** MIAMI

### **Body**

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A former FBI agent charged in Oklahoma with a 1981 mob murder has agreed to be extradited for trial, his attorney told a state court judge Friday.

**H. Paul Rico**, 78, has improved enough from heart problems to travel to Oklahoma to face charges that helped organize the slaying of a jai-alai executive, attorney Garvin Isaacs told Senior Circuit Judge Gerald Klein.

Klein signed the extradition order, which gives Oklahoma authorities 30 days to get Rico. Isaacs said he expected Rico would be sent to Oklahoma next week.

"Paul Rico is innocent. He will plead not guilty and will demand trial by jury," Isaacs said Friday.

Rico has been held in Miami-Dade County jail since his arrest. He appeared in court by a video teleconference, but he did not say anything.

Rico, who retired from the FBI in 1975, served as security chief for Roger Wheeler's World Jai Alai when Wheeler was shot to death at a Tulsa, Okla., country club May 27, 1981.

Investigators say Wheeler suspected money was being skimmed from the Miami jai-alai business by Boston's Winter Hill gang, an Irish mob that fed information to Rico on its rival New England Mafia.

Wheeler's confessed hit man, John Martorano, implicated Rico in the killing. Rico was arrested after informant Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi did the same and pleaded guilty to federal charges in October with admissions in the killing of Wheeler and nine others.

Rico's arrest Oct. 9 is the latest wrinkle in a corruption scandal over the cozy relationship between the FBI's organized crime unit and murderous underworld informants in Boston in the 1960s and 1970s.

**Load-Date:** December 6, 2003

Ex-Agent in Mob Slaying to Be Extradited

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## [Ex-agent Rico to be sent to state](#)

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

December 6, 2003 Saturday Final Home Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Tulsa; Pg. A15

**Length:** 508 words

**Byline:** Staff and Wire Reports

### **Body**

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The former FBI agent faces prosecution in Tulsa in the 1981 mob-related murder of Roger Wheeler. Former FBI agent **H. Paul Rico** is destined to travel from Florida to Oklahoma this month to face prosecution in the 1981 mob-related murder of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler, officials said Friday.

Defense attorney Garvin Isaacs said Rico, 78, has improved enough from heart problems to travel to Tulsa, where he was charged in October with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder.

Senior Circuit Judge Gerald Klein of Florida signed an extradition order, and Isaacs said he expected that Rico would be sent to Oklahoma next week.

"Paul Rico is innocent. He will plead not guilty and will demand trial by jury," said Isaacs, who lives in Oklahoma City.

Tulsa County District Attorney Tim Harris indicated that Rico will arrive in Tulsa by Dec. 30, but he could not say for certain that he would be transported here next week.

The Tulsa County Sheriff's Office and U.S. Marshals Service are handling travel arrangements for Rico, Harris said.

Rico, a Florida resident, has been held in the Miami-Dade County Jail since his Oct. 9 arrest. He appeared in court in Florida by a video teleconference Friday but did not say anything.

Harris plans to urge that Rico be held without bail in Tulsa.

"I anticipate that Mr. Isaacs will want to have a bond hearing," he said.

Harris said he has been advised that Rico did not waive extradition but rather was served with the appropriate governor's warrant and then no longer disputed the matter.

Investigators say Wheeler suspected that money was being skimmed from his World Jai Alai business -- which had operations in Florida -- by Boston's Winter Hill gang, an Irish mob that fed information to Rico on its rival New England Mafia.



Ex-agent Rico to be sent to state

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

Rico, a Boston-based agent who retired from the FBI in 1975, served as security chief for World Jai Alai.

Hit man John Martorano, who admitted shooting Wheeler, implicated Rico in the killing plot.

Rico was arrested after informant Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi did the same and pleaded guilty in Boston to federal charges, with admissions in the killing of Wheeler and nine others. Harris filed a Tulsa County murder charge in March 2001 against reputed gang kingpin James "Whitey" Bulger, Martorano and Flemmi.

Martorano pleaded guilty to second-degree murder that year and received a 15-year prison sentence for the Wheeler killing.

A plea deal calls for Flemmi to get a life term for the Tulsa County murder, to be served in federal custody and to run concurrently with a life sentence for federal crimes.

Flemmi has not yet appeared in a Tulsa County courtroom.

Bulger, who is on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted list, has been a fugitive since 1995.

Rico's arrest was another wrinkle in a corruption scandal over the cozy relationship between the FBI's organized crime unit and murderous underworld informants in Boston in the 1960s and 1970s.

**Load-Date:** December 7, 2003



## *Ex-agent to face charges in state*

The Oklahoman (Oklahoma City, OK)  
December 6, 2003 Saturday CITY EDITION

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 11A

**Length:** 263 words

**Byline:** The Associated Press

**Dateline:** MIAMI, Fla.

### **Body**

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A former FBI agent charged in Oklahoma with a 1981 mob slaying has agreed to be extradited for trial, his attorney told a state court judge Friday.

**H. Paul Rico**, 78, has improved enough from heart problems to travel to Oklahoma to face charges he helped organize the slaying of a jai-alai executive, attorney Garvin Isaacs told Senior Circuit Judge Gerald Klein.

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Wheeler's confessed hit man, John Martorano, implicated Rico in the killing.

Rico was arrested after informant Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi did the same and pleaded guilty to federal charges in October with admissions in the killing of Wheeler and nine others.

Rico's arrest Oct. 9 is the latest wrinkle in a corruption scandal over the cozy relationship between the FBI's organized crime unit and murderous underworld informants in Boston in the 1960s and 1970s.

**Load-Date:** December 10, 2003

Ex-agent to face charges in state

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End of Document



## [Ex-FBI Agent Accused of Murder Conspiracy](#)

Associated Press Online

October 10, 2003 Friday

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**Section:** DOMESTIC NEWS

**Length:** 847 words

**Byline:** JEFF DONN; Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** BOSTON

### **Body**

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Boston's FBI scandal was already disturbing enough: agents taking bribes, shrugging off gangsters' crimes, and shielding informants from police. Now, it has turned almost unthinkable: A retired agent is charged with aiding a mob hit on a reputable businessman.

"I think this does take things a step further, despite all the problems the FBI has had," said Ronald Kessler, a journalist and historian of the FBI. "I think murder is the ultimate crime."

The arrest of **H. Paul Rico** is likely to complicate FBI efforts to shake off its legacy of missteps with violent mob informants in Boston, said several experts on the bureau. The arrest could further dent the agency's reputation and supply more fodder for roughly \$2 billion in lawsuits accusing the government of wrongdoing in the scandal.

"This is an ugly affair in the FBI's history, probably the worst," said Allan May, who writes for the Web site Americanmafia.com. "I think the most important thing for the FBI to do is to deal with this and get this thing behind it."

The nation's leading police agency has suffered embarrassments in the past when agents were exposed as wrongdoers. They have broken into homes of social activists in programs like the discredited COINTELPRO, and they have occasionally acted as enemy spies, most notoriously in the case of Robert Hanssen. In Boston and elsewhere, agents have let violent informants run amok in exchange for their tips.

In 1990, FBI agent Mark S. Putnam in Kentucky even pleaded guilty to strangling a woman tipster to stop her from exposing their affair - another case of an agent corrupted by an informant relationship. The FBI said then it was the first time an agent was charged with murder.

Putnam's case, as sad and awful as it was, sprang from "an emotional situation," said Robert Fitzpatrick, a former assistant chief of the FBI's Boston bureau.

Rico's arrest is something different.

## Ex-FBI Agent Accused of Murder Conspiracy

"What ... hasn't happened in the past is a (former) FBI agent that is charged with colluding with the wiseguys in a murder. That doesn't happen - and that's shocking," Fitzpatrick said.

One of the architects of the FBI's mob informant program, Rico helped the agency make some of its first Mafia cases in New England in the 1960s - with the help of violent informants. When he retired in 1975, he did not entirely abandon his old collaborators: He went to work instead for a mob-connected company that sponsored jai alai games, where players fling balls at high speeds with wicker baskets. A new company head there, Roger Wheeler, wanted to root out the mob influence. In their charge against Rico, Oklahoma prosecutors say he fed information that helped his old mob sources in Boston's Winter Hill Gang find and kill Wheeler in 1981.

Rico was arrested on the first-degree murder charge Thursday at his home near Miami. A brief bond hearing was held Friday as a technical requirement, since he could not have been released on bail for the charge. Another hearing was set for Tuesday in Miami on sending him back to Oklahoma to face the charge.

"He flat-out categorically denies this," said Rico's attorney, William Cagney III. "He never assisted the Winter Hill Gang in trying to get inside information so they could ... do away with people."

FBI leaders and many outside experts on the bureau said the vast majority of agents are honest and well-intentioned.

Bureau representatives in Washington and Boston downplayed the significance of the arrest. They said the agency has already taken steps to control corruption since the scandal broke.

"No one in this office has ever worked with Paul Rico. They don't even know him," added Gail Marcinkiewicz, a spokeswoman for the FBI office in Boston, where Rico has been gone for a generation.

However, Kessler, who has written widely about the FBI and its history, said, "It certainly turns your stomach to think that someone who spent his life in the FBI would be allegedly involved in murder, and you have to blame in part ... the FBI's supervision in Boston, which let all this seamy corruption go on for so long."

"I think this guy will be seen as a retired FBI agent who just went beyond some of the other agents ... who did corrupt things," said Robert Bloom, a Boston College law professor who has studied informant abuses.

Victor Garo, a lawyer for a man wrongly imprisoned in a mob case that Rico helped build, said the ex-agent's arrest may open new dimensions in the Boston scandal, which has been unfolding since one of Rico's old mob informants was arrested in 1995 and began ratting on his former FBI protectors.

"I would imagine that right now, many people are concerned about what he knows and what he will say," the lawyer said of Rico.

They include members of the House Government Reform Committee, which has been investigating Boston's FBI scandal.

However, U.S. Rep. John Tierney, a Massachusetts Democrat on the committee, said he hopes Rico's arrest, in the end, "will be part of the path toward ... good credibility by the FBI."

EDITOR'S NOTE - Jeff Donn has covered the FBI's informant scandals as the AP's Boston-based Northeast regional writer.

**Load-Date:** October 11, 2003



## **EX-FBI AGENT CHARGED IN MOB HIT ON EXECUTIVE**

Orlando Sentinel (Florida)

October 11, 2003 Saturday, FINAL

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**Section:** A SECTION; Pg. A16

**Length:** 392 words

**Byline:** Jeff Donn, the Associated Press

### **Body**

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BOSTON -- Boston's FBI scandal was disturbing enough: agents taking bribes, shrugging off gangsters' crimes and shielding informants from police. Now, it has turned almost unthinkable: A retired agent is charged with aiding a mob hit on a reputable businessman.

"I think this does take things a step further, despite all the problems the FBI has had," said Ronald Kessler, a journalist and historian of the FBI. "I think murder is the ultimate crime."

The arrest of **H. Paul Rico** is likely to complicate FBI efforts to shake off its legacy of missteps with violent mob informants in Boston, several experts on the bureau said. The arrest could further dent the agency's reputation and supply more fodder for roughly \$2 billion in lawsuits accusing the government of wrongdoing.

One of the architects of the FBI's mob-informant program, Rico helped the agency make some of its first organized-crime cases in New England in the 1960s -- with the help of violent informants. When he retired in 1975, he did not entirely abandon his old collaborators: He went to work instead for a mob-connected company that sponsored jai alai games. A new company head there, Roger Wheeler, wanted to root out the mob influence. In their charge against Rico, Oklahoma prosecutors say he fed information that helped his old mob sources in Boston's Winter Hill Gang find and kill Wheeler in 1981.

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FBI leaders and many outside experts on the bureau said the vast majority of agents are honest and well-intentioned.

Bureau representatives in Washington and Boston downplayed the significance of the arrest. They said the agency has taken steps to control corruption since the scandal broke. "No one in this office has ever worked with Paul Rico. They don't even know him," said Gail Marcinkiewicz, a spokeswoman for the FBI office in Boston.

EX-FBI AGENT CHARGED IN MOB HIT ON EXECUTIVE

**Load-Date:** October 11, 2003

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Ex-FBI agent charged in Oklahoma with mob slaying to be extradited from Florida



## [Ex-FBI agent charged in Oklahoma with mob slaying to be extradited from Florida](#)

The Associated Press

December 5, 2003, Friday, BC cycle

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**Section:** Domestic News

**Length:** 187 words

**Dateline:** MIAMI

### **Body**

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A former FBI agent charged with a 1981 mob murder in Oklahoma has agreed to be extradited for trial, his attorney said Friday.

**H. Paul Rico**, 78, has improved enough from heart problems to travel to Oklahoma to face charges that he helped organize the slaying of a jai-alai executive, attorney Garvin Isaacs told state Circuit Judge Gerald Klein.

Klein gave Oklahoma authorities 30 days to get Rico. Isaacs said he expected Rico would be sent to Oklahoma next week.

"Paul Rico is innocent. He will plead not guilty and will demand trial by jury," Isaacs said.

Rico has been in jail since his arrest. He appeared in court by a video teleconference, but he did not say anything.

Rico, who retired from the FBI in 1975, served as security chief for Roger Wheeler's World Jai Alai when Wheeler was shot to death at a Tulsa, Okla., country club on May 27, 1981.

Investigators say Wheeler suspected money was being skimmed from the Miami jai-alai business by Boston's Winter Hill gang, an Irish mob that fed information to Rico on its rival New England Mafia.

Wheeler's confessed hit man, John Martorano, implicated Rico in the killing.

**Load-Date:** December 6, 2003





## *Ex-FBI agent charged with mob slaying to be extradited*

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

December 5, 2003, Friday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 271 words

**Dateline:** MIAMI

### **Body**

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A former FBI agent charged in Oklahoma with a 1981 mob murder has agreed to be extradited for trial, his attorney told a state court judge Friday.

**H. Paul Rico**, 78, has improved enough from heart problems to travel to Oklahoma to face charges that helped organize the slaying of a jai-alai executive, attorney Garvin Isaacs told Senior Circuit Judge Gerald Klein.

Klein signed the extradition order, which gives Oklahoma authorities 30 days to get Rico. Isaacs said he expected Rico would be sent to Oklahoma next week.

"Paul Rico is innocent. He will plead not guilty and will demand trial by jury," Isaacs said Friday.

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Investigators say Wheeler suspected money was being skimmed from the Miami jai-alai business by Boston's Winter Hill gang, an Irish mob that fed information to Rico on its rival New England Mafia.

Wheeler's confessed hit man, John Martorano, implicated Rico in the killing. Rico was arrested after informant Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi did the same and pleaded guilty to federal charges in October with admissions in the killing of Wheeler and nine others.

Rico's arrest Oct. 9 is the latest wrinkle in a corruption scandal over the cozy relationship between the FBI's organized crime unit and murderous underworld informants in Boston in the 1960s and 1970s.

**Load-Date:** December 6, 2003

Ex-FBI agent charged with mob slaying to be extradited

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**FBI LET IRISH MOB GET AWAY WITH MURDER;  
HUNT FOR ROGUE AGENTS**

Sunday Mirror

October 26, 2003, Sunday

Copyright 2003 MGN Ltd.

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 27

**Length:** 375 words

**Byline:** JULIAN BROUWER IN NEW YORK

**Highlight:** CANARY-LIKE: "Rifleman" Flemmi is singing; ARRESTED: Former Boston FBI agent **H Paul Rico**; ON THE RUN: Gangster James "Whitey" Bulger

## **Body**

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A STRING of rogue FBI agents are set to be rounded up for allegedly helping an Irish gangster to get away with numerous murders linked to him.

After years of scandal, a team of investigators is to probe the activities of the Boston FBI, which is said to have turned a blind eye as suspected Irish crime boss Whitey Bulger and his Winter Hill gang allegedly committed a series of killings in the city.

Former FBI operative Paul Rico has been arrested at his retirement home near Miami and charged with helping Bulger arrange the 1981 gangland killing of millionaire businessman Roger Wheeler.

At the time Rico was Mr Wheeler's chief of security.

Police claim that one of Whitey's men shot Wheeler in the head at point-blank range after he finished a round of golf.

Rico's arrest follows the successful prosecution of Whitey's FBI friend John Connolly for racketeering.

Connolly is serving a 10-year prison sentence but Whitey managed to flee after his pal alerted him that detectives were set to arrest him in connection with 19 murders.

The man who provided detectives with the information they needed about Rico was former Bulger associate - Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi - who it is claimed agreed to give evidence on the Irishman in a bid to escape the death penalty.

## FBI LET IRISH MOB GET AWAY WITH MURDER; HUNT FOR ROGUE AGENTS

Flemmi, facing charges of killing 10 people, will receive a life sentence if he implicates other corrupt FBI agents.

Boston lawyer Victor Garo said: "It is a really major development because Rico is an inside player. He knows a lot of the criminal doings in the FBI when he was there."

Gangster-turned police informant Rico is said to have been granted a "free pass" by the Bureau because he was feeding them with valuable information about the New England Mafia.

The police theory is that Bulger ordered Wheeler's execution because he had learned that he was skimming \$ 1 million a year off his profits.

The FBI has offered \$ 1 million for information leading to the capture of Bulger, said to be hiding in Europe, helped by pals in the IRA.

There have been a number of reported sightings this year. As well as being spotted in London, gardai said they received tip-offs that Bulger, 73, had been in Co Mayo, Dundalk and Co Louth.

**Load-Date:** October 26, 2003



## **FBI LET IRISH MOB GET AWAY WITH MURDER; Hunt for rogue agents; News**

Sunday Mirror (London, England)

October 26, 2003

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**Section:** Pg. 27; ISSN: 0956-8077

**Length:** 393 words

### **Body**

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Byline: JULIAN BROUWER in New York

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FBI LET IRISH MOB GET AWAY WITH MURDER; Hunt for rogue agents; News

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CAPTION(S):

CANARY-LIKE: "Rifleman" Flemmi is singing; ARRESTED: Former Boston FBI agent **H Paul Rico**; ON THE RUN: Gangster James "Whitey" Bulger

**Load-Date:** February 14, 2008



## *Feds close in on ex-agent*

The Boston Herald

February 22, 2001 Thursday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 461 words

**Byline:** By J.M. LAWRENCE

### **Body**

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Tulsa and Miami prosecutors met with federal prosecutors in Boston yesterday on a case that threatens the teetering legacy of a retired Boston FBI agent.

Armed with the controversial testimony of a Winter Hill hit man turned government witness, the prosecutors are unraveling the notorious World Jai Alai murders of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler and Bulger gang crony John Callahan of Miami in the 1980s, sources said.

The hit man, John Martorano, has told authorities he took orders to kill Wheeler in 1981 from a World Jai Alai cabal that included gangsters Stephen Flemmi, James "Whitey" Bulger and former Boston FBI man **H. Paul Rico**.

Rico, now 73, who headed security for World Jai Alai, denies involvement in the murder of his boss, Wheeler, who owned the facility featuring the sport where spectators bet on competitors.

Wheeler's family believes Martorano and hopes prosecutors move soon to charge the ex-agent as well as Flemmi and the fugitive Bulger. "They've had 20 years of enjoying the crimes they've committed," David Wheeler said. "I'd like to see all of them enjoy the rest of their lives behind bars."

The U.S. Attorney's Office declined to discuss the meetings.

The Wheeler family has watched with intense interest as Rico's name has been recently resurrected in Boston with a judge's decision to vacate Mob murder convictions against two men.

Middlesex Superior Court Judge Margaret Hinkle released Peter Limone and Joseph Salvati after ruling Rico and his partner Dennis Condon withheld key evidence in the case that would have helped the men's defense.

Attorneys preparing civil suits for the men, who each spent three decades in prison, contend the former agents hid evidence to protect Stephen Flemmi's brother, who was an FBI informant along with Stephen.

The Boston FBI denies information was withheld from authorities.

## Feds close in on ex-agent

"The stories about the release of FBI documents speak loads about Paul Rico and his history," Wheeler said yesterday. "I hope he has every opportunity to answer for every one of these instances in court."

Tulsa County District Attorney Timothy Harris has spent weeks reviewing thousands of pages of evidence submitted by Tulsa police supporting charges against Rico and the Bulger gang in the Wheeler case. Neither Harris nor Dade County Assistant State Attorney Mary Cagle could be reached for comment yesterday.

In a deal with federal authorities in which he confessed to 20 murders, Martorano also has admitted to the 1982 killing of Callahan, a former World Jai Alai president whom the organization fired for his ties to the Bulger gang.

Martorano potentially faces a long year of testimony beginning in May when Flemmi is scheduled to go on trial in federal court in Boston for racketeering.

**Load-Date:** February 22, 2001

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Flemmi's singing must make Zip squirm in his cell



## *Flemmi's singing must make Zip squirm in his cell*

The Boston Herald

October 12, 2003 Sunday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 622 words

**Byline:** By Peter Gelzinis

### **Body**

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Six or seven months back, we all wondered if John Connolly was about to reveal the squalid story of his life as an FBI agent who worked for Whitey Bulger and Steve "The Rifleman" Flemmi.

Baptized as "Zip" by Whitey, the 62-year-old rogue cop suddenly was transported from his federal cell in Lexington, Ky., to a county jail outside Worcester for a seance with a special prosecutor.

Connolly's lawyer, Tracy Miner, kept insisting her client was "not cooperating." We were skeptical. Word was that the arrogant dandy who liked his nails manicured and his French cuffs starched was not doing very well in a ward with a bunch of gang bangers from across the country.

But after a while, the buzz fizzled like a wave flattening on the shore. Zip was shipped back to Lexington, Ky. A couple of weeks ago, when it looked as if a Stevie Flemmi trial might last beyond Christmas, I asked a federal law enforcement source what he thought Zip was going to do.

"Rot in prison," he said, matter of factly.

Obviously, the fed probably knew then what the rest of us know now. In choosing to avoid being "toasted" in either Florida or Oklahoma, Stevie has leapfrogged past his former FBI handler in a race to the rat's nest sanctuary of "cooperating witnesses."

Rotting in prison means just that. No good time. No release date. At the moment, John Connolly is supposed to rejoin polite society sometime in 2011. Undoubtedly, that will change as Stevie sheds new light on Zip's role in the murders of Brian Halloran, Michael Donahue, Richard Castucci and John Callahan.

It was just about 17 months ago when John Martorano, a hitman-turned-cooperating witness told a jury how Zip Connolly went to Whitey and Stevie with an urgent plea:

"We're all going to go to jail for the rest of our life," Zip told his two prized informants, "if something doesn't happen to John Callahan."

Flemmi's singing must make Zip squirm in his cell

Well, something did indeed happen to Mr. Callahan. Martorano put several bullets in his head and left him to rot in the trunk of a Cadillac, parked at the Miami airport.

With John Connolly sitting beside his trophy wife and three sons, a jury wasn't quite able to believe that a G-man could be THATsinister. They acquitted him on that racketeering charge, as well as those involving three other murders, finding him guilty on a lesser obstruction of justice charge.

That was then. Now, Stevie "The Rifleman" has given way to Stevie "The Mouth," a far more ominous proposition. The firsthand information he can and will render about these murders could result in Connolly now finding himself in the same murder jackpot as his old mentor, H. Paul Rico.

Flemmi already has put that old, decrepit FBI terrorist in a Miami jail for orchestrating the murder of Roger Wheeler, the World Jai Alai executive.

Like Flemmi, Paul Rico is bound to rot in prison.

Apparently, the first demand the feds made to John Connolly when he was brought back to Worcester last winter was to come clean about the murders.

"He wouldn't do it," the federal source said. "When he balked, the discussion was essentially over."

How fascinating. Back in the day when John Connolly, Whitey Bulger and Steve Flemmi appeared to have the world by the short hairs, when Connolly strutted and preened like some Prince of the City, he was thought to be cute and cunning.

Now, he just looks stupid and pathetic. If anyone had to know Stevie Flemmi ultimately would cut a deal to save his miserable life, you'd think it would be the FBI agent who shared the same sordid bed.

But like the arrogant fool he is, Connolly hesitated when he should have rolled. He should've been as selfish as the two killers he served and protected. The price for such a miscalculation? Rotting in prison.

**Load-Date:** October 12, 2003



## *Hastings: Didn't Sell Light Penalties For Bribe*

The Associated Press

January 29, 1983, Saturday, PM cycle

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**Section:** Domestic News

**Length:** 593 words

**Byline:** By ANNE S. CROWLEY, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** MIAMI

### **Body**

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A relaxed U.S. District Judge Alcee Hastings took the witness stand in his own courthouse and denied planning to take a \$150,000 bribe to hand out light sentences \_ telling a spectator afterward, "the truth is easy to tell."

Hastings leaned back in the witness stand Friday and faced the jurors who will decide whether he returns to the bench or falls in disgrace.

Hastings told the 16-member panel that he had no part in a deal to reduce the sentences of two convicted racketeers which was arranged by his friend, William A. Borders Jr.

He also denied revealing the contents of an order to Borders, a Washington, D.C., attorney who was arrested collecting the bribe on Oct. 9, 1981, convicted last year and sentenced to five years in prison.

Hastings described Borders as a "secretive" man who heartily greets friends at the airport and then stands them up at dinner.

"The one thing I do know is that a lot of times when you talk with Bill on the telephone, you know what you're saying, but you may not always know what he's saying," Hastings said.

Hastings, 46, the only federal judge ever tried for crimes allegedly committed while on the bench, is charged with conspiracy to solicit a bribe and obstruction of justice. He has been on a self-imposed, paid leave of absence since Borders' arrest.

Prosecutor Reid Weingarten contends that Hastings told Borders he was about to return \$845,000 seized from the racketeers so that the Washington attorney could solicit a bribe from them.

"I revealed nothing to Bill Borders or anybody else because I didn't know the contents of the order until Jeff Miller presented it to me," he said. Miller is the law clerk who researched and wrote the order, issued Oct. 6, 1981.

Hastings allegedly was to return the money in the deal, then reduce the defendants' three-year prison terms to probation.

### Hastings: Didn't Sell Light Penalties For Bribe

The judge had handled most of his own defense until Friday, when he switched roles and spent the day on the witness stand. His testimony is to continue Monday morning.

Spectators jammed the courtroom, which seats about 150 people, and lined up early to see a bit of the historic trial.

When one of the spectators later complimented Hastings' courtroom demeanor, the judge replied, "The truth is easy to tell."

Returning from a lunchtime walk before the trial resumed, he said, "Me and the Dolphins No. 1." Miami's National Football League team plays Sunday in Super Bowl XVII.

Hastings claims Borders either found out about the ruling or predicted it from two appellate rulings and used the information to trade on the judge's name while dealing with FBI Special Agent **H. Paul Rico**. Rico posed as convicted racketeer Frank Romano for the bribe negotiations.

Hastings has argued that he wouldn't be stupid enough to take part in a bribery deal without being sure Borders was actually negotiating with Romano, and would have stopped it had he discovered otherwise.

Both Romano and Rico appeared on the stand in defense attorney Patricia Williams' attempt to show jurors the two men resemble each other only slightly.

"Might you mistake Paul Rico for Frank Romano?" Miss Williams asked Hastings.

"No way. You could wake me up at four o'clock in the morning and I wouldn't have any problem making that determination," said Hastings, who saw Romano every day during a month-long trial in December 1980.

The judge also countered key government wiretap evidence by saying he wouldn't have used his telephone for any discussion that "would have been listened to" because he thought it was bugged.

"In my mind, there was no question about it," he said.



## *Hidden truth; Hoover's FBI may have suppressed info on Mob hit*

The Boston Herald

December 21, 2000 Thursday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 2211 words

**Byline:** By JONATHAN WELLS and MAGGIE MULVIHILL

### **Body**

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Top FBI officials, including then-director J. Edgar Hoover, may have suppressed credible information that could have prevented four innocent men from being charged, tried and convicted for a 1965 Mob hit, newly disclosed FBI records reveal.

The explosive FBI reports, released Tuesday by a Justice Task Force probing FBI corruption in Massachusetts, may provide potent new evidence for two men - Joseph Salvati and Peter Limone - who are trying to overturn their 32-year-old convictions for the murder of low-level gangster Edward "Teddy" Deegan.

The reports show that former FBI agent **H. Paul Rico**, then a top organized crime investigator in the bureau's Boston office, received details on the March 12, 1965, Deegan murder from an informant the day after it happened.

That informant, whose identity is blacked out in the reports, told Rico he had spoken to a known criminal, Vincent "Jimmy" Flemmi, who admitted a part in killing Deegan and revealed the names of four other men who were involved with him.

Rico wrote a report two days later, on March 15, to then-FBI special-agent-in-charge in Boston James L. Handley, who four days later wrote his own report about the Deegan murder and sent it to Hoover at FBI headquarters in Washington, D.C.

The informant provided Rico with a detailed account of the Deegan murder and gave him the names of five men who allegedly carried it out: Vincent Flemmi, Joseph "The Animal" Barboza, Ronald Cassesso, Wilfred Roy French and Romeo Martin.

But when indictments were issued two years later by then-Suffolk County District Attorney Garrett Byrne, whose prosecutors worked closely on the case with Rico and the FBI, the list of Deegan's murderers had changed. The men charged were Salvati, Limone, Henry Tameleo, Louis Greco, Cassesso and French.

The FBI reports released this week, if accurate, provide compelling new evidence that suggests Salvati, Limone, Tameleo and Greco were actually innocent of the Deegan murder.

## Hidden truth; Hoover's FBI may have suppressed info on Mob hit

The government centered its case on Barboza, a notorious Mob hit man who Rico had convinced to become a government witness against the hierarchy of the New England Mafia. Barboza, considered to be a major prize by the FBI, became the first participant in the FBI's new witness protection program.

Barboza testified he was a hired killer employed by Limone to kill Deegan, a Malden tough and ex-boxer.

Deegan was found sprawled in a pool of his own blood in a Chelsea alley.

Barboza said the murder was ordered "by what people know as Cosa Nostra." He said Tameleo, a top aide to then New England Mafia boss Raymond L.S. Patriarca, personally sanctioned the killing.

In 1968, a Suffolk County jury believed Barboza and convicted Salvati, Limone, Tameleo, Greco, Cassesso and French in the murder. When the six men were indicted, tried and convicted, the penalty in Massachusetts for first-degree murder was death by electrocution.

Four men - Greco, Limone, Tameleo and Cassesso - were sentenced to death in the electric chair in Walpole State Prison.

After the verdict, Greco told the jury, "I'm not guilty of this murder. I took a lie detector test and it showed that I didn't do it."

The four men's lives were spared in 1974 when Massachusetts abolished the death penalty and their sentences were changed to life in prison.

Tameleo, Greco and Cassesso died in prison.

Salvati also professed his innocence from the beginning, and in 1976 Medford attorney Victor Garo agreed to take his case. In the 1980s and early 1990s, Garo unearthed new evidence suggesting Barboza had implicated innocent men, including his client, but his motion for a new trial was opposed by the Suffolk County DA's office and later denied by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

In 1997, then-Gov. William F. Weld commuted Salvati's sentence and he was released from prison. But Salvati still wants his record cleared.

Salvati chose not to comment yesterday, but Garo said the latest FBI reports confirm what he has been alleging for years.

"It's my opinion that the federal and state governments conspired to murder Joe Salvati and the murder weapon was the indictment," Garo said. "The cover-up started in 1965 and continues in the year 2000. When does it end?"

"I find all of this outrageous. This is an organization (the FBI) that we the people are supposed to be protected by and they are breaking laws whenever they want to."

Garo said Hoover and the FBI were so intent on making high-profile Mob cases in the 1960s that they did not care if innocent people and their families were destroyed in the process. "Sensationalism and good press became more important than human rights and human decency," he said.

Officials in the Boston office of the FBI and at FBI headquarters in Washington declined comment.

An attorney for Rico, William Cagney, said he had not seen the FBI reports and declined comment.

Handley, the former head of the FBI's Boston office, and Hoover are dead.

The FBI reports were released by the head of the Justice Task Force, John H. Durham, and given to Garo and John Cavicchi, the attorney for Limone, who is pressing for a new trial for his client.

## Hidden truth; Hoover's FBI may have suppressed info on Mob hit

In a cover letter to Cavicchi accompanying the FBI reports, Durham and U.S. Attorney Donald K. Stern wrote that the Justice Task Force, the U.S. Attorney's office, the Boston FBI and FBI headquarters "understand the potential significance of the enclosures to Mr. Limone and Mr. Salvati.

"These documents are being made available to you with the concurrence and encouragement of the Boston FBI and FBI Headquarters." Neither Durham nor Stern would comment further.

The letter did not mention Suffolk County DA Ralph C. Martin II, whose office successfully opposed Salvati's attempt to get a new trial and is currently fighting Limone's motion for new trial.

Yesterday, Martin declined to be interviewed about the FBI reports unearthed by Durham's office. Instead, he released a written statement stating his office received the documents for the first time Tuesday, and is in the process of reviewing them.

Martin also said his office is "intent on pursuing the truth about the Deegan murder, wherever it leads us, and to do so as expeditiously as possible."

Jack Zalkind, the lead prosecutor for Suffolk County at the Deegan murder trial in 1968, was surprised yesterday when told of the just-released FBI reports.

"I am stunned," Zalkind said. "I have never seen any FBI reports that were signed by Paul Rico and I was the prosecutor," Zalkind said.

The newly disclosed FBI reports also reveal for the first time that the FBI recruited Vincent Flemmi as an informant, right around the time Deegan was murdered. Just a month earlier, Vincent Flemmi's brother, the notorious Winter Hill Gang boss Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, had been signed up as an informant by Rico.

Lawyers involved in the case have suggested that the FBI privately agreed not to indict Vincent Flemmi for the Deegan murder as a favor to his brother Stephen Flemmi, who by then had become a "top echelon" informant.

The newly released FBI reports raise the possibility that Vincent Flemmi was protected because he himself was an informant for the FBI.

The reports also raise questions about the FBI's decision to use Vincent Flemmi as an informant, given his apparent appetite for killing.

In May 1964 report, Rico's partner, FBI agent Dennis M. Condon said he spoke with an informant about Vincent Flemmi. "FLEMMI told him that all he wants to do now is to kill people, and that it is better than hitting banks . . . Informant said, FLEMMI said that he feels he can now be the top hit man in this area and intends to be."

Photo Caption: SEEKS EXONERATION: Joe Salvati, convicted of the murder of gangster Teddy Deegan, wants his 32-year-old conviction overturned. STAFF PHOTO BY MATTHEW WEST

Graphic: Justice in doubt (photo-text graphic)

Top FBI officials, including then-director J. Edgar Hoover, may have suppressed credible information which could have prevented four innocent men from being charged, tried and convicted for a 1965 mob hit, newly disclosed FBI records reveal.

The victim: Edward "Teddy" Deegan

Star witness: Joseph Barboza; Notorious Mob hit man who may have fingered four innocent men.

FBI snitch: Vincent Flemmi; Identified by informant as one of Deegan's killers, but never charged.

The new evidence: Seven days after Edward "Teddy" Deegan was murdered, then FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, right, was told who killed Deegan in this March 1965 FBI communique.

Hidden truth; Hoover's FBI may have suppressed info on Mob hit

The convicted:

Ronald Cassesso; Said to be in on Deegan's murder, died in prison.

Joseph Salvati; Life sentence was commuted in 1997, wants his name cleared.

Wilfred Roy French; Admitted role in Deegan murder, still in prison.

Peter Limone; Seeking new trial, possibly innocent.

Louis Greco; Sentenced to life, may have been innocent but died in prison.

Henry Tameleo; Number two mafia boss in New England, possibly innocent in Deegan murder, died in prison.

STAFF GRAPHIC BY JEFF WALSH

**Load-Date:** December 21, 2000

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## JUDGE FREES MAN IN '60S MOB CASE

Hartford Courant (Connecticut)

January 6, 2001 Saturday, 6/7 SPORTS FINAL

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**Section:** MAIN; Pg. A1

**Length:** 1268 words

**Byline:** By EDMUND H. MAHONY; Courant Staff Writer

### **Body**

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A Massachusetts judge Friday ended the decades-long nightmare of one-time Boston bookie Peter Limone, releasing him from prison after concluding there is merit to claims that the FBI framed him for a murder 33 years ago.

"Every day you look at it, and every day you know you're innocent, but you wait for this day," Limone said moments after being freed. "Of course you harbor bitterness. You have to. How can you not?"

About 50 of Limone's relatives and friends broke into applause in Judge Margaret Hinkle's Cambridge courtroom after she vacated his 1968 murder conviction and released him without bail. Limone, 66, has spent nearly half his life in prison for a crime he has always claimed he did not commit.

Hinkle's decision, endorsed by Boston's top state criminal prosecutor, is the most significant milestone to date in what has become one of New England's most notorious murder cases. Perhaps more importantly, the decision promises to refocus attention on past behavior by agents assigned to the FBI's Boston Division, which for three years has been the subject of a wide-ranging criminal investigation.

Among the matters under investigation is whether FBI agents allowed innocent men to be convicted of serious crimes in order to recruit and protect confidential informants.

Limone was one of six men convicted of the May 12, 1965, mob execution of a small time Boston hoodlum named Edward "Teddy" Deegan. Deegan's life and death were the stuff of pulp fiction. He was riddled with bullets by a gang of thugs who lured him to a darkened Chelsea alley on the pretext of robbing a finance company.

Over the decades since the murder, a substantial body of evidence has been collected suggesting that four of the six men -- Limone among them -- were innocent. Limone and the other three tried repeatedly to prove their innocence, but until Friday a variety of judges and prosecutors found that evidence to be incredible

Hinkle, when announcing her decision, blasted the FBI.

"The conduct of the bureau at the time of the murder of Mr. Deegan and at the time of the trial of these defendants tarnishes its image," Hinkle said. "It is now time to move on. Mr. Limone's long wait is over."

## JUDGE FREES MAN IN '60S MOB CASE

Limone's remarks suggest he will have a hard time doing so. His children, sitting anxiously in court Friday with their own children, were toddlers at the time of his conviction. They were told then that their father was leaving home to be hospitalized for a prolonged illness.

"I'm just happy that I have my family still and they've been with me all this time," said the gray-haired Limone, who wore a light colored cardigan and carried a bouquet as he walked out of court.

Two of the four apparently innocent men convicted with Limone -- Henry Tameleo and Louis Greco -- died in prison of old age. The fourth, Joseph Salvati, served 29 years before former Massachusetts Gov. William Weld commuted his sentence and he was released in 1997.

Each of the four men had some association in the 1960s with the Patriarca crime family, New England's dominant Mafia organization. A number of detectives now involved in the investigation of the FBI's Boston Division suspect that agents working in the 1960s may have known the four were innocent of the Deegan murder, but believed they were probably guilty of something else. At the time, there was enormous pressure on the FBI to break the Mafia.

"I'm starting to think that's what happened," one investigator said.

The evidence that Hinkle and others said was the key to Limone's release was a series of secret FBI memos discovered late last month by special federal prosecutor John H. Durham. Durham, an assistant U.S. Attorney from New Haven, was appointed in 1998 by the U.S. Department of Justice to lead a task force looking into crimes by retired Boston FBI agents.

"Were it not for John Durham and the joint task force, I have no doubt that Mr. Limone would have died in prison just like Mr. Greco and Mr. Tameleo," said John Cavicchi, one of Limone's lawyers.

The memos Durham found show that Boston-based agents -- as well as top Bureau officers including former Director J. Edgar Hoover -- appear to have suppressed credible evidence that could have prevented the four men from being convicted.

Included in the memos is information showing that the FBI knew Deegan was going to be killed two days before his murder. What's more, the documents show that an informant told now-retired FBI agent **H. Paul Rico** who the real killers may have been a day after the murder. Limone, Salvati, Tameleo and Greco were not included among the killers named by the informant.

Rico, a decorated FBI mob investigator who became legendary for his ability to cultivate informants, was told by his informant that the real killers were Joseph "The Animal" Barboza, Vincent "The Bear" Flemmi, Roy French, Ronald Cassesso and Romeo Martin.

The former state prosecutor who won the convictions in the Deegan case said in December that he was never told of the information from Rico's informant at the time of the trial. Defense attorneys for Limone and Salvati said they were never informed either.

Barboza and Flemmi were ruthless mob executioners who Rico's informant said planned Deegan's murder. Barboza and Flemmi were never prosecuted for the Deegan murder but became informants for Rico themselves at the time the case was being investigated and prosecuted.

On Friday, Limone implied that Rico knew who the real killers were and allowed innocent men to be jailed.

"I was framed by Paul Rico," Limone said. "He's scum."

Rico, who has retired to Florida, could not be reached Friday. But William P. Cagney III, his lawyer, said Rico reported his findings to his superiors at the time -- and someone higher in the chain of command decided not to disclose the information.

## JUDGE FREES MAN IN '60S MOB CASE

"Mr. Rico didn't try to keep it from being a fair trial," Cagney said. "If there was anybody that suppressed evidence, it would have been the hierarchy in the Department of Justice or the FBI, not Mr. Rico."

Boston FBI spokeswoman Gail Marcinkiewicz said the office had no comment.

In the weeks since Durham released the secret FBI memos, two lawyers who had underworld clients from the Deegan era publicly admitted that their clients -- who have since died -- told them that innocent men were convicted. Both lawyers said their clients admitted participating in Deegan's murder. The lawyers said that until recently they had been prevented by the lawyer-client privilege from disclosing the information.

But senior prosecutors for the Suffolk County district attorney, the office that won the Deegan conviction in July 1968, said Friday the secret FBI memos were what led to Limone's release. Assistant District Attorney Mark Lee urged Hinkle -- and Hinkle agreed-- to vacate the convictions of Limone and Salvati and order new trials for both men. Sources said the district attorney may choose in the near future not to prosecute the new trials, effectively dismissing murder charges against the men.

Asked "how wrong" was Limone's conviction, Lee said: "Wrong enough for it to be overturned and vacated and a new trial to be ordered. We're not going to sit here and get into degrees. But it's wrong enough that we came in here and said this man should have a new trial and have his conviction vacated."

David Meier, head of the homicide unit for the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, said prosecutors had joined in a request for a new trial after a "full and thorough evaluation of the facts and circumstances.

"Today, we have done justice," Meier said.

## Graphic

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PHOTO: (B&W) MUG; PHOTO: LIMONE

**Load-Date:** January 8, 2001

No Headline In Original



### *No Headline In Original*

The Associated Press

January 28, 1983, Friday, AM cycle

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**Section:** Domestic News**Length:** 770 words**Byline:** By ANNE S. CROWLEY, Associated Press Writer**Dateline:** MIAMI

## **Body**

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U.S. District Judge Alcee Hastings took the witness stand Friday in his federal trial and denied that he was part of a \$150,000 bribery conspiracy arranged by an attorney friend.

Hastings, who spent most of the day on the witness stand, also denied that he told Washington attorney William A. Borders Jr. that he planned to return \$845,000 in money seized from two racketeers, as alleged in the two-count indictment.

Prosecutor Reid Weingarten claims Hastings was to reduce the sentences of the racketeers and return money and property seized from them in exchange for \$150,000.

Hastings, 46, is charged with conspiracy to solicit a bribe and obstruction of justice.

The testimony by the first federal judge ever charged with committing crimes while on the bench drew several hundred spectators, who lined up outside the courtroom up to a half hour early.

One of them later complimented Hastings' courtroom demeanor, to which he replied, "The truth is easy to tell."

Asked if he had told Borders of his decision to return \$845,000 to the defendants, Hastings said, "Absolutely not."

"I revealed nothing to Bill Borders or anybody else because I didn't know the contents of the order until Jeff Miller presented it to me," Hastings said. Miller is the law clerk who prepared the order.

Hastings contends Borders somehow found out about the ruling and traded on his name while dealing with FBI Special Agent **H. Paul Rico**, who was posing as convicted racketeer Frank Romano.

The judge has argued that, if he were part of the deal, he would have made sure Borders actually was negotiating with Romano and would have canceled it had he discovered otherwise.

Both Romano and Rico appeared on the stand in defense attorney Patricia Williams' attempt to show jurors the two men resemble each other only slightly.

## No Headline In Original

"Might you mistake Paul Rico for Frank Romano?" Miss Williams asked the judge.

"No way. You could wake me up at four o'clock in the morning and I wouldn't have any problem making that determination," said Hastings, who saw Romano every day during a month-long trial in December 1980.

Hastings returns to the stand Monday morning for further questioning by his attorney.

In earlier testimony, Hastings countered key government wiretap evidence by saying he wouldn't have used his telephone for any talk that "would have been listened to" because he thought it was bugged.

The judge has been handling much of his own defense in federal court, but on Friday he switched roles from lawyer to witness. On Thursday he said of his planned testimony, "Now the trial begins."

Weingarten contends that when Hastings called Borders on Oct. 5, 1981, the two men talked about a \$150,000 bribery deal in which the judge was to reduce the sentences of two convicted racketeers.

The conversation was taped \_ not from Hastings' phone, but from Borders' Washington law office \_ and the government is using it in Hastings' trial.

Hastings, under questioning by defense lawyer Patricia Williams, said he had called Borders to discuss letters for a mutual friend.

Borders, sentenced to five years in prison on a March 1982 conviction, was arrested collecting the final payment Oct. 9, 1981 from an undercover FBI agent.

In the Oct. 5 call, Hastings told Borders he would "ship the stuff off to Columbia in the morning." Hastings said "the stuff" was letters for a friend in South Carolina who had been suspended from law practice.

Weingarten charges the judge was referring to an order issued the following day that returned \$845,000 to the racketeering defendants.

At the same time, Borders was collecting \$25,000 from an undercover FBI agent with the promise that Hastings would return much of the \$1.2 million cash and property seized from the defendants, Weingarten said. The remaining \$125,000 of the alleged bribe was to buy lower prison sentences for the convicts, Weingarten said.

But Hastings said he wouldn't have been foolish enough to discuss such a deal on the telephone. He and his secretary both testified that Hastings had cautioned his staff in August to watch what they said because he believed the phones were tapped.

"On Oct. 5, I would not have spoken on my telephone about anything that ... would have been listened to," said Hastings.

Miss Williams asked if that meant he thought his phones were being tapped.

"In my mind, there was no question about it," the judge replied.

After spending the morning on the stand, Hastings walked around the block at lunch to "get some fresh air and clear my head."

As he re-entered the building, he said, "Me and the Dolphins \_ No. 1." Miami's National Football League team plays Sunday in Super Bowl XVII.



**[President Bush Warns Energy Supplies Running Low; Man Wrongly Imprisoned for 30 Years Testifies Before Congress](#)**

MSNBC SHOW:THE NEWS WITH BRIAN WILLIAMS 21:00

May 3, 2001 Thursday

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**Section:** NEWS; DOMESTIC; SHOW

**Length:** 7939 words

**Byline:** Brian Williams; Robert Hager; Anne Thompson; Andrea Mitchell; Joe Johns; Katie Couric; Jim Avila; Pat Dawson; Matt Lauer

**Guests:** John Leo; Gerald Nicosia; Peter Greenberg

**Highlight:** A rather dire warning from the president on energy saying the U.S. is heading into real trouble. Tonight, what he plans to do about it. Also this evening, is the answer nuclear? Why has America stayed far away from the so-called clean power solution? Tonight, what Americans told us about the crisis upon us. Congress hears one man's story today for the first time. He did three decades in jail for a murder he did not commit. Did agents of the FBI look the other way? Katie Couric's continuing look tonight at the investigation into the 4-year-old Ramsey case. And terrible news for a former Beatle. Our report tonight on the health of George Harrison.

## **Body**

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THIS IS A RUSH TRANSCRIPT. THIS COPY MAY NOT BE IN ITS FINAL FORM AND MAY BE UPDATED.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

GEORGE WALKER BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: What people need to hear loud and clear is that we're running out of energy in America.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BRIAN WILLIAMS, MSNBC ANCHOR: A rather dire warning from the president on energy saying the U.S. is heading into real trouble. Tonight, what he plans to do about it.

Also this evening, is the answer nuclear? Why has America stayed far away from the so-called clean power solution? Tonight, what Americans told us about the crisis upon us.

Congress hears one man's story today for the first time. He did three decades in jail for a murder he did not commit. Did agents of the FBI look the other way? Katie Couric's continuing look tonight at the investigation into the 4-year-old Ramsey case.

President Bush Warns Energy Supplies Running Low; Man Wrongly Imprisoned for 30 Years Testifies Before Congress

And terrible news for a former Beatle. Our report tonight on the health of George Harrison.

ANNOUNCER: From NBC News, this is THE NEWS WITH BRIAN WILLIAMS:

WILLIAMS: Good evening. It's already that time of year here in the New York area when you can see the air. It's been several days now of oppressive heat and immovable air mass, heavy air conditioner use. Tomorrow, it officially becomes a heat wave in some areas here along the East Coast. So it is against that summer preview backdrop that the president today sounded a rare, and for him, rather dire warning. The nation is running out of energy, he said, and something has to be done. So the president is turning his attention first to California where the need is most acute. But it is very clear on this very hazy night that everyone is going to have to pay up in some form or another where energy in the U.S. is concerned.

To start us off tonight, here is NBC News correspondent Robert Hager.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

ROBERT HAGER, NBC CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): Sweltering today by springtime standards, 90-degree-plus temperatures setting records for the date for Newark, New York, Hartford, Boston and Portland, Maine, a 200-acre fire in Massachusetts, and people are worried.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Bills are really going to rack up if this is how the rest of the summer is going to be.

HAGER: Not good for a nation teetering on the edge of more electricity shortages as President Bush calls today for special steps in California.

BUSH: Today, I'm instructing all agencies, federal agencies to reduce their peak hour electricity use in the state of California.

HAGER: Bush asks federal buildings to consider turning down air conditioning by adjusting thermostats to 78 degrees, shutting down equipment at off hours like escalators, computers, printers, even coffee pots.

The Navy may help by turning on the generators of old mothballed ships stored in the San Francisco Bay Area, feeding electricity from those generators to shore. California military bases will be asked to cut back power usage by 10 percent. Some bases are even thinking about buying power from private windmills.

Why the worry? Bill Briar (ph) of the Edison Electric Institute.

BILL BRIAR, EDISON ELECTRIC INSTITUTE: If you have increased demand and you have increased need for electricity. And coupled with unusually hot weather, that will cause a very, very serious problem in that state leading to growing blackouts.

HAGER: How many days of partial blackouts expected?

BRIAR: In California, the independent system operators announced 34 days of blackouts.

HAGER: A guess. And there are fears of tight supplies in New York City as well, where one old abandoned power plant is now being turned back on, and extra power generating turbines are being rushed into place at 11 power substations. But are these short-term steps enough?

BUSH: What people need to hear loud and clear is that we're running out of energy in America.

HAGER: Not enough new power plants, many argue, and not enough new transmission lines to move electricity from region to region in a hurry. But all that's still controversial and takes years to fix.

President Bush Warns Energy Supplies Running Low; Man Wrongly Imprisoned for 30 Years Testifies Before Congress

(on camera): The forecast then for this week: one more day of heat wave here in the East. For the summer, higher electric bills nationwide, tight supplies in New York. And in California, turning down the air conditioning may help but rolling blackouts still seem inevitable. Robert Hager, NBC News, Washington.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

WILLIAMS: It is also likely the busy summer travel season will bring another energy crunch this time when it comes to paying for gas. The energy department is warning tonight that gas prices are rising fast and could reach record highs quite soon. We get that angle of the story tonight from NBC News correspondent Anne Thompson.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

ANNE THOMPSON, NBC CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): As Americans prepare to hit the road this summer for more than 237 million pleasure trips, a warning today from the government: Look for record-high prices at the pumps.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I'll just travel less. That's it.

THOMPSON: The average price nationwide could be somewhere between **\$1.60 and \$1.70, says Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham, exceeding the \$1.68 set last summer.**

CHERYL WHITE, MINNEAPOLIS RESIDENT: This is ridiculous. I cannot believe they can go this high on gas.

**THOMPSON: Already this spring, a steady climb. Since the end of March, the average retail price for a gallon of regular jumping 22 cents. And this week, increases in cities throughout the Midwest: \$1.76 in St. Louis, \$1.84 in Detroit, near \$1.90 in the Twin Cities area.**

Paula Teemstadt (ph) now looking for alternatives to get to her summer cabin 120 miles away from her home in Minneapolis.

PAULA TEEMSTADT, MINNEAPOLIS RESIDENT: I may have to figure out a little more carpooling with the relatives.

THOMPSON: What's the problem? Refineries cannot keep up with the math, even though they're operating at 96 percent capacity. Inventories are up but still lag two percent behind last year's level.

(on camera): Consumers, however, predicted to use even more gas this summer, burning up 361 million gallons a day, an increase of over two million gallons.

(voice-over): The problem so acute, analysts say, that any disruption in production could cause prices to spike, like this weekend's fire at the Tosca refinery in southern Illinois.

PHIL FLYNN, ALARON TRADING: We cannot afford to lose, you know, one drop of gasoline. So anytime there's any word of any refinery problems, people are going to panic and run prices up.

THOMPSON: How quickly can prices go up? In the week since this gas station in Madison, Wisconsin let its sign do the talking, prices shot up 12 cents. The start of the summer driving season is still three weeks away. Anne Thompson, NBC News, New York.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

WILLIAMS: This energy crisis is so acute, all energy options are suddenly back on the table now, even once demonized nuclear power. Nuclear power plants still produce 20 percent of America's electricity, and if the Bush administration has its way, they could soon produce much more. Here with that, NBC News correspondent Andrea Mitchell.



President Bush Warns Energy Supplies Running Low; Man Wrongly Imprisoned for 30 Years Testifies Before Congress

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

ANDREA MITCHELL, NBC CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): It is the forgotten fact of American energy: nuclear power, producing 20 percent of the country's electricity, 103 plants, including the surviving reactor at Three Mile Island, cited the worst commercial nuclear accident in U.S. history. But after that accident and the meltdown in Chernobyl, on new plants have been built in the U.S.; 14 old ones sit abandoned; 32 others have licenses due to expire unless the government renews them.

(on camera): Is this technology just too old?

DAVID LOCHBAUM, UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS: What we're trying to do is take very old technology and get an additional 20 years out of it. It can be done. Is it the smartest thing to do? Probably not.

MITCHELL (voice-over): But faced with rising oil and gas prices, George Bush and Dick Cheney are talking about relicensing old plants and building new ones, although getting new plants online could take six to nine years.

JOE COLVIN, NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE: Our plants provide large amounts of electricity safely, reliably and competitively, and more importantly, they provide that electricity without the release of any pollutants.

MITCHELL: France, lacking America's oil and gas resources, relies on nuclear power for 80 percent of its electricity. But there, the government subsidizes the utilities. Still, supporters here say nuclear power would be cheaper and cleaner than other energy sources. Opponents strongly disagree.

MITCHELL: If nuclear power is cheaper than oil and less polluting than coal, why isn't it the best choice?

LOCHBAUM: Well, nuclear power may be safer just like a truck going 90 miles an hour through a school zone slowing down to 80 miles an hour is safer. That's still not safe enough.

MITCHELL: The biggest obstacle -- 40,000 metric tons of nuclear waste in the U.S. alone. Scientists still don't know how to clean it up and are running out of places to store it.

(on camera): Even if nuclear power proves to be safe and economical, are Americans ready to live with it? Are they over this scare that Three Mile Island created 22 years ago?

IBRAHAM M. OWEISS, GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY: There's no way around it, and therefore, we have to cope with the consequences.

MITCHELL (voice-over): In fact, the Bush administration is betting that with soaring energy costs, people will soon be more afraid of their utility bills than nuclear power. Andrea Mitchell, NBC News, Middletown, Pennsylvania.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

WILLIAMS: One state that is giving nuclear power another look is California, the state hardest hit by this year's energy crisis. Political pollster Frank Luntz recently spoke with a group of people in L.A. to find out how they are coping and exactly who they hold responsible for that state's electricity problems.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

FRANK LUNTZ, POLITICAL POLLSTER: When you think of what's going on with energy here in this state, what one word or phrase comes to mind first?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Dark, darkness.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Incompetence.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Pure stupidity.

President Bush Warns Energy Supplies Running Low; Man Wrongly Imprisoned for 30 Years Testifies Before Congress

LUNTZ: Why pure stupidity?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Because of they really mismanaged everything, and I think it's the politicians that have done it because they haven't taken control of anything.

LUNTZ: Who blames the politicians for what's gone on? Show of hands if you blame the politicians. Almost all of you. What's wrong with the politicians?

SHIRLEY: It's their way of supporting big business. As soon as the people around feel, "If I don't pay these big bills, I'm not going to have heat this winter or air conditioning this summer," they are going to immediately have plenty of electricity.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Our government just didn't pay attention. They didn't care about us. That's how I really feel. It's very, very aggravating what's going on here. This should not happen. How could this happen? Tell me. Who's paying attention?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Once again, it's the little person.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Who's watching the store? We're paying these guys to help us watch our lives and they're not helping us at all.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: You keep hearing people say, "Oh, I'm concerned that there's not going to be enough energy." There's plenty of energy. It was a lack of planning.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: If they know they're going to have blackouts or if energy is a problem anywhere in the country, you can plan ahead. Now we know. California got hit, boom. All right, now the rest of the country go for it. You know, figure this out. Don't just...

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: But if it was a hit that we took, it was a function of the politicians just kind of working at their own interests.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: But it's not, it's there. Now let's solve the problem.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: We can't just sit there and say, "Well, this is just what happened." We have to be, you know, informed as consumers, as citizens...

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Oh, absolutely.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: ... and we have to stand up when things like this take place. We can't allow politicians just to run roughshod over essentially the populace.

LUNTZ: Who here is paying twice as much this year than you paid last year? Raise your hand if you're paying twice as much. Three, four of you?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Well, for me to get a bill that's more than twice the amount and to call up and saying, "Well, you have to pay this bill. If you don't pay it, we shut your energy off. You don't have electricity. You don't have gas."

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I mean, I don't like it that somebody who's actually probably a shareholder of some energy company probably made, you know, 10 cents per share basically off of -- you know, we're basically lining their pocketbooks basically. We have to pay double our power bill, you know, and it's just -- it just doesn't seem right that it's going to a shareholder of some company, you know, based in Texas. I'm just saying hypothetically. I just think it's not right.

LUNTZ: So I'm the governor of California and I look you straight in the eye and say, "OK, what do you want me to do? You sitting there and you're complaining. You're blaming the politicians. Dave, what do you want me to do?"

President Bush Warns Energy Supplies Running Low; Man Wrongly Imprisoned for 30 Years Testifies Before Congress

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: We need to build our own power plants, be they nuclear or whatever, whatever is most efficient, control them ourselves, not by people with outside interests.

LUNTZ: And don't we need to do it with respect for the environment?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: We certainly do, but I think we should all believe that our power plants like nuclear are not going to be run by people like Homer Simpson. So I think they will be safe. But we really need to build them and quickly.

BRYCE: Absolutely, absolutely, because we can't -- we can't keep relying on, you know, out-of-state generators to give us our power. That's how they're, you know, really in this case, you know, the rates have gone through the roof because we don't have the generation here. That's what we need.

LUNTZ: Explain to me what this means for all of America.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: They're going to get it, too.

(LAUGHTER)

LUNTZ: This is coming.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: It's coming.

(CROSSTALK)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Where California goes, the rest of the country goes.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I have a philosophy about California. I'm from the Midwest, and anything that starts in California, everybody from the rest of the country says, "Oh, it's California." And then all of a sudden, it comes to their place and it's worse than it even was in California, and California's over it and life goes on.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Absolutely.

LUNTZ: It's already starting in New Jersey.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: If we're not building new power plants, it's going to hit them too.

LUNTZ: How many of you think that what's going on in California is going nationwide this summer? Raise your hands.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Not this summer.

LUNTZ: Not this summer?

(CROSSTALK)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: It's coming.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I've already had people in Chicago tell me their rates have doubled, and they're not -- you know, it's a whole different situation. But, I mean, people's rates do get doubled.

JEFF: You have to have some regulation of prices, otherwise, these companies will just raise their prices higher and higher.

LUNTZ: You want regulation of prices?

JEFF: Some kind of a control somehow...

President Bush Warns Energy Supplies Running Low; Man Wrongly Imprisoned for 30 Years Testifies Before Congress

LUNTZ: You want controlled prices?

JEFF: ... when you're deregulating.

LUNTZ: Jeff, you're a Republican, aren't you?

JEFF: Yes, I am.

LUNTZ: You're a Republican?

JEFF: Right.

LUNTZ: And you want controlled prices?

JEFF: I want some regulation of the prices, yes. Otherwise, these companies will continue to raise their rates as they are now. We can do nothing about that, and we're all going broke with it.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

WILLIAMS: Pollster Frank Luntz talking energy policy with some voters in southern California.

There is a lot more to tell you about as we continue along the way this Thursday night. Still to come, the JonBenet Ramsey murder case. Tonight, why one detective says the ransom note supports his theory that an intruder is guilty of the murder.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

WILLIAMS: There are new questions tonight over plans to build a memorial to World War II veterans on the mall in Washington. About two years after a presidential panel approved its site and design, the panel says it will reopen its decision and hold more public hearings. The current plan to put the monument between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington monument faced criticism because it would alter the mall's views. Others said the design was reminiscent somehow of Nazi architecture. Bob Dole, Tom Hanks and others have mounted a public campaign for the memorial.

In the week since former Nebraska senator Bob Kerrey announced to the world that he and a group of Navy SEALs he was commanding in Vietnam killed innocent civilians in a firefight, veterans and nonveterans alike have been speaking out. The more his version of the story has settled in, the more questions that have been raised, and the debate's been joined on editorial pages and columns across the country.

Joining us now from San Francisco to talk about Kerrey and the wounds his story seems to reopen is Gerald Nicosia. He is the author of "Home to War," a history of the Vietnam veterans movement. And in New York, John Leo, the "On Society" columnist for "U.S. News & World Report" magazine.

Gentlemen, good evening to you both.

John, it's good to see you again.

JOHN LEO, "U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT": Hi, Brian.

WILLIAMS: I'd like to begin with two very basic questions, John. Who is Bob Kerrey accountable to and who can judge the actions of this man who wasn't there that night?

LEO: Well, I think he's accountable to everyone involved, all of America. The argument has been made that his feelings are paramount here and we can't go into it because of the fog of war and we weren't there. But the bottom line is there's a serious accusation of an intentional massacre on the record, and we can't leave that hanging. We wouldn't leave it hanging if an enemy did it or if the Serbians or Rwandans did it. Then we can't leave it hanging

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here in America. I think we have to have an investigation, and we have the probable means of getting to the bottom of it.

WILLIAMS: Mr. Nicosia, same questions.

GERALD NICOSIA, AUTHOR, "HOME TO WAR": Well, I have a somewhat different point of view. I interviewed 600 veterans for my book, "Home to War," and I heard many, many stories not only of the accidental killing of civilians but of the intentional killing of civilians during that war. You have to understand that part of the basic training was to create a great deal of hate and anger toward the Vietnamese people, call them gooks and dinks and slopes. These guys were sent over there fired up to kill Vietnamese and oftentimes ended up killing civilians. I think the people who set that policy should be held accountable, but I'm not -- I don't think that 21-year-olds that were -- 19-year-olds that were over there carrying it out should be singled out right now.

WILLIAMS: John, what about the kind of minutia of this story, that it's six to one in favor of Kerrey's version, Kerrey and his group, the quote that they received fire and returned it? How do we figure out what happened that resulted in apparently a pile of civilian dead bodies?

LEO: Well, there's two ways. One is to get every member of the platoon on the stand, put them under oath and ask them exactly what happened. We have very detailed accusations. Either they will prove them or disprove them. And the other thing is -- the suggestion has been made that the bodies can be exhumed, and the Vietnamese witnesses, for what that's worth, brought in, too. We should presume to conduct it like any accusation of mass murder over which we have jurisdiction.

WILLIAMS: Mr. Nicosia, define the fog of war, which is a term we have heard so much over the past week.

NICOSIA: Well, people that are involved in extremely traumatic occurrences like the killing of civilians, watching people die in front of them, often suffer from what's called post-traumatic stress disorder. And part of that often is blocking out a traumatic event very quickly after it happens, and then the recall can be very different. It can often be what a person wants to recall because the actual memory is just too difficult and too painful. So I mean, I don't know that anybody is lying here, but I think that people -- all those men on that mission went through a very, very traumatic episode. And the fact that they have different recall of it I think is not that they're lying, it has to do with the psychological process of post-traumatic stress disorder.

WILLIAMS: John Leo...

NICOSIA: ... which many veterans suffer from.

WILLIAMS: True. John Leo, how are we to deal with the fact that there is many and avuncular, wispy, white-haired grandfather in this country who -- thank you very much -- would rather not recall every memory of, say, the campaign through France, the campaign through the South Pacific in World War II?

LEO: I think that's normal after every war. I don't discount that fact that things happen in every war and no one wants to look back. I just think that this has been so publicized and the accused is so prominent -- a former senator once and perhaps future presidential candidate -- I think it's going to look very bad to the world and very bad to our own citizenry if we simply say we don't care whether it's true or not. I think it's gone too far and we have to investigate.

WILLIAMS: So Pentagon investigation, John, or blue ribbon panel? How would you have it proceed?

LEO: I don't know. Whatever, whatever.

WILLIAMS: Mr. Nicosia, same question.

NICOSIA: Well, I'm saying that I think that investigating Kerrey is a fruitless thing. I would rather investigate the people who set the genocidal policies of free fire zones, reconnoitering by fire, all of those policies that resulted in

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the deaths of civilians. I think it's wrong to start blaming the Vietnam veterans again. That's what happened affair the war. That's why so many of them shut down and stopped talking about it.

WILLIAMS: And to Messieurs Nicosia and Leo, thank you very much for being with us tonight. On Capitol Hill today, dramatic testimony from a man who says the FBI kept him in prison for 30 years for a crime investigators knew he did not commit. Joseph Salvati was sent to prison based on the testimony of a member of the Boston Mafia, but there are new allegations tonight that the FBI may have been as much to blame. The story tonight from NBC News correspondent Joe Johns.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

JOE JOHNS, NBC CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): Telling his emotional story for a congressional committee today, 68-year-old Joseph Salvati. He spent three decades in prison for a murder he did not commit.

JOSEPH SALVATI: The government stole more than 30 years of my life.

JOHNS: How could it happen? Salvati, then a Boston tough guy, was sent away by testimony from New England mobster Joseph "The Animal" Barbosa, a highly prized snitch in FBI director J. Edgar Hoover's battle against organized crime, reportedly one of the first people ever to enter the federal witness protection program. Now a federal investigation is under way to determine whether police in Massachusetts and even the FBI turned a blind eye to Salvati's innocence, covering up the truth to protect their prize witness, Barbosa.

VICTOR GARO, SALVATI'S ATTORNEY: There's a Chelsea police report. There is a state police report. There's a Boston police department report, and God knows how many other reports that have been hidden or destroyed over the years that all show the same thing: Joe Salvati was innocent.

JOHNS: Innocent of the murder of Edward "Teddy" Deegan in 1965. But Salvati was convicted of the crime anyway. Informants told the FBI Salvati was innocent, too. In fact FBI documents suggest former agent Paul Rico knew a contract was out on Deegan and even knew others were plotting to kill him. But Salvati's name was not mentioned. Testifying without immunity and against the advice of his lawyer, Rico today told the committee the FBI turned over the information to local officials.

**H. PAUL RICO**, FORMER FBI AGENT: We come up with a witness that's going to provide information to local law enforcement, we turn the witness over to local law enforcement and let them handle the case.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Does it bother you that this man was in jail for 30 years?

RICO: Well, it would probably be a nice movie or something.

JOHNS: Salvati and a co-defendant were exonerated finally after a judge concluded the FBI hid evidence. But there was no way to restore the lost years with his wife Marie and four children.

MARIE SALVATI, SALVATI'S WIFE: Every weekend, you know, I'd dress up, pack a little lunch. We'd go off to see him for their hugs and kisses and whatever went on.

JOHNS (on camera): Salvati's attorney is now considering a lawsuit and the Justice Department continues an investigation into the case. Joe Johns, NBC News, the Capitol.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

WILLIAMS: When we come back, the Ramsey murder investigation from "Today on NBC." An exclusive new look at an old piece of evidence. Also this evening, new information about the hidden dangers of internal injuries after a supermodel critically injured in a car crash. And a former Beatle undergoes surgery for lung cancer. Stay with us.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

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WILLIAMS: A closer look tonight at the JonBenet Ramsey murder case, still unsolved more than four years now after the young girl's death. All this week on "Today on NBC," Katie Couric has been each morning reexamining the case with Colorado homicide detective Lou Smit. He spent 18 months working this case for the Boulder, Colorado district attorney's office and believes that an intruder to the Ramsey home committed this crime. Tonight's installment looks at a key piece of evidence in the case, specifically the ransom note.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

KATIE COURIC, "TODAY ON NBC" (voice-over): "Mr. Ramsey, listen carefully. We have your daughter in our possession. You stand a 99 percent chance of killing your daughter if you try to outsmart us." Chilling words from the JonBenet Ramsey ransom note reportedly found by Patsy Ramsey on these stairs inside their home.

DET. LOU SMIT, HOMICIDE INVESTIGATOR: She came down these stairs and seen the ransom note on the bottom step.

COURIC: Four-and-a-half years later, the note remains perhaps the most critical and perplexing piece of evidence in the ongoing murder investigation.

SMIT: The person that wrote that note I do believe is the killer. The person that wrote that note shows his personality in that note: very brutal and very vicious.

COURIC: According to Smit, a number of phrases from the note are taken from movies with story lines that revolve around kidnapping and murder, a case of life imitating art, movies like "Ruthless People."

(BEGIN FILM CLIP, "RUTHLESS PEOPLE")

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: If you deviate from our instructions in any way whatsoever, she will be killed.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COURIC: "Any deviation of my instructions will result in the immediate execution of your daughter," a phrase from the Ramsey ransom note.

And from the movie "Speed."

(BEGIN FILM CLIP, "SPEED")

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Do not attempt to grow a brain.

COURIC: Compared to "Don't try and grow a brain" in the Ramsey ransom note.

And Smit points out, the movie "Ransom" was playing in Boulder at the time, a film with eerie similarities to JonBenet's murder. A six-year-old boy is kidnapped, his mouth covered with duct tape, his hands tied.

SMIT: Whoever wrote this note was thinking of those particular types of movies. It's like a Ph.D. in ransom notes that was gained through watching movies. And that was incorporated into this note.

And that's another reason why I believe that a lot of thought was taken prior to the writing of the note, and that note was written before the murder rather than after the murder. It's not like a note is written in panic after brutally murdering a child.

After you commit a very horrendous murder, whether it's parents or even an accomplished criminal, you do not have the presence of mind to sit down and write a two-and-a-half page ransom note in a clear and concise manner because of the adrenaline running through your system and because of the horrendous thing that you've done. Why would a parent have to write a two-and-a-half page ransom note? Why would they have to put in all of these references to ransom-type movies?

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COURIC (on camera): Why? To cover up their own crime.

SMIT: Sure, if they're a sophisticated criminal, I can see them doing that, Katie. These people do not have any type of criminal record at all.

COURIC: If an intruder came into this home, you believe he familiarized himself, came up to this first floor from the basement, and this is where the ransom note was found. There is a table against this wall, is that correct?

SMIT: Right against this wall.

COURIC: Against this wall.

SMIT: There was a small table.

COURIC (voice-over): Smit's theory is that an intruder entered the home through this basement window while the Ramseys were at a Christmas party.

(on camera): Perhaps one of the most frequently asked questions, Lou, is why would an intruder sit down and write a lengthy ransom note with no clue as to when the family was coming home? Wouldn't that be awfully risky?

SMIT: Well, if the intruder had plenty of time in the house to begin with, he would have all the time he needed to write a ransom note. He's a high-risk criminal. In fact, some people get extreme pleasure out of going through your house and watching you while you're even sleeping. There's a certain type of high-risk criminal that does that.

COURIC: That's part of the thrill?

SMIT: It's part of the thrill. You bet. And I think when we finally catch him, which I think we still have a very good chance to do, that we're going to find that he's been arrested for some type of sexual offense in his past.

COURIC (voice-over): Boulder Sheriff's detective Stave Ainsworth, who worked the Ramsey investigation, has his theories.

(on camera): Many people say how could an intruder hang around the house and write this long, elaborate ransom note? That's pretty risky stuff.

STEVE AINSWORTH, BOULDER SHERIFF'S DEPUTY: Very risky.

COURIC: How do you answer that?

SMIT: It could be part of the thrill for him, the risk of getting caught.

COURIC: Do you think this was a kidnapping that went awry somehow?

SMIT: That's my own personal feeling, that it is.

**COURIC (voice-over): Few people have been able to explain this section of the note: "You will withdraw \$118,000 from your account, \$100,000 will be in \$100 bills and the remaining \$18,000 in \$20 bills."**

**(on camera): \$118, 000 has been the source of a lot of attention because that was the amount of John Ramsey's Christmas bonus, is that right?**

**SMIT: It was close to what the net amount was. Now, his bonus was probably more, but what he netted out would be close to \$118,000.**

COURIC: So people think, where did that number come from?



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SMIT: Yes. And where would a parent who's writing that note, where would they come up with that figure, number one? And why would they put in a figure that would point right back at themselves? We don't know why the killer put that in his note.

COURIC (voice-over): Could the killer have been an employee or have had some association with Access Graphics, John Ramsey's company? Did John or Patsy write it to point a finger at a disgruntled employee?

Smit says both are possible. But why that relatively small amount of money was demanded, he says, remains a mystery to him.

Another mystery, the final lines of the note: "It is up to you now John! Victory, S.B.T.C."

(on camera): What does S.B.T.C. mean?

SMIT: That means something to the killer. We don't know what it means. There have been all kinds of explanations for that.

COURIC: Like?

SMIT: I've heard South Boulder Team Center. I've heard Saved By The Cross, Subic Bay Training Center. Many of these things have been put into the note because John Ramsey at one time had been in Subic Bay. But again, we're only guessing when we look at that content of the note and what it meant to the killer.

COURIC: Why not come with the ransom note?

SMIT: Oh, there's a couple of good reasons for not taking a ransom note into the house. If you're caught, for instance, taking in a ransom note, you have it in your pocket when you come into the house, for instance, and there's an alarm that goes in or the police check the house or somebody sees you, it's pretty obvious what your plans would have been.

COURIC: Why the practice note? What's that about?

SMIT: That's a very important part of this too. And that, I think, shows that the person who was writing this note had plenty of time to do it. And it starts off with "Dear Mister" and then starts the word Mrs., then it's stopped.

Between that practice note and the ransom note, by looking at the torn-out pieces of the ransom note, I believe there was close to six pages that are missing. Those pages are not found in the house either, Katie.

COURIC: When handwriting analysis was done on the ransom note, John Ramsey was ruled out.

SMIT: Yes.

COURIC: Patsy Ramsey could not be completely ruled out, though.

SMIT: No. Patsy Ramsey cannot be completely ruled out. The handwriting examiners -- there was at least six of them that looked at all of the handwriting exemplars, and all of the handwriting of Patsy Ramsey. She does have certain characteristics, which are close in nature to that on the note.

But what some of the examiners have said, and the majority of them, is that there are many more differences. In other words, it's not a positive at all that Patsy Ramsey wrote that note.

COURIC: In fact, it's measured from one to five. And she scored a 4.5 unlikely to have written the note.

SMIT: Yes.

COURIC: Which leaves a .5 possibility that she did.

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SMIT: Absolutely. There's a .5 possibility. But a 4.5 possibility that it's an intruder. And this is another great piece of evidence left behind by our killer.

Katie, I really believe that there's enough evidence left behind by our killer that we can catch him. And somebody had better be looking for him.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

WILLIAMS: By the way, Katie Couric's reports wrap up tomorrow on "Today" with a point-counterpoint style look at all the evidence in thus far in the Ramsey case.

When we come right back here tonight, the latest this evening on supermodel Niki Taylor and a look at life-threatening injuries of her type. They can go undetected for days after an accident.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

WILLIAMS: This has been front-page news around the country. Supermodel Niki Taylor remains in critical condition tonight in an Atlanta hospital after undergoing more surgery follow her car accident Sunday.

She initially walked away from the crash. The extent of her injuries only became clear much later, massive internal injuries, something actually surprisingly common in accident victims. Our report tonight from NBC News national correspondent Jim Avila.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

JIM AVILA, NBC CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): The second day of surgery for cover girl Niki Taylor, still in critical condition tonight after suffering severe internal injuries in a car wreck with a utility pole.

(BEGIN AUDIO CLIP)

9-1-1 OPERATOR: OK, are there any obvious injuries?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE DRIVER: I don't know, just a little bit of blood. Please hurry.

(END AUDIO CLIP)

AVILA: The 26-year-old model showed no immediate signs of injury, was out of the car and walking around. But by the time paramedics arrived, she had collapsed.

Auto accidents, the leading cause of death for Americans under 34, most deaths from head injuries. But 40,000 Americans a year treated for ruptured spleens and livers, internal injuries, like in Taylor's case, often not immediately detected, even leaving emergency rooms with severe injuries unnoticed.

DR. KEN PEARLMAN, NORTHWESTERN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL: If you bleed internally only a small amount, you maybe feel fine for a few hours to a few days to even up to a few weeks afterwards.

AVILA (on camera): That, say the experts, is the fear. Pumped with adrenaline, victims sometimes walk away from the accident not knowing about the grave danger they're in.

(voice-over): Further fooled by the fact that they were wearing seatbelts. The belt itself can cause injury if worn incorrectly.

PATRICK JARBOE, AUTOLIIV SAFETY LABS: If it, for example, is positioned high on your abdomen area, that's a very soft tissue area, it's going to penetrate into your body until it has some resistance.

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AVILA: The Autoliv Safety Lab in suburban Detroit, research into the best restraints, and most important, how to wear them.

JARBOE: You want to make sure it's as low as possible on your pelvis. And then it will catch this iliac crest, this bone. That's what's going to provide you the restraint.

AVILA: In Florida today, a crash reconstruction expert from the University of Miami examines the damaged chassis of a one-car crash.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: We have a buckle here. That would be highly suggestive that the belt was not in use at the time of the crash.

AVILA: Investigators looking for injury trends, building a photo database, pictures for paramedics and police officers to warn them about what kind of injury is linked to specific accidents, Life and death, unseen diagnoses.

DR. JEFFREY AUGENSTEIN, JACKSON INJURY RESEARCH CENTER: If you don't recognize the possibility of an injury, some of those people die in a few hours.

AVILA: Nurse Helen Jana (ph) survived her close call. Her liver ruptured in a car accident, but the injury hidden for hours before surgery and eight days in the hospital.

HELEN JANA, NURSE: There was no obvious sign of bleeding. I felt like, hey, I'm OK, I'm walking, I'm talking, I'm fine.

AVILA: Injuries hidden from passengers, sometimes medical professionals too, and often in cases like Niki Taylor leaving victims fighting for their lives.

Jim Avila, NBC News, Chicago.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

WILLIAMS: Up next as we continue, "On the Money" tonight, how to book a summer vacation for less.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

WILLIAMS: Fears of rising unemployment fueled a sell-off on Wall Street today. The Dow was down for the first time this week, dropping 80 points to close at 10,796. Nasdaq was down 74 to finish at 2,146.

"On the Money" tonight, the travel business. It's a half-trillion-dollar industry in this country headed into, of course, its busiest season. There are ways to keep costs down when booking travel. And it's all in a new book conveniently. It's from "Today" show travel editor Peter Greenberg, who has just authored "The Travel Detective." That's him in the getup. Peter is with us this evening.

Peter, we have so much to get over. And looking at the book, there's so much in it. We should start with when to book flights.

PETER GREENBERG, TRAVEL EDITOR, "TODAY": The worst time to book a flight is over the weekend because fare wars are usually started by the weakest competitor. They will release those fares on a Friday night just to see who is going to match them. Maybe they match them, maybe they don't.

If you book on a Saturday or a Sunday, that's the worst time to book because it hasn't settled out yet. The real fares settle down by Monday. They may even be matched again or lowered again by Tuesday. And as you know, when you book a discount fare, they give you 24 hours to make up your mind.

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At one minute after midnight East Coast time on Wednesday morning, right after Tuesday night at midnight, all those people who booked their ticket but didn't pay for it, all those low fares come back into inventory. If you strike within that one hour, you get a great deal.

WILLIAMS: Oh, that's a great tip. I love your next one. Keep the conversation short. What does that mean?

GREENBERG: It means let them show you their hand first. If I'm going to ask you where do you want to go, you'll say, "I want to go from New York to Denver." I'm a reservations agent at the airline. And then you say to me, well, I want to fly next Tuesday," you're giving me too much information.

Now I'm going to make you step up to a much higher fare. Instead, when you call a reservations agent at the airline, say, "I want to go from New York to Denver, but before you ask me when I want to fly, could you please punch up every published fare you have on that route? I'll wait." That will take them about six seconds.

Then say, "Let's go to the bottom of the list. What's that fare?" Well, that's the YEBX 72 fare. What's that fare? Well, that's only good only on Wednesday if your middle name is Murray, you can have a snowmobile, you can hope. And you go, "I can change my middle name. I can get a snowmobile. I can hop." You back into the fare that you want to pay as opposed to stepping up to the fare that they want you to pay.

WILLIAMS: This next one gets very tricky. You have to have a master's degree in economics. Consider back-to-back ticketing.

GREENBERG: Yeah, the airlines love it when I discuss this one.

WILLIAMS: What is this one?

GREENBERG: Well, let's say today is a Monday for the sake of this discussion. You need to go somewhere three weeks from today, let's say New York to Los Angeles.

WILLIAMS: OK.

**GREENBERG: And you would normally qualify for a 21-day discount. One problem. If you're going to come back three days later on Friday, you're not staying over that dreaded Saturday night, you don't get the discount. It's a \$2,000 fare. So instead of that, you book New York to Los Angeles three weeks from Monday coming back sometime in the next millennium. That's \$228.**

Then you make a separate reservation going Los Angeles back to New York on that Friday coming back sometime in the next millennium. So for less than one-third, or sometimes even less than one-fourth, of what they would have charge you for one round trip, if you plan it correctly, you get two round trips and double the mileage.

WILLIAMS: So of course they hate it.

GREENBERG: Of course they hate it, but it's not illegal. In fact, if they really want to claim it's illegal, then do it on two separate airlines. After all, you're flying on your own name on a ticket you paid for yourself on the dates and times specified on the ticket.

My argument is if you buy a six-pack of Diet Coke and you only drink three of the Diet Cokes, do the Diet Coke police come and take you away? I don't think so.

WILLIAMS: How -- aside from sounding like someone's beloved pet as a child, tell us what FLIFO is.

GREENBERG: Well, when you call an airline, as you always do to make a reservation, what do they ask you for? Your phone number. Do they ever call you? No.

So now you're going to try to be a responsible traveler. So two or three hours before you leave the office or your home, you call the airline and you say, "Hey, I'm on flight 505. Is it on time?" "Yes," they lie.

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Now you've got a problem because they've interpreted your question to mean, "Is it scheduled to leave on time?" That's meaningless. So instead you call up and you say, "I'm on flight 505. Can you punch up FLIFO?" That's internal airline jargon for flight information.

Then you say, "Great. Can you tell me the aircraft number assigned to flight 505." Oh, that's aircraft number 82. "Great. What's the status of aircraft number 82?" It's in Bangladesh. If it's in Bangladesh, you ain't going to Cleveland tonight.

WILLIAMS: And they must tell you that?

GREENBERG: If they don't, hang up, call again.

WILLIAMS: Peter Greenberg, we could go on all night. I will tease the viewers only to say that the chapter on how to upgrade to first class is particularly good. Very good stuff.

GREENBERG: You read that one, did you?

WILLIAMS: Yes I did. The book is called "The Travel Detective." Peter, always a pleasure. Thanks for coming by.

GREENBERG: Thanks, Brian.

WILLIAMS: When we come right back, our very first look at the Friday morning papers around the country this Thursday night and news the former Beatle George Harrison recovering tonight from cancer surgery.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

WILLIAMS: We mentioned this earlier, word out of London tonight that former Beatle George Harrison has undergone lung cancer surgery. The episode marks his second bout with cancer for the youngest member of the Fab Four. Our report from MSNBC News correspondent Pat Dawson in London.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

PAT DAWSON, NBC CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): For most of the last decade George Harrison has lived a private life, so private his second cancer operation, performed recently here at the Mayo Clinic, was kept strictly secret until tonight. His attorney in London releasing pictures of Harrison with his wife in Tuscany today and saying the operation to remove a tumor from his lung was successful.

Unlike the other surviving Beatles, Harrison has largely avoided the public spotlight in recent years, preferring a quiet life at his mansion in the English countryside.

GEORGE HARRISON, MEMBER OF THE BEATLES: I don't want to be a film star. I don't even want to be a pop star. I just want to live in peace.

GREENBERG: A far cry from his life in the '60s. Thirty years after the Beatles broke up, 20 years after John Lennon was murdered, Harrison was back in the headlines in 1999 when a demented man broke into his home and attacked him with a knife.

RICK SKY, SHOWBIZ WRITER: Harrison himself said that he really thought he was close to death when that happened. That traumatized him very, very, very deeply.

GREENBERG: He hasn't performed on stage in nearly a decade. His most public event recently, a web cast to mark the re-release of his 1970 hit solo album "All Things Must Pass."

(on camera): Having now survived two bouts of cancer and an attempt on his life in just the last four years, the former Beatle apparently still hasn't lost his sense of humor, tonight saying of himself that although all things must pass away, George has no plans to.

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Pat Dawson, NBC News, London.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

WILLIAMS: To the morning papers in this country we go. "USA Today," according to review by the paper, President Bush is rewarding many key Republican donors and party supporters with choice ambassadorships. Of the 27 appointed so far, 22 have gone to those with political connections, no diplomatic experience. Compare that to Clinton, who at this point in his presidency had nominated 23 ambassadors, 21 of them were career foreign service officers.

"USA Today" reports that France and Spain, for example, have gone to GOP supporters. But Russia and Egypt have been held out for career diplomats.

Next, "San Jose Mercury News," about all those dot-com executives used to the extra legroom and the towels and the silverware in first class, not anymore. One software giant, 3COM, sent out a mandate saying all workers flying for fewer than nine hours must fly in coach. Can you say burst bubble?

"Washington Post," those two pandas on loan from China have drawn their one-millionth visitor today. The names, by the way, Mei Xiang and Tian Tian, which we think is Chinese for Captain and Tenille, lollygagging today. It was a very lucky 6-year-old boy who today brought home fabulous prizes by becoming the millionth visitor.

In Iowa, on the hunt for quality workers for quality jobs and a good quality of life, 500,000 openings in the next few years.

Before we go tonight, here is Matt Lauer with a quick program note.

MATT LAUER, HOST, MSNBC'S "HEADLINERS & LEGENDS": Thanks, Brian. Tonight on "Headliners & Legends," Pamela Anderson, a pin-up dream for millions. But it's her outrageous life filled with rebellion, videotapes, and bad boys that may have garnered the most outrageous headlines. Join us for a story that goes way beyond the centerfold. That's coming up next on "Headliners & Legends," Brian.

**WILLIAMS: That's our broadcast for tonight. Hope to see you tomorrow night. Goodnight, everyone.**

**Load-Date:** July 9, 2003



## *Rico won't challenge extradition*

The Boston Herald

December 6, 2003 Saturday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 211 words

**Byline:** By J. M. LAWRENCE

### **Body**

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Ex-FBI agent ***H. Paul Rico*** won't fight extradition to Oklahoma on charges he helped the Boston mob murder a Tulsa millionaire in 1981 over control of World Jai Alai.

Rico's attorney, Garvin Isaacs, told a judge in Miami the 78-year-old Rico is well enough to travel and waived an extradition hearing set for later this month.

"Paul Rico is innocent," Isaacs said. "He will plead not guilty and will demand a trial by jury."

Rico could be brought to Tulsa as early as next week, but authorities said no court date has been set.

On Oct. 9, Tulsa police arrested Rico at his Florida home. His attorneys immediately complained the move jeopardized his fragile health and said he would have surrendered in Tulsa on his own if ordered. Rico has heart problems.

Rico retired from the FBI in 1975 and became director of World Jai Alai security, based in Miami. Mob hitman John Martorano has told investigators Rico helped him track down and murder Roger Wheeler at a Tulsa golf course.

Rico's former FBI informant, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, pleaded guilty in October to conspiring to kill Wheeler during decades of mob mayhem with James "Whitey" Bulger.

Sources said Flemmi is cooperating in the Rico case.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

**Load-Date:** December 6, 2003

Shed no tears for mob's fed who took Fifth



## [Shed no tears for mob's fed who took Fifth](#)

The Boston Herald

February 15, 2002 Friday

ALL EDITIONS

Copyright 2002 Boston Herald Inc.

**Section:** NEWS;**Length:** 692 words**Byline:** By Howie Carr

### **Body**

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Next time you hear about how great the Greatest Generation was, remember they weren't all so great.

Henry Paul Rico, for instance.

The 75-year-old Boston College grad refused to testify before a congressional committee yesterday. But he's not your average, run-of-the-mill Enron bandito. He's a crooked ex-FBI agent who got all mobbed up back in the '60s and now finds himself in a photo finish with a grand jury.

You might say if there had been no **H. Paul Rico**, there could have been no Whitey Bulger, no Steve Flemmi, no John Connolly. Which means no death pits, no serial killing and no South Boston Murder Inc.

"I take the Fifth," he said yesterday on Capitol Hill. It wasn't as eloquent as the last time he was in D.C., when a congressman asked him about some innocent men the FBI allowed to go to prison for 30 years.

"What do you want from me?" Rico asked that day. "Tears?"

The words were different yesterday, but the message to Congress was the same. Bleep you.

Too bad. It would have been nice if someone could have asked him any number of questions, starting with:

"Did you ever drive any automobiles that were provided to you by either Steve Flemmi or Frank Salemme?"

Not that he would have told the truth. Rico went to BC back in the late '40s, when everybody was cutting the ethics class.

Some old-timers say Rico worked his way through BC as a waiter at Mafia don Joe Lombardo's restaurant in the North End. These people call him Paul "the Waiter" Rico, after the Chicago gangster named Paul "the Waiter" Ricca.



## Shed no tears for mob's fed who took Fifth

The thing about Paul "the Waiter" Rico was that he always comported himself like a real gangster. In the Boston FBI office, Rico was Al Capone to John Connolly's Al Cologne.

In fact, Rico's greatest law-enforcement feat came when he impersonated a hood for the FBI after he retired. He had moved to Florida, the original sunny place for shady people. He went to work for World Jai Alai, and suddenly everyone connected with the company began dying very violently, on golf courses, in airport parking lots, in their kitchens.

What did the feds care? They needed someone to impersonate a Teamster thug named Romano who was being shaken down by a bagman for a federal judge (and now congressman) named Alcee Hastings. According to every account, Rico became Romano. He reeled in Hastings' bagman hook, line and sinker. Rico handed him \$ 125,000 in marked cash, and the cops immediately surrounded the car.

"We're busted," the bagman said.

"I'm afraid so," Rico replied.

Well, what did you want from him, tears?

You get conflicting stories now about Rico's Boston career. Some people tell you he was always a rogue FBI agent. He loathed future Boston Police Commissioner Ed McNamara, sneering, "The only thing he ever investigated were the sales at Filene's Basement."

Rico made his bones flipping Mob hit man Joe "the Animal" Barboza. Rico used to brag he closed the deal when he played an illegal wiretap in which New England Mafia boss Ray Patriarca dismissed his Portuguese hit man with a racial slur - the n-word.

Is it true? Who knows?

Barboza used to talk about "the cold wars of deceit" that Rico and his FBI cohorts waged against the Boston Mob. Rico would call up hoods and tell them, "They're coming for you tonight," and the plug-uglies would decide to strike first.

Rico had 'em all fooled back in those days. One night, Barboza's lawyer got into his car and a bomb went off, blowing off one of his legs. Lying in a mangled heap, bloody and crippled, the lawyer told the first person to reach the scene, "Call Rico of the FBI."

Of course, it was Rico's Top Echelon informants who planted the bomb under the hood. What a gag!

So Rico took the Fifth yesterday. Which is too bad, because if he hadn't, maybe his old nemesis, Rep. Alcee Hastings, could have confronted the man who set up his bagman all those years ago. And Rico could have fixed Alcee with one of his cold Rico stares and asked, one more time, "What do you want from me, tears?"

Howie Carr's radio show can be heard every weekday afternoon on WRKO-AM 680, WHY-AM 560, WGAN-AM 560, WXTK 95.1 FM or online at [howiecarr.org](http://howiecarr.org).

**Load-Date:** February 15, 2002

Take it from framed man: 'FBI has a license to kill'



## *Take it from framed man: 'FBI has a license to kill'*

The Boston Herald

August 10, 2012 Friday

All Editions

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**Section:** NEWS; Columnists; Pg. 16; Vol. 30; No. 223

**Length:** 420 words

**Byline:** PETER GELZINIS

### **Body**

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Joe Salvati doubts Whitey Bulger ever had a piece of paper or a card tucked in his wallet that said he could kill anyone he wanted.

But ask this 80-year-old gentleman whether he thinks there is such a thing as a 'license to kill,' and he responds with unchained vehemence.

'The FBI has a license to kill, sure they do,' he says from a place deep within his heart and soul. 'The FBI, they're the ones with the license to kill and convict, and put innocent people away.'

Salvati should know.

He was supposed to die in prison after being framed by a gunsel named Joe 'The Animal' Barboza, whose FBI godfather was one **H. Paul Rico**, the same sinister G-man who first sold Whitey Bulger on the advantages of working both sides of the street.

Salvati, along with Peter Limone, Henry Tameleo and Louis Greco were first sentenced to death, then (after the death penalty was scrapped) life in prison for the murder of Edward 'Teddy' Deegan.

They were all innocent, but selected for extinction by both Rico and his prized rat, Barboza. The real killer, Vincent 'Jimmy The Bear' Flemmi, who also was granted a license to kill by Rico, had to be protected.

So, Barboza took the stand more than 44 years ago and sealed the fate of four innocent men with lies choreographed by his FBI handler.

Henry Tameleo and Louis Greco died behind bars. Salvati was freed after 30 years. Peter Limone came out after 33 years.

A federal judge eventually awarded more than \$100 million to these four men and their families after ruling they had indeed been unwitting targets of the FBI's license to kill.

## Take it from framed man: 'FBI has a license to kill'

Yesterday, when I asked Salvati whether he thought Barboza had a license to kill, he paused for just a moment before answering in a kind of low simmer.

'Without a doubt,' he said. 'Oh, without a doubt.'

True, Whitey had nothing to do with the travesty of justice that doomed four men to death behind bars.

But the point of intersection here is Paul Rico, the malignant G-man who was a mentor to John Connolly, and the guy who first convinced Whitey he could be a more terrifying gangster by being an effective rat.

'When the FBI took Barboza out to the West Coast (after testifying against Raymond Patriarca),' Salvati said, 'if he was unhappy about something, the place they were keeping him or something, he'd always threaten to tell the truth about our case.'

Regardless of whether Whitey produces his 'license to kill,' I asked Salvati whether he planned to take in the court spectacle come March.

'Oh yeah,' he said, 'I'm gonna get a seat in the front row.'

## Graphic

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JOE SALVATI

**Load-Date:** August 11, 2012

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End of Document

Take it from framed man: 'FBI has a license to kill'



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The Boston Herald

August 10, 2012 Friday

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**Load-Date:** August 11, 2012

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End of Document

TESTIMONY CENTERS ON JAI ALAI MURDERS; HIT MAN: DEFENDANT PRESSURED HIM TO KILL;  
BULGER TRIAL**TESTIMONY CENTERS ON JAI ALAI MURDERS; HIT MAN: DEFENDANT  
PRESSURED HIM TO KILL; BULGER TRIAL**

Hartford Courant (Connecticut)

June 19, 2013 Wednesday

FINAL - 5 EDITION

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**Section:** MAIN; Pg. A1**Length:** 1240 words**Byline:** EDMUND H. MAHONY, , [emahony@courant.com](mailto:emahony@courant.com)**Dateline:** BOSTON --**Body**

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One of James "Whitey" Bulger's closest associates implicated the crime boss Tuesday in a string of murders connected to their gang's failed effort to skim hundreds of thousands of dollars from the gambling businesses once operated by the World Jai Alai company in Florida and Connecticut.

At one point in the conspiracy, with the skim doomed and Bulger's Winter Hill Gang the subject for the first time of serious law enforcement attention, the associate -- gang hit man John Martorano -- said that Bulger pressed him to kill one of his best friends as part of a coverup. Martorano said he agreed because Bulger had learned from a corrupt FBI agent that the friend was likely to talk.

"How did you feel about that?" Assistant U.S. Attorney Fred Wyshak asked.

"Very bad," Martorano replied.

For years, the murders tied to the jai alai industry were one of Connecticut's most stubborn crime mysteries. The state became the first to legalize gambling on the fast-paced Basque sport in the late 1970s, when World Jai Alai tried to expand beyond its base in Florida. Thirty years ago, Connecticut was home to three jai alai gambling venues called frontons.

Martorano's account of the murders came during his second day as a key government witness at Bulger's racketeering trial. Bulger is accused of 19 killings -- four of them tied to jai alai -- and other crimes that date to the 1970s.

Most of Martorano's testimony has been a terse and emotionally flat recitation of the details of violent death, illustrated by prosecutors with grainy projections of 35-year-old crime scene Polaroids.

TESTIMONY CENTERS ON JAI ALAI MURDERS; HIT MAN: DEFENDANT PRESSURED HIM TO KILL;  
BULGER TRIAL

But the pace slowed Tuesday when prosecutors questioned Martorano about events beginning in 1981 when, he said, former World Jai Alai President John B. Callahan approached the leaders of the Winter Hill Gang -- then Bulger, Martorano and Stephen "the Rifleman" Flemmi -- with a plan to take over the business by force.

Roger Wheeler, a millionaire industrialist in Tulsa, Okla., had just bought the company. Callahan, a Boston native, had been forced to resign as its president after state police detectives in Connecticut, where he had applied for a gambling license, found him socializing at Boston night spots such as the Playboy Club with Martorano's brother and other members of the Winter Hill Gang.

"He was a high-priced accountant days," Martorano testified. "And put on a leather jacket and wanted to hang out with rogues at night."

"Did you ever hear the phrase 'Wannabe gangster?' " Wyshak asked.

"That's what he was," Martorano said.

When Callahan was company president, his drinking buddies in the Boston underworld began showing up in management positions. Martorano testified Tuesday that Callahan told him in the early 1980s that the new owner, Wheeler, had begun an internal investigation based on suspicion that someone had been stealing from the business. Callahan was afraid he would end up in jail.

Martorano said that Callahan's solution, at least initially, was to buy the business from Wheeler.

"He had the financing," Martorano said. "He figured that would stop the investigation."

But Wheeler refused to sell, Martorano said, and Callahan decided to hire the Winter Hill Gang to kill him.

Martorano said that Callahan made the decision after consulting with H. Paul Rico, a retired Boston FBI agent with ties to Flemmi and other members of the Winter Hill Gang. Callahan had hired him as World's head of security and Wheeler had retained him. Martorano said that Rico convinced Callahan that, with Wheeler out of the way, his widow could be persuaded to sell.

"Callahan wanted to get Mr. Wheeler killed so he wouldn't get in trouble," Martorano testified. "He said that he discussed it with Paul Rico. If Roger Wheeler wasn't on the scene, they could put the proposal to his wife."

The gang's payoff would be a skim of \$10,000 or so a week from World Jai Alai's cash concessions, such as parking and food, Martorano testified. Under Callahan's plan, Martorano said, Callahan would take back control of the business. The Winter Hill Gang, in return for the skim, would prevent other criminal groups from trying to push their way in.

"He didn't think that the Mafia would bother him if we were with him," Martorano testified.

When the Wheeler murder was proposed, Martorano was hiding in Florida after being indicted in a conspiracy to fix horse races. He said he discussed the proposition with Flemmi by telephone and was told that Bulger had agreed.

Martorano said he and another gang member flew to Tulsa in May of 1981. He said they found Wheeler based on details about his appearance and golf schedule that Martorano was told came from Rico. Martorano said he put on a fake beard and a pair of sunglasses and shot Wheeler in the face after the industrialist's weekly 18 holes at Southern Hills Country Club.

"I saw a guy coming over the hill carrying a briefcase," Martorano said. "It looked like him. He was heading toward that car. So I head toward that car. He opened the door and got in. So I opened the door and shot him. Between the eyes."

To make their point, prosecutors projected a morgue photograph of the bullet hole in Wheeler's face.

TESTIMONY CENTERS ON JAI ALAI MURDERS; HIT MAN: DEFENDANT PRESSURED HIM TO KILL;  
BULGER TRIAL

Within a year, Martorano testified, Callahan's plan to acquire World Jai Alai and avoid arrest was falling apart.

Callahan, it turned out, had confided his plan to kill Wheeler to a drunken, disaffected Winter Hill hanger-on named Edward Brian Halloran. When Halloran was charged in Boston with an unrelated murder, he tried to trade the Wheeler conspiracy to the FBI for leniency.

Martorano said he learned about Halloran during an emergency meeting in New York with Bulger and Flemmi in the late spring or early summer of 1982.

He said Bulger told him he had gunned down Halloran in broad daylight on a busy South Boston street after learning from an FBI agent he was paying that Halloran had become an informant against the Winter Hill Gang. Martorano testified that gang members referred to the agent, John Connolly, as "Zip."

"He said that Halloran had went to the FBI and told them that I had killed Wheeler," Martorano testified. "Bulger said he learned this from his friend Zip."

The killing of Halloran, who had applied for admission to the witness protection program, had brought intense pressure on the gang in Boston, Martorano said.

He said he learned from Bulger that law enforcement was about to turn its attention to Callahan, and the gang doubted he would hold up.

Martorano testified that Bulger also claimed to have killed Halloran as a favor to him. Martorano said Bulger was then pressing him to kill Callahan, a close personal friend for whom he had killed Wheeler.

"He said that Zip told him that Callahan is going to get so much pressure on him that he is going to fold and we are all going to go to jail for the rest of our life," Martorano testified. "Bulger did all the talking. Stevie just listened. They thought that he wouldn't hold up; they wanted to take him out."

"I objected," Martorano said. "Callahan was a friend of mine. I had just killed a man for him, risked my life. I didn't want to kill Callahan. Eventually, they convinced me. It was two against one and it was three of us. And I finally agreed, 'It has got to be done.' "

While he was a fugitive in Florida, Martorano testified, he had the use of Callahan's car and a condominium Callahan owned. The next time Callahan flew down from Boston for a weekend, Martorano said, he met him at the airport and shot him in the head.

**Load-Date:** June 20, 2013



U.S. REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS DAVIS (R-VA) HOLDS HEARING ON CONTINUING INVESTIGATIONS  
OF THE USE OF INFORMANTS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



**U.S. REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS DAVIS (R-VA) HOLDS HEARING ON  
CONTINUING INVESTIGATIONS OF THE USE OF INFORMANTS BY THE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

FDCH Political Transcripts

June 19, 2003 Thursday

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**Section:** COMMITTEE HEARING

**Length:** 40645 words

**Byline:** HOUSE GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS DAVIS (R-VA), CHAIRMAN

**Body**

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM HOLDS A HEARING ON  
CONTINUING INVESTIGATIONS OF THE USE OF INFORMANTS BY THE DOJ

JUNE 19, 2003

SPEAKERS:

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OF THE USE OF INFORMANTS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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U.S. REPRESENTATIVE LINDA T. SANCHEZ (D-CA)

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U.S. REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD SANDERS (I-VT)

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS DAVIS (R-VA) HOLDS HEARING ON CONTINUING INVESTIGATIONS  
OF THE USE OF INFORMANTS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WITNESS:

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM DELAHUNT (D-MA)

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE MARTIN MEEHAN (D-MA)

WILLIAM BULGER

FORMER MASSACHUSETTS STATE SENATE PRESIDENT AND

BROTHER OF FUGITIVE JAMES "WHITEY" BULGER

T. DAVIS: The committee will come to order and I will begin.

We're here today to receive testimony from William Bulger. During the 107th Congress, the committee conducted an investigation of the FBI's misuse of informants in New England from 1964 until the present. The committee held a number of hearings and conducted hundreds of interviews under the leadership of then-Chairman Dan Burton.

Mr. Bulger's testimony is the next step of the committee's investigation into the use of informants by the Department of Justice. James "Whitey" Bulger was an informant for the FBI in Boston. Whitey Bulger was repeatedly able to avoid arrest due to information illegally leaked by his FBI handler, John Connolly. When Whitey Bulger was finally indicted in 1995, he received advanced warning from Connolly and fled.

Federal and state authorities continue to look for him. Whitey Bulger is currently wanted on 18 counts of murder, as well as other racketeering offenses, some of which were committed during his tenure as an FBI informant. He is currently listed on the FBI's 10 Most Wanted List.

As a result of John Connolly's improper relationship with James Bulger, Connolly was convicted of racketeering and obstruction of justice and is now serving a 10-year prison sentence.

I don't believe it's a coincidence that current FBI Director Bob Mueller recently asked former Attorney General Griffin Bell to conduct a review of the FBI's Office of Professional Responsibility. The revelations about John Connolly's conduct call into serious question the deterrent value of the FBI's internal review process.

Connolly grew up in the same south Boston neighborhood as the Bulger family. As an adult, John Connolly was a friend of James Bulger's brother, William. William Bulger served as president of the Massachusetts Senate from 1978 to 1996, and is currently the president of the University of Massachusetts.

Pursuant to subpoena, William Bulger appeared before this committee on December 6, 2002. At that time, Mr. Bulger exercised his Fifth Amendment privilege and refused to testify. On April 9, 2003, this committee voted to grant William Bulger immunity to obtain information concerning Whitey's whereabouts and the FBI's misuse of informants.

The purpose of this hearing is to get to the truth about the impact that the misconduct of John Connolly had on the proper functioning of state government in Massachusetts. The record of this committee's investigation plainly establishes that the FBI's improper relationship with its informants corrupted and distorted the efforts of state law enforcement.

Joseph Salvati went to prison for 30 years for the Deegan (ph) murder when the FBI had evidence that Salvati was not the killer.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS DAVIS (R-VA) HOLDS HEARING ON CONTINUING INVESTIGATIONS  
OF THE USE OF INFORMANTS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

This hearing, however, will focus on whether the relationship between John Connolly and Whitey Bulger benefited Whitey Bulger's brother, William Bulger, while he was a high-ranking elected official in Massachusetts.

The issues include whether as a result of that relationship the FBI improperly protected or advanced Mr. Bulger's career during his tenure in the Massachusetts legislature; whether Mr. Bulger used his position of power to retaliate against those who investigated Whitey's crimes; whether Mr. Bulger knew of the relationship and sought, or at least knew that he received favorable treatment as a result of the relationship; and finally, whether Mr. Bulger has knowledge on James' whereabouts and the efforts of the FBI to locate his brother.

Getting to the truth about these issues will reassure the public that these matters have been thoroughly and fairly investigated and contribute to the restoration of public confidence in government.

The disclosure of the improper relationship between John Connolly and James Bulger has cast a new light on events involving William Bulger. The committee will examine whether the investigation and prosecution of former Senate Majority Leader Joseph DiCarlo (ph) on federal corruption charges was intended to benefit Mr. Bulger, who became Senate president following that scandal.

T. DAVIS: The committee will also examine whether Mr. Bulger has any information regarding allegations that John Connolly sought to terminate prematurely an investigation of possible corruption in connection with the 75 State Street matter -- a real estate development project in the 1980s.

The committee will ask whether Mr. William Bulger had any connection in the demotion of a Massachusetts state police officer who in September 1987 filed an incident report regarding an attempt to stop Whitey Bulger at Logan Airport after \$500,000 was discovered in his bag. The officer, Billy Johnson, later committed suicide. Mr. Johnson claimed his superior requested a copy of this incident report regarding James Bulger on behalf of William Bulger.

The committee will also examine whether Mr. Bulger was aware of an amendment to the state budget which would have required state police officers -- 50 or older -- to take a reduction in pay, in rank or retire. The amendment which was later vetoed by the governor would have only affected five officers in Boston. Two of the five officers had participated in the Lancaster Street garage investigation, involving Whitey Bulger and other leaders of the Boston mob.

The misuse of informants in Boston has left an indelible mark on the public's perception of the FBI. The Department of Justice was supposed to enlist the use of informants to apprehend and prosecute high-ranking members of the mob.

Instead, certain FBI special agents in Boston, including John Connolly, chose to break the law by participating in corrupt relationships with their informant. The agents turned a blind eye to the crimes committed by their informant and participated in dismantling state and federal investigations of the New England mob by tipping off their informants to wiretaps, surveillance and pending indictments.

The agents chose personal gain over ethics by forming social relationships with their informant that exceeded the boundaries established by FBI guidelines. The agent handlers accepted personal and monetary gifts from their informants.

This committee will examine all of these issues to gain a full understanding of the serious impact of FBI's misconduct in the case. Only by having a full understanding can we take steps to make sure that it never happens again.

I now recognize our ranking member, Mr. Waxman, for his opening statement.

WAXMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

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I welcome this opportunity to hear from William Bulger and to give him a chance to answer the committee's questions in a public session. This is the 10th day of hearings on law enforcement abuses related to the Boston office of the FBI.

During the committee's hearings, we have learned that the FBI profoundly abused the public trust. It is now beyond dispute that agents in the Boston office of the FBI protected organized crime, or figures who committed murders and other violent crimes, helped send innocent people to jail, warned suspected criminals of impending indictments, accepted bribes and committed other illegal acts.

The person alleged to be at the center of much of this illegal conduct is James "Whitey" Bulger, who is now one of the 10 Most Wanted Fugitives in the United States. Whitey Bulger is accused of committing multiple murders and running a brutal criminal organization in New England.

Almost like the biblical parable of Cain and Abel, his brother William Bulger took a completely different path. He became a major political figure in Massachusetts and the president of his public university.

William Bulger is here today to answer questions about whether he has information on the whereabouts of his brother, Whitey; whether he was involved in or knew about the corrupt relationship between his brother, Whitey, and the former FBI special agent, John Connolly; and whether he used his public office to protect his brother or to protect himself in various law enforcement investigations.

WAXMAN: I welcome the opportunity to explore these questions with Mr. Bulger. But I would add one final point before we proceed.

When the committee considered granting Mr. Bulger immunity in April, I gave my support, reluctantly, because I was concerned that Mr. Bulger not be singled out for political purposes. I still have some of those concerns, given the ongoing political disputes brewing in Massachusetts. But I'm guided by Justice Brandeis's oft-quoted statement, "Sunshine is the best disinfectant."

Questions have been raised about what Mr. Bulger knows. It is in everyone's interest, even Mr. Bulger's, for these questions to be answered in public.

And perhaps most important, the families of the victims of Whitey Bulger need to know that no effort has been spared to find the truth.

I look forward to hearing Mr. Bulger's testimony today.

I yield back my time.

T. DAVIS: Thank you very much.

The gentleman from Indiana, who started these investigations, has played a very active role, Mr. Burton.

BURTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad we finally are able to get on with this.

Two years ago, Joe Salvati and his wife sat at that table, and he spent 30-some years in prison for a crime he didn't commit. And we found out that all the way up to J. Edgar Hoover it was pretty apparent that he was innocent and they were protecting informants.

And that's because our government let them down. The FBI was protecting a killer named Jimmy Flemmi, and it didn't matter to even the people at the highest levels of the FBI that innocent people were going to prison and possibly going to die in prison.

We've learned a lot since Joe and Marie Salvati were here. When we started, we had a suspicion that terrible things had happened. Now we have some more facts, facts about innocent men who were left to die in prison so that government informants could go free; facts about the Joe "The Animal" Barboza, who lied for the government

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and who was protected while he committed crimes, including murder, after he went into the witness protection program; facts about Paul Rico, his sordid conduct as an FBI agent and his subsequent career as an organized crime facilitator at World Jai Lai, where some have testified he helped murder Roger Wheeler; facts about John Connolly and some of his corrupt FBI cronies in Boston, who didn't seem to care that their informants were out killing people; and finally, facts about Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi and James Whitey Bulger, who were allowed to murder with impunity.

The story is so sickening it's easy to lose sight of the forest for the trees.

BURTON: Today, however, we have an opportunity to step back and look at the big picture, and it's my sincere hope that this will be a positive step in the committee's investigation.

I've called what happened in Boston one of the greatest failures or the greatest failure in the history of federal law enforcement. In two years, no one has come up with an example that is half as bad as what happened in Boston. And I think that the government owes the people of New England an apology, but the fault cannot be put exclusively on the federal government.

Perhaps as important, there was a climate in Boston that permitted Joe Barboza, Jimmy and Steve Flemmi, and Whitey Bulger to get away with murder, multiple murders, literally. And to understand this climate we have to talk to people like Whitey Bulger's brother, Billy Bulger, who was president of the Senate.

For over 30 years, Boston was living the fable of the emperor's new clothes. I'm sure we all know that fable. Remember the story about an arrogant leader who spent his money on new clothes, and then one day two rogues came to him and commissioned a new suit, and he was told that the clothes would be invisible to all who were unfit for his office or simple in character. And when the emperor finally was presented with nothing, he could not admit that he could not see the suit, and his followers were too scared to admit they saw nothing so the emperor paraded through the streets wearing no clothes. Finally, a little child said that the emperor has nothing on at all.

In Boston, two of the rogues were Stevie Flemmi and Whitey Bulger. The appearance of being the emperor was William Bulger, and the question is: Did he know what the rogues were doing? Was he protecting in any way what the rogues were doing?

It's hard to conclude after the investigations that we've conducted over the last couple of years that he did not.

People knew that Bulger and Flemmi were criminals. They knew about the bookmaking and the loan-sharking. They knew about drug dealing and gun running. And some even knew about the murders. But for some reason nothing seemed to happen.

People could not bring themselves to speak the truth. Now we know why -- they were scared. They were terrified, and many still are. They were terrified because the local establishment tolerated Whitey Bulger and Stevie Flemmi. It facilitated their conduct. It enabled them, and no one seems to doubt that William Bulger, through the example he set, played a major role in helping his brother stay on the streets.

William Bulger did not describe his brother in front of hundreds of people at his chair of St. Patrick's Day festivities as the reverend, because he thought he was a good man. He did it because he knew that no one would question him. He knew they would laugh with him. Everyone was in on the joke, but it wasn't a joke -- ask Debbie Davis's family, ask Joe and Ann Marie Salvati, ask David Wheeler who told this committee about how his dad was killed.

Making light of, quote, "the reverend," speaks volumes about why we're here today.

BURTON: And now people are coming forward and years of silence are being broken, but we're far from finished. We have a lot of work to do. And I hope that Chairman Davis will devote the time and energy to going forward with this investigation.

We still have not seen the Bulger or Flemmi informant files, and we need the chairman's help to get that done.

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It's taken several months, but we have Mr. Bulger with us and I look forward asking him about many things today -- as well as my colleagues.

And I hope that Mr. Bulger will be concise with his answers and not ramble on, because we have a lot of questions we'd like to get answered and we'd like him to be concise and direct to the answers posed as much as possible.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

T. DAVIS: Thank you very much.

Any other members wish to give opening statements?

The gentleman from Massachusetts, Mr. Lynch?

(UNKNOWN): (OFF-MIKE)

T. DAVIS: Let me start this. We'll go through seniority, give an opportunity to Mr. Tierney.

TIERNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you and the preceding chairman, Mr. Burton, for having these hearings on the FBI misconduct.

For nearly 40 years the FBI agents in Boston have recruited members of organized crime to act as bureau informants. Some of the same agents may have been recruited by organized crime, or in some odd zealotry to pursue information for criminal informants against other criminals, some law enforcement, FBI agents, appear to have ignored or covered up criminal conduct of their informants to preserve cases against other targets.

The result has been a corrupt system where FBI agents protected informants at the expense of innocent citizens. The FBI and possibly other Department of Justice people are now alleged to have been complicit in miscarriages of justice, where some went to jail on tainted evidence, where discretion about whether or not to investigate and prosecute certain cases was improperly exercised.

This oversight committee has particular responsibility to determine the exact nature of these corrupt relationships, to identify all participants -- however wide or deep or how high up the chain it went -- to ensure that victims see justice done and to implement any necessary guidelines that the Department of Justice or laws or rules and regulations that will be necessary to prevent any repeat in Boston or elsewhere.

We're confronted with the new security dynamic where many are pressing for expanded law enforcement powers and less constitutional constraint on trespass against individual rights.

TIERNEY: Many people are concerned, and the facts such as those in this investigation give rise and voice to that concern: Is the FBI reliable enough to properly use any enlarged powers? Is the Department of Justice and ultimately Congress acting to ensure citizens' constitutional rights are protected?

People need to know that the FBI agents will enforce the law and not undermine it.

Already we've had hearings disclosing outrageous injustices and law enforcement's transgressions. We heard expert testimony about possible recourse to prevent future transgression: from the United States Attorney General Reno's task force guidelines for prosecutors and law enforcement personnel, to expert witnesses recommending a broadening of the obstruction of justice law to include suppression of evidence as a punishable act, and extend beyond five years the statute of limitations relative to such offenses.

One witness provoked thought with the recommendation that Congress should federalize far fewer criminal laws.

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This committee is charged with evaluating the effectiveness of current standards of determining which of the above recommendations or others, if any, should be incorporated into new standards and with issuing a full report on the extent and exact nature of the conduct forming the basis of this investigation.

The latter aspect is where today's witness testimony may be relevant. To the extent that this witness has information bearing on the FBI or other law enforcement personnel's misconduct, especially concerning the handling of confidential informants, or information of other misconduct including cover-ups or inappropriate exercise of discretion in pressing cases, the testimony will be of interest and helpful to this investigation.

And so far as the witness now testifies under a grant of immunity, we have every right to expect that he will share any and all relevant information, that he will be direct, forthright and honest. And if he does that, then we can all perform our responsibilities.

I yield back the balance of my time.

T. DAVIS: Thank you very much.

Let me just say every member's statements will be included in the record.

I also ask unanimous consent that Mr. Meehan and Mr. Delahunt, who are not members of the committee, be allowed to participate in today's hearing.

And hearing no objection, so ordered.

Other members wish to make opening statements?

Everything will be included in the record.

Mr. Lynch?

DELAHUNT: Mr. Chairman?

T. DAVIS: Yes, Mr. Delahunt.

DELAHUNT: Yes, if I may.

First, in terms of I have a need to disclose the fact that Mr. Bulger's counsel, Mr. Kiley, has represented myself on a variety of election issues and is currently the treasurer of my own campaign committee. And I presume -- I have not heard from Mr. Kiley on the subject, and I clearly have not had any conversations with Mr. Bulger. But if there is any objections to me participating in this hearing on behalf of Mr. Bulger, I'd like to know that now.

If I may, Mr. Davis, proceed with the statement.

T. DAVIS: You may. I was going to get Mr. Lynch first though...

DELAHUNT: Certainly, I didn't know.

T. DAVIS: ... because he is a member of the committee.

DELAHUNT: I defer to my colleague.

T. DAVIS: But there's no objection, you're participating. We're happy to have you, and you're here at our invitation.

LYNCH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Davis, Mr. Waxman and my colleagues on this committee and invited members, Mr. Delahunt and Mr. Meehan of the Judiciary Committee, I'd like to begin by offering my thanks to the leadership of this committee --



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both Republican and Democrat, and both past and present -- for the enormous effort that's been put forward to investigate and address what must be described as one of the most shameful and troubling chapters in the history of the U.S. Justice Department and the FBI.

As a result of the good work of Federal District Judge Mark Wolf, which this committee has continued, under the able leadership of Chairman Burton and also Jim Wilson, very able counsel who served this committee very well, and also now Chairman Davis and able counsel Keith Osbrook (ph) and Mike Yeager, we have elicited and catalogued a 40-year history of unspeakable crimes and atrocities which were condoned, conducted or materially assisted by the Boston office of the FBI.

These atrocities include the murders of at least 19 individuals -- 17 men and two women -- some of whom have been retrieved from hastily dug graves, others who have yet to be found.

The trail of law enforcement misconduct also includes the wrongful imprisonment of innocent men who spent 30 or more years in prison for crimes they did not commit. While the government had evidence that would exonerate them, they were allowed to remain in prison because to expose the false testimony of government informants like Joe Barboza and others would have jeopardized the convictions of La Cosa Nostra in New England.

LYNCH: But I think, more importantly, it would have jeopardized the careers of those law enforcement officials who advanced themselves as a result of the prosecution of La Cosa Nostra through the use of these same informants.

The FBI, in league with their government informants, set forth a chain of events that spans 40 years. This crime spree saw the case of Brian Halloran (ph), who had turned to the FBI for protection in fear of his own life. He was turned away by the FBI, and only a short time later he and his friend, Michael Donahue (ph), who was an innocent bystander and who had merely given Mr. Halloran (ph) a ride, were gunned down in cold blood in my own neighborhood of south Boston.

Two other victims, Deborah Davis (ph) and Deborah Hussie (ph), were only 26 years old when they were murdered by the very men that the FBI had chosen to protect.

The record is replete with examples documented to obtain evidence against Whitey Bulger by law enforcement officials and also against Stephen Flemmi and their cohorts. But time and again, wiretap locations and surveillance attempts were thwarted by Agent John Connolly and other agents of the FBI who gave notice to their government informants of these attempts to bring them to justice, and so the killings continued.

The reach of this group was extensive, reaching to Florida and Oklahoma where businessman Roger Wheeler (ph) was shot in the face at point blank range in a parking lot, leaving behind a wife and young children.

The families of these victims have come to these hearings regularly, seeking justice where justice can be done. Others are merely hoping for a chance to give their loved ones a decent burial. For most of these families, especially for those members who were merely children when their family members were taken, justice under any fair description of that term is simply beyond reach.

Lives have been destroyed and, in some cases, stolen. This is especially true for Mr. Joseph Salvati and his wife, Marie and their children, as well as the Lamoni (ph) family and the Greco (ph) family and the Tamilio (ph) family.

These families had to look on while their loved ones were sent to jail for a crime the FBI knew that they did not commit. And I would be remiss if I did not note the good work of Vincent Garel (ph), legal counsel for the Salvati family, who for these many years has maintained the highest standards of professionalism and vigilant legal advocacy on behalf of a man who was wrongly convicted.

LYNCH: And in the reams and reams of testimony that we've received over the past two years, there's one conversation that sticks out in my mind and it sort of captures the scope and the depth of the wrongdoing that we investigate here -- the conversation between Mr. Garrow (ph) and Joseph Salvatti's (ph) youngest son, who I think was two years old when his dad went to prison.

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Some 30 years later when Joseph Salvatti (p) was a young man, Mr. Garrow has a conversation with Joseph Salvatti's (ph) son and he said, "You know, you were only two years old when your dad went to prison and you've sort of been the man in the family for all these years." And he said, "Now it looks as though your dad is going to get out of jail and when he gets out, he's going to want to be the man of this house."

It was a light moment in a history of darkness. And Joseph's reply was this. He said, "Mr. Garrow (ph), I want you to know that I have never sat down and had breakfast with my father; I have never gone for a walk with my father; I have never gone to a baseball game with my father. And if when my father gets out of prison, he wishes to exercise his right to be the man of this house, then I'll be happy to allow him to do that."

That conversation -- probably for me -- solidified the sense of wrongness that's been done here as well, the special nature of the FBI wrongdoing that has gone on here. The American public -- I think has yet -- well, is probably just beginning to grasp the depth and the breadth of what really went on during the course of FBI misconduct. In fact, it is perhaps hard to grasp because the facts are so unbelievable.

I was disappointed recently to read a court decision that prevented the Wheeler (ph) family from bringing suit against the FBI and law enforcement officials that law enforcement was culpable in the death of their father. They were told by the court that they should have brought their claims previously; that they should have known.

They should have known that the FBI was in league with organized crime? That's unbelievable. That defies the wildest imagination.

And yet these people are being precluded from justice, precluded from any recovery because they did not know that the FBI was in league with organized crime.

LYNCH: And yet we in government have empowered the FBI through our laws and through government regulations to operate in secrecy, and I hope at some point we will revisit the cases of these victims.

Nevertheless, we only compound injustice when we seek to avoid the conflict of these offenses with the highest expectations of American democracy, when we simply wish it all to go away, to be over with, because some of these events happened so long ago and have been concealed for so long.

But it remains essential for the highest ideals of our system of justice and to the fabric of constitutional democracy that the Congress and this committee fulfill its responsibility to the victims in this case and also to the institutions of government that have been so maligned.

We must continue to address this outrage honestly and in a spirit of justice that has been for so long denied. It is an admitted fact that certain agents and supervisors of the FBI recruited and employed criminal informants in order to undermine the New England La Cosa Nostra, and that in the course of cultivating and employing these informants, these FBI agents became corrupted themselves.

This corruption included agents who took cash, bribes totalling thousands of dollars from the same criminals who have been indicted in at least 19 murders. I think it is very important for the members of this committee to be mindful that the Justice Department itself is charged with upholding and enforcing the laws, and that we as lawmakers have passed those laws and supported regulations which give the FBI an enhanced ability to operate in secrecy.

Moreover, we have so empowered the FBI and the Justice Department that local and state law enforcement authorities have been and can be in the future intimidated and obstructed in the pursuit of justice when, as in this case, the FBI asserts jurisdiction.

In the course of this investigation we have seen citizens murdered because they turned to the FBI for protection. If we were examining actions of the KGB in the Soviet Union during the Cold War, or if we were condemning the butchery of secret police in some struggling Third World country, we would instinctively -- when we read about those atrocities -- take comfort in the protections of our constitutional government.

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I think it's generally the case when we read about things like that we say to ourselves, thank God that couldn't happen here. Well, it happened here. It happened here and we've got to wake up to that fact.

The American public has yet to wake up to the fact, but we have witnessed in these committee hearings a collapse of certain constitutional protections. In constitutional terms, this is like a 40-year sinkhole -- a period where the underpinnings of democracy were allowed to decay, in which the individual protections guaranteed by our Constitution were subverted in the interest of pursuing La Cosa Nostra.

Ultimately, this investigation is about the actions taken by the Justice Department and the FBI; it is not about the particular witness before us. By way of my own disclosure, today's witness and I each have the pleasure and honor of living in south Boston, a solid, patriotic, close-knit community where we all know each other.

Mr. Bulger and I each shared the high honor of representing the good people of south Boston in Dorchester in the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

LYNCH: Similarly, we both served in the Senate and actually briefly served together in the Massachusetts legislature. And I have had the unique opportunity to witness Mr. Bulger's distinguished career of public service -- one that, in my opinion, has met the highest professional standard of excellence.

At the same time, growing up in the housing projects of south Boston I also had ample opportunity to see families that were greatly harmed by the influence of organized crime and indirectly by the effects of the misdeeds by the FBI who protected those criminals. And in the end, we have an overriding responsibility and a sacred trust to protect those families and answer to those families as well.

It may very well be that in the end this hearing is only marginally productive. Indeed, some of the areas of inquiry that we'll hear about today occurred some 35 or 40 years ago. However, it is the abiding principle of justice that now compels this committee to exercise due diligence and requires us to ask for every assistance and exploring to the fullest extent the FBI wrongdoing that is the core focus of these hearings.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield at this time.

T. DAVIS: Thank you very much.

The gentleman from Connecticut, Mr. Shays.

SHAYS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Not a long statement, but just to say that I am truly stunned that the president of a major university system would feel it necessary to exercise his Fifth Amendment right and say that he's only going to tell the truth if he's able to come before us with immunity.

SHAYS: Also to thank Chairman Burton for his extraordinary work previous to your very fine work, Mr. Chairman, and to thank you for following up.

To thank Mr. Waxman and the Democratic colleagues for our work on this committee on a very bipartisan basis and to welcome our colleagues from Massachusetts who aren't on this committee.

To say to you that I have still not gotten over how Mr. Salvatti (ph) and his beautiful wife and family had to deal with this issue, and the failure of our government to right this wrong.

And then to say, in conclusion, that I'm going to defer questions on Mr. Bulger to others and listen to what he says to them under oath and with immunity. But I believe without any hesitation to say to you that this is a story about corrupt law enforcement on the federal, state and local level, but particularly the FBI; it's a story of political corruption, deep and serious; and it's a story of organized crime, and they all mix together in this incredible cocktail that resulted in the Salvattis (ph) spending 30 years of their lives without each other.

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I am grateful you had this hearing, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for the opportunity to make that statement.

T. DAVIS: Thank you very much.

Again, members will have five legislative days to get their remarks in the record, but members who feel compelled to speak will be allowed to speak.

Mr. Clay?

CLAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Very short statement.

I welcome the continuation of this hearing from the 107th Congress. I'd also like to applaud the committee for its in-depth work in helping to uncover important facts concerning the FBI's tactics and its previous use of informants in the Boston area.

The use of informants by law enforcement is as old as law enforcement itself. Today's hearing hopefully will play a part in the restoration of public confidence in law enforcement matters. We know a few facts surrounding the investigation of Whitey Bulger, and one of them is that John Connolly, Whitey Bulger and today's witness, William Bulger, lived close to each other as children in south Boston.

And on April 9, 2003, this committee voted to grant today's witness, William Bulger, immunity to obtain information concerning the whereabouts of his brother, Whitey.

Mr. Chairman, this is some of what we know so far. However, after we have had an opportunity to formally question today's witness, I am certain this committee will learn much more and move closer to uncovering the rest of the truth about Whitey Bulger.

Finally, I would encourage this committee to remember that William Bulger is not on trial and should not be treated as such. He is only guilty of being the brother of a man that does not have the same respect for the law as he does.

CLAY: Hopefully, he will share with us what he knows about his brother's former associates, illegal activities and whereabouts.

And I ask unanimous consent to submit my entire statement in its entirety into the record, Mr. Chairman.

T. DAVIS: Thank you very much. Without objection, so ordered.

Do any other members of the committee wish to be recognized? If not, let me get to Mr. Delahunt and then to Mr. Meehan. This is of great concern to the both of you.

DELAHUNT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for the invitation.

As others have indicated, the committee has focused now for many months on the operation of the Boston office of the FBI. And as others have indicated there have been a number of profoundly disturbing revelations as to the misconduct and questionable practices that span decades in that particular office.

It's been established clearly that information in the possession of the FBI could have exonerated innocent men who did serve more than 30 years each for crimes that the FBI knew they did not commit, and yet the bureau never felt the need to come forward with that information.

And as important, information was withheld from state and local law enforcements as well as other federal agencies that put individuals and communities at risk from some of the most violent criminals in this country's history. Some murders might not have occurred if the bureau had fulfilled its responsibilities to be more forthcoming.

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It is important to remember that Joe Barboza was relocated to California and there was testimony that was taken by this committee from state and local authorities that established that they had never received any notification of Mr. Barboza's presence in their community. And while there, Mr. Barboza committed a murder.

And then, while serving time for that particular homicide, federal authorities intervened in his behalf before the parole board. I think we all can agree that that is unacceptable and unconscionable and that's why the work of this committee over the course of 10 public hearings now has been so essential.

And I really want to commend the former chair, Mr. Burton. He has been accused in the past of being a partisan, but it was Dan Burton that took on his own administration, that threatened the attorney general of the United States with contempt unless the documents that this particular committee was seeking were provided to the committee.

DELAHUNT: And I know he can speak for himself, but again, I don't believe we have received the kind of cooperation from the Department of Justice that this committee should have and that the American people deserve.

But my concern isn't limited to the conduct of the FBI just simply in Boston. It goes beyond that.

As Senator Grassley of Iowa has said, a culture of concealment that has eroded the confidence of the American people in the FBI and in the Department of Justice reflects what the FBI is about, and unfortunately at the moment in history when the American people yearned for confidence in their Justice Department given the events of September 11th. But it does go far beyond just the office in Boston.

All we have to do is remember that back in the 1960s, information that would have assisted in the prosecution of those responsible for the church bombings in Alabama was not disclosed.

Questions surrounding the work done in the FBI laboratories; the so-called Jewell matter, where an individual was identified as responsible for the bombing during the course of the Atlanta Olympics, and the case was never moved forward; and to the recent prosecution of Wen Ho Lee, where a federal district court judge apologized to Mr. Lee on behalf of the American people because of the work of the FBI. So this is not just about the Boston office of the FBI.

In the four terms that I've been here, the most astounding testimony I've heard from any witness was presented last December in Boston during the course of a field hearing. And in response to a question from my friend and colleague to my left, Mr. Meehan, Jeremiah O'Sullivan, former U.S. attorney, former head of the Organized Crime Strike Force, who knows the FBI well, made this statement: "If you go against the FBI, they will try to get you. They will wage war on you."

Please reflect on that statement, my colleagues.

This is a culture that requires radical surgery. It can't stand and what is necessary, as others have suggested, is transparency where appropriate and accountability.

DELAHUNT: With that, I yield back. And I thank the chair for the invitation.

T. DAVIS: Mr. Meehan?

MEEHAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I, too, want to thank the chair and the former chair for their work in this matter. Congressman Delahunt and I, way back as early as 1998, had requested that the House Judiciary Committee conduct hearings, given our jurisdiction over the Justice Department.

And, frankly, it took courage and perseverance to hold these hearings. No one likes to have a hearing on the FBI knowing that the FBI is not going to be too happy about the outcome of it. But I'm going to tell you something: The results of this hearing and the misconduct at the Boston FBI office is just absolutely incredible.

And I know, as a former prosecutor, from personal experience that informants make a significant and indeed an essential contribution to federal, state and local law enforcement efforts. Informants have been extremely useful in

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organized crime cases, in that it's a way to infiltrate, it's a way that you get rats within the organization to provide information.

That having been said, the events in Boston certainly demand that this Congress needs greater scrutiny. Attorney general of the United States testified before the Judiciary Committee 10 days or so ago looking for broader powers under the PATRIOT II Act, more secrecy under the guise of, "We have to protect the United States from terrorism."

We had better not give any more authority to the FBI or any law enforcement agency until we clear up the culture that is so evident in the case that's before us. Whitey Bulger was a government informant and is alleged to have committed eight murders while a government informant, while he was an informant for the government, and there's evidence to suggest that the FBI either knew about it or looked the other way.

And if anybody needs more evidence of why we need to make sure we keep a focus on the FBI, just look at this morning's Boston Herald, where, apparently, there are two individuals, employees of a hotel in the Caribbean, who say that they've seen Whitey Bulger. No one in St. Vincent has been interviewed by the FBI. None of the witnesses have been interviewed by the FBI. I have no idea why they haven't, but it makes me wonder how aggressive this pursuit is in the case.

Now, I don't know if the witness before us has any information, can shed any light on this. But I just want to thank the chairman and the former chairman, because the work that we are doing in terms of oversight of the FBI is important.

Remember, J. Edgar Hoover was bugging Martin Luther King, not because he thought he may have committed a crime, but he wanted to embarrass him. There's all kind of evidence to demonstrate that this Congress has a responsibility to make sure that this never happens again.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

T. DAVIS: I thank the gentleman.

If there are no other further statements, I would remind members they'll have until the end of the day to submit any statements for the record.

Mr. Bulger, it's the policy of the committee all witnesses be sworn before they testify. Would you please rise with me and raise your right hand?

T. DAVIS: Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

BULGER: I do.

T. DAVIS: Thank you.

Note for the record that Mr. Bulger is appearing before the committee pursuant to a subpoena issued by this committee and duly served by agreement by a facsimile on Mr. Bulger's lawyer on Tuesday. A copy of that subpoena will be placed in the record.

Mr. Kiley (ph), would you please introduce yourself?

T. DAVIS: Thank you. Thank you for being with us.

In order to allow time for more questions and discussion, Mr. Bulger, we're going to give you an opportunity to make your opening statement. We won't hold you to any time limit.

This is, I think, an important statement for you and for the committee, and again, thank you for being here.

BULGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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And I appreciate the courtesies that you, the members of this committee and the committee staff have extended to me.

I know this committee seeks to ensure that our law enforcement and criminal justice functions in an effective and appropriate manner, and I certainly applaud this effort.

One of the most basic duties government faces is to provide for the public safety. Government's efforts must be unwavering. Public confidence, when it is shaken, must be restored. People must feel secure about their lives, and people must be able to trust their government.

I understand that you have a specific interest in the activities of federal law enforcement officials in Massachusetts, and I will be happy to assist in any way.

I know that you have questions about my brother, James Bulger, and I will answer those questions.

With the chairman's indulgence, I would like to offer a few words about my brother.

Many words have been written about him, but few have been spoken by me. There are reasons why I have maintained a reticence on what, for me, is a difficult and painful subject. I recognize that my reluctance to comment has been vexing for some, and I also believe that it is responsible for some significant misunderstandings and misperceptions.

So please allow me to speak plainly. I do not know where my brother is. I do not know where he has been over the past eight years. I have not aided James Bulger in any way while he has been a fugitive.

Do I possess information that could lead to my brother's arrest? The honest answer is no.

I had one very brief telephone conversation with my brother. It occurred in 1995 and has long since been disclosed to law enforcement officials. Truth to tell, over the years I was unable to penetrate the secretive life of my older brother. He marched to his own drummer and traveled a path very different from mine.

Jim had his own ways I could not possibly influence. The realities of the situation were such that his activities were, in fact, shrouded in secrecy.

**BULGER:** They were never shared with me. It would be unfair to impute to me knowledge of my brother's associations, knowledge that I did not have, do not have.

Much has been made of that brief telephone call that I have mentioned -- a call that has become a topic of discussion because my grand jury testimony was released to a Boston newspaper in violation of federal law. Many people, including elected public officials have offered opinions about what was said or what was not said. But few, if any, have spoken about the illegal leaking that underlies the discussion.

Very few have questioned the system that allows a transcript of my grand jury testimony to be released to the Boston Globe but not to me. This call occurred in 1995 -- six years before my grand jury appearance. The subject of my brother turning himself in never came up in that conversation. I never recommended that my brother remain at large. In 1995 and in subsequent years, I believed that the FBI wanted James Bulger killed.

It has been established that an FBI agent, John Morris, in 1988 met with Boston Globe's spotlight (ph) team editor, Gerard O'Neill (ph), and told him that my brother was an informant -- information that was summarily published in the Boston Globe. Morris' leak had one purpose, pure and simple -- bringing about the death of James Bulger. And this is not just my hunch. This is the finding of U.S. District Court Judge Mark Bull (ph) after extensive hearings.

I know my brother stands accused of many things -- serious crimes, brutal crimes. I do still live in the hope that the worst of the charges against him will prove groundless; it is my hope. I am particularly sorry to think that he may

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have been guilty of some of the horrible things of which he is accused. He has heard me often enough speak of society's right to protect itself and to impose severe penalties on anyone guilty of such deeds.

I'm mindful of the victims in this matter and I do not have the words that are adequate to let them know of my own sympathy and anguish. But I am ever mindful of the good shepherd story and its lesson that no one is to be abandoned. I cared deeply for my brother but no one should construe my expression of concern as in any way condoning any illegal acts nor should anyone ever think that I take lightly this entire matter.

One political foe has made the claim that I have somehow made a choice of my brother over my civic duties and my public responsibilities. There is no basis in fact for such an assertion.

I had, in fact, been concerned about the direction of my brother's life for many years. In truth, my effort with Jim spanned the decades. My attempts to change my brother's life were unsuccessful; I wish that I could have achieved success. But I must tell you that reforming Jim Bulger was not my sole 24-hour a day focus during the 30-year period spanning his release from prison during the mid-1960s through his departure in 1995.

During that entire period, I served in the Massachusetts legislature.

BULGER: I was honored to serve in the Massachusetts House of Representatives for 10 years and subsequently in the Senate for 25 years, elected by my Senate colleagues for nine terms as president of the Senate. Legislative duties, as the members of this committee can fully appreciate, exact heavy demands. I met those demands.

I made contributions during 35 years of legislative service, authoring the first bill to require the reporting of child abuse, championing the cause of public education, public libraries and advocating for the health and safety of my urban constituents. I kept faith with my constituents and with my colleagues.

My wife and I were blessed with nine children and early on I recognized that this was a place where my energies must be focused. It was a responsibility I embraced. Our efforts have had a happy result. Those nine children have successfully completed and have been granted a graduate -- and graduated from college and six of them also completed graduate studies in the law and business and education, and our children of the parents of 24 grandchildren, some of whom are in my house on a daily basis.

So while I never abandoned hope or abandoned my efforts with respect to my brother, the truth is that other important things were happening in my life. I never wrote my brother off or walled him off, but public service and my own immediate family placed very large claims on me. It is natural to focus our efforts on those matters that we can affect.

And while I worried about my brother, I now recognize that I didn't fully grasp the dimensions of his life. Few people probably did. By definition, his was a secretive life. His actions were covert, hidden even from -- or perhaps hidden especially from those who loved and cared about him.

The subject that interests so many, the life and the activities of my brother James is painful and difficult for me. But it is a subject I've lived with for a long time. For years my political opponents, my detractors in the press and my adversaries in public debate have tried to use my brother in a cynical and calculated way in order to gain advantage.

I first sought political office in the year 1960. Be assured that the subject of my brother was contentious from the start. On the occasion of my first speech, a political foe told me that I should "be in jail" with my brother and it has been a refrain for 40 years.

Among the constituents of my legislative district and in the Massachusetts Senate, there was always an awareness of my brother. It was never a secret. But people understood that we were different people who lived different lives and should be judged separately.



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BULGER: When I was elected president of the educational institution I am privileged to lead, the University of Massachusetts, the members of the board of trustees knew of this circumstance in my life yet they judged me on my own merits and they have my lasting gratitude.

Now I am in a much larger arena where the audience is so vast that I cannot rely on its members having personal impressions of me as the basis for their judgments.

I know that in some quarters I will no longer be seen or judged as an individual. I doubt that, that happier time will ever return for me. But there is a reason to believe that a fairer perspective will surface again for those other family members who have shown great strength in the face of the onslaught by the media and by overzealous government authority.

Thank you.

T. DAVIS: Thank you, Mr. Bulger.

With the concurrence of the ranking minority member in pursuant to Committee Rule 14, I'll recognize the ranking minority and myself to control 30 minutes each. After this time, the committee will proceed under the five-minute rule.

I recognize myself for 30 minutes.

Mr. Bulger, your brother is accused of more than 20 murders. He led a life of crime for 30 years without being caught. One murder may have occurred at the house next door to yours. FBI agents apparently sat down for dinner there with mobsters, including one dinner at which you allegedly appeared.

When Stevie "The Rifleman" Flemmi was arrested and the shed next door was searched, a large stash of weapons was discovered. You became Senate president following the federal prosecution of other Senate leaders. Former FBI agent John Morris, who was one of Whitey's handlers, admitted that he took money from Whitey during the '75 State Street investigation.

A former assistant U.S. attorney has testified that John Connolly, now serving 10 years in jail for protecting Whitey, tried to terminate that investigation prematurely.

My question is did there come a time when you came to believe that the FBI had protected your brother and that John Connolly may have used his authority to protect you or advanced your political career?

BULGER: My counsel informs me that I'm supposed to make a statement at this time, Mr. Chairman.

I understand from your staff that your procedures require me to reassert my privilege under the Fifth Amendment in order to effectuate the order of Chief Judge Hogan (ph), and I do so at this time.

T. DAVIS: Well, because you've refused to answer I'm hereby -- under your statement we have to communicate to you an order issued by the district -- court for the District of Columbia.

The order provides in substance -- you may not refuse to provide evidence to this committee on the basis of your privilege against self-incrimination. It provides that evidence obtained for you under the order may not be used against you in any criminal proceeding.

A copy of the order is at the witness table, and without objection, will be placed in the record. Pursuant to the order, now you're directed to answer the questions put to you. This has been previously scripted.

Mr. Bulger, the immunity procedure is complete.

I'll repeat my question.

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Did there come a time when you came to believe that the FBI had protected your brother and that John Connolly may have used his authority to protect you or advance your political career?

BULGER: They're a couple of questions, Mr. Chairman.

BULGER: On the question of whether I came to the conclusion that there was, in fact, a relationship between the FBI and my brother, that is so. And I already alluded to the time that that first came to my attention. It was when Mr. Morris told the newspaper and the newspaper printed it. And that was later construed by Judge Wolf (ph) as an attempt by Mr. Morris to have my brother killed.

And on the matter of the second question, of John Connolly seeking to help me, I don't know of it, especially the instance that you've referenced, but John was a friend of mine and I assure you I never asked him to interfere in any such procedures -- never.

T. DAVIS: Were you aware at the time that he may have done that...

BULGER: No, I was not.

T. DAVIS: ... even though you didn't ask him?

BULGER: No.

T. DAVIS: You became president of the Massachusetts State Senate following the prosecution of former Senate Majority Leader Joseph DiCarlo (ph) on federal corruption charges.

BULGER: Right.

T. DAVIS: Did you have any knowledge of the DiCarlo (ph) investigation before it became public?

BULGER: No, we knew that there was an -- I knew there was an investigation going on because it was in the press and it was in the general rumor mill.

T. DAVIS: Did you ever discuss the DiCarlo (ph) investigation with John Connolly?

BULGER: I don't believe I ever did. I have no recollection of ever speaking to John Connolly about that matter.

T. DAVIS: But he was your friend at the time that was going on.

BULGER: He was.

T. DAVIS: In 1985 you received \$240,000 from a trust fund established by Tom Finnerty (ph), your law associate. The money came out of the same account into which Tom Finnerty (ph) had deposited \$500,000 that he received from Harold Brown (ph), a Boston real estate developer. Brown (ph) alleged that Finnerty (ph) extorted the \$500,000 as part of the real estate venture for 75 State Street.

As you're aware, we're here today to uncover as much information as possible about FBI misconduct in Boston and the effect it may have had on state politics. You were cleared by both the federal and Massachusetts state government of any wrongdoing concerning 75 State Street. Even if you did not participate in extorting money from Harold Brown (ph), there is still the underlying question of how the FBI agents who were your brother's handlers influenced the 75 State Street matter.

Boston FBI Special Agent John Morris was the supervisor of the Public Corruption Crimes Unit during the time of the 75 State Street investigation. Morris formerly served as the supervisor of the Boston Organized Crime Squad. Morris testified under oath of taking gifts and money from your brother Whitey, including \$5,000 in 1985.

What did you know of that relationship between your brother Whitey and Special Agent Morris?

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BULGER: I knew nothing of that relationship, Mr. Chairman.

T. DAVIS: Did you know Special Agent Morris?

BULGER: I don't think I ever met him, but I've seen someplace that he claims I met him. But I do not recall such a meeting.

May I make one further reference to...

T. DAVIS: Certainly.

BULGER: ... Mr. John Morris.

John Morris was disciplined back in 1988 or 1989 because I had volunteered to speak to the United States attorney about this whole matter of that investigation. I was anxious to tell them my side of the story. My attorney at the time asked the U.S. attorney's people, "Please treat this with great confidentiality because I'm a public figure and it would be harmful to me," and it was the United States attorney's office, a couple of counsel from that office, and also an FBI agent was seated at the table as I told my story.

BULGER: The next morning my phone rang, Mr. Chairman, and it was the Boston Globe and they wanted to know how the interview had gone. My attorney was indignant about that. And so he called for some kind of investigation of this episode at the FBI.

The FBI did exactly that and the conclusion was that John Morris had called the Globe about my interview and that John Morris was then disciplined -- you should know -- for this behavior. I've written about that myself in some little political writings about the idea that I had gone through all of this with these people and the only one who seems to be in trouble as a result of it is an FBI agent. And he was suspended, I think, for several weeks for his behavior. Unless I've met him at some point which could be true too. And that's my experience with John Morris.

T. DAVIS: Did you ever discuss the 75 State Street investigation with Whitey?

BULGER: I don't think so.

T. DAVIS: What about with John Connolly? A former assistant U.S. attorney testified at John Connolly's trial that Connolly sought to prematurely terminate that investigation at 75 State Street. Did you ever discuss...

BULGER: I don't think I ever spoke on that subject to John. I was very confident about my position with respect to that. I didn't feel as though there was anything for me to answer for and I hoped for it to end. It went through three I think federal investigations and two state investigations, all of which it concluded by saying that there was no accuser for me, number one; and that this was not a close call and that was the state attorney general also.

And I have an affidavit, Mr. Chairman, which my attorney has provided for the staff.

T. DAVIS: Without objection, we will enter that into the record.

Let me ask another question -- in September of 1987, your brother Whitey was stopped by Logan Airport personnel for attempting to carry \$500,000 onto an airplane. State police trooper Billy Johnson (ph) detained and questioned Whitey at the airport with regard to that incident.

Billy Johnson (ph) later wrote an incident report. Johnson claimed that soon after the incident David Davis (ph), the executive director of the Massachusetts Port Authority, came to Johnson's (ph) office and requested a copy of his report. Johnson (ph) stated that Dave Davis (ph) told him that you had asked Davis (ph) to obtain a copy of the incident report. Johnson (ph) was demoted after this incident and he later committed suicide.

Mr. Bulger, when did you first learn of the incident between Whitey and Billy Johnson (ph) at Logan Airport?

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BULGER: I think the first I ever saw of it was when it was reported in the newspaper. And I wish to assure you, Mr. Chairman -- although you haven't asked -- that I have never made any call, I never sought to seek sanctions against that state trooper.

BULGER: He was doing his job.

I have another affidavit, which my counsel has provided for your committee, and that affidavit is a recent one from David W. Davis (ph) himself.

And he was a very respected, and is a very respected individual in Massachusetts, and he was the head of the Massachusetts Port Authority, and he maintains exactly what I am saying, that there was no such communication from me.

It has been reported a hundred times that there was, but there's no truth to it -- none.

T. DAVIS: OK. Mr. Davis's (ph) affidavit only says that no one interceded with him for Bulger, and no one else at Mass Port told him that Bulger had contacted them.

Did he ask, did we, we didn't ask all the staff at Mass Port, and does Mr. Davis (ph) know whether Mr. Bulger ever received an incident report from another source within Mass Port?

And we will go and verify that. I think we will go out and ...

BULGER: Excuse me, sir?

T. DAVIS: I just said we will go back and try to verify the affidavit. We've just been presented with that today. But I wanted to say ...

BULGER: OK.

T. DAVIS: Did you have a professional relationship, yes?

(UNKNOWN): That affidavit be placed on the record, please.

T. DAVIS: Without objection. It will be put on the record. Did you have a professional relationship with David Davis (ph)?

BULGER: Well, only that I was the president of the Senate, and he would be in touch from the Port Authority, almost with, the same relationship I'd have with most agencies in the Commonwealth.

T. DAVIS: Did you have a close -- was it a close personal relationship?

BULGER: No, we were not very -- no, we were not close.

T. DAVIS: Not a social relationship?

BULGER: No, not at all.

T. DAVIS: Did you tell David Davis (ph) to acquire Billy Johnson's (ph) incident report?

BULGER: Never.

T. DAVIS: Did you tell anyone else who worked for Mass Port to acquire Billy Johnson's (ph) incident report regarding Whitey?

BULGER: No. No.

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T. DAVIS: And finally, my last point before I'm going to yield to Mr. Burton, and we have a vote going, so we may end up at this point, Mr. Burton, after this line and then turn it over to you when we get back.

The Lancaster Street investigation was conducted by the Massachusetts State Police, and targeted the leaders of the Boston mob, which would have included your brother, Whitey.

After the investigation was closed, an amendment was added to the state budget for fiscal year 1982, which would have required officers age 50 or older to take a reduction in pay and rank or retire.

The amendment only affected five officers, two of which, John O'Donovan (ph) and John Regan (ph), were involved in investigating Whitey. Were you aware of the Lancaster Street investigation before it was revealed to the public?

BULGER: No, I was not.

T. DAVIS: Did you ever discuss the Lancaster Street investigation with John Connolly?

BULGER: I don't think so. I don't know -- in fact, I just recently started to ask where this Lancaster Street site is. I don't for certain where it is.

T. DAVIS: Did you ever discuss the Lancaster Street investigation with your brother Whitey?

BULGER: Never.

T. DAVIS: Did you know John O'Donovan (ph)?

BULGER: Pardon me?

T. DAVIS: Did you know John O'Donovan (ph), one of the officers?

BULGER: Oh, yes.

T. DAVIS: And did you know John Regan (ph)?

BULGER: I don't think I knew John Regan (ph).

T. DAVIS: Now, did you sponsor the amendment in question?

BULGER: No, I tell you, I have no memory of the amendment, none whatsoever. And the ...

T. DAVIS: You don't remember discussing the amendment with anyone?

BULGER: Never. No.

T. DAVIS: Before -- how about after the fact?

BULGER: I don't recall.

T. DAVIS: Because there was press on it, I think, later on.

BULGER: The press came much later, from what I understand. I have two affidavits from state police.

T. DAVIS: Would you like those entered into the record?

BULGER: If I may.

T. DAVIS: Without objection.

KYLIE (ph): The affidavits of Mrs. Agnes (ph) and Ally (ph), two of the other affected officers.

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T. DAVIS: OK. Those will be entered into the record without objection.

BULGER: And then they, by the way, offered a different take on the amendment, with a vote, with a 100,000 amendments ...

T. DAVIS: I wondered, Mr. Kylie (ph), if you could just take a second to tell us what the affidavits say, that are going to be entered into the record?

KYLIE (ph): Both affidavits state that the individuals were among the five affected officers. Both offer the observation that they do not believe that Mr. Bulger was the sponsor, and offer up the observation that they had nothing to do with Lancaster Street, and there were other things going on in law enforcement in Massachusetts that may well have contributed to the filing of this particular amendment.

T. DAVIS: OK.

BULGER: That's a paraphrase, Mr. Chairman.

T. DAVIS: Right, I mean, they wouldn't necessarily have known who had put it in, though. Isn't that fair to say?

BULGER: Yes.

T. DAVIS: Do you remember if you voted for the amendment, Mr. Bulger?

BULGER: I don't.

T. DAVIS: OK, and were you aware of the specific individuals who would be affected by the amendment? You are now, obviously, but...

BULGER: Oh no, it was, I think, one out of hundreds of amendments that the budget (inaudible).

T. DAVIS: All right.

BULGER: And I didn't -- I never knew of it until long afterwards.

T. DAVIS: All right, I think this would be a good time for the committee to break. We have 10 minutes left on a vote on the floor. We'll probably reconvene in about 15 minutes.

(UNKNOWN): Mr. Chairman?

T. DAVIS: Yes?

(UNKNOWN): Before we leave, can I ask one real quick question?

T. DAVIS: The gentleman is recognized.

(UNKNOWN): You said that you don't recall talking to Connolly or anybody about the Lancaster Street investigation? Is that what you said?

BULGER: I don't believe I ever spoke to John Connolly about Lancaster Street, never.

(UNKNOWN): Did you talk to anybody about that investigation?

BULGER: I don't think so.

(UNKNOWN): I know, but the point is you're saying, "I don't think so," and you know, we've had a lot of people testify before the committee who had what I call convenient memory loss. And what I want to know is can you

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categorically say you did not talk to anybody about that investigation? Can you categorically say you did not talk to anybody about that?

BULGER: Mr. Congressman, could I just ask when this Lancaster Street event occurred? I just don't have...

(UNKNOWN): 1982.

BULGER: 1982.

I -- well, my preference is to say categorically I cannot recall ever talking with anyone, but I think it's hazardous over 20 years, something that seems to have appeared in a newspaper from time to time to suggest that absolutely so.

(UNKNOWN): Well, the reason I asked the question, it's pretty significant because only five people were affected. They were people that were causing your brother some heartburn. You were the president of the Senate, and now you're saying you can't remember. That would be pretty significant if you were trying to punish these people who were after your brother. So I just want to ask one more -- you say you can't recall.

BULGER: Mr. Congressman, I have never sought to punish anyone who was in law enforcement and was in pursuit of my brother.

(UNKNOWN): But you can't categorically say that you didn't talk to anybody about that?

BULGER: During these 20 years?

(UNKNOWN): No, during the time the amendment was going to be pending and it was going to be passed.

BULGER: Oh, I don't believe so, no.

(UNKNOWN): You don't believe so. Categorically, can you say you didn't?

BULGER: At that time there were -- again, may I just explain the reason for my caution with my answer. It's this: there was some kind of a struggle between the uniformed police and the -- and this is, I think, is the basis for the amendment -- and the people who are in this category of offices who had officer status. And the uniformed people were -- thought it was against their interests that people would be frozen into their jobs after having become the officers, because then they themselves could no longer aspire to those offices.

BULGER: I don't recall any conversations with any of the state police at that time. But it could very well be that some one or some of them may have talked to me, and I thought that the amendment had a different purpose.

And then, I don't remember. I just don't remember it. was of no great significance to me. And I am confident that people who are in the legislature, you must know that amendments and measurements that are coming before you by the hundreds or dozens, the tendency is to forget what exactly...

(UNKNOWN): I know we have to go, but this affected people that were after your brother, and you don't remember these people being penalized?

BULGER: I never asked anyone to do any such thing as...

(UNKNOWN): I know you said that, but you don't remember...

(UNKNOWN): He said that categorically -- that you never...

BULGER: Oh, never. No.

T. DAVIS: Congressman, we'll recognize you when we come back.

(UNKNOWN): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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T. DAVIS: Mr. Bulger, we'll get a break for probably close to a half an hour. Thank you.

BULGER: Thank you.

(RECESS)

T. DAVIS: The committee will come back to order. We have people take their seats. It's our time, but the gentleman from -- we're trying to just get some continuity.

T. DAVIS: Gentleman from Massachusetts, Mr. Meehan, you have a follow-up question?

MEEHAN: I just wanted to ask Mr. Bulger, on this amendment, my understanding was that it wasn't an amendment, but rather it was an outside section of the budget, and it was actually in the Senate Ways and Means proposal, which presumably would mean that it was approved by the leadership in the Senate.

In other words, this wasn't just an amendment that was offered on the floor of the Senate, I don't think.

BULGER: It could very well be the case.

MEEHAN: OK. My point is that if an outside section is proposed and included in the Senate Ways and Means budget, it probably has the -- it's not like it was just some amendment. There are hundreds of amendments that are filed during the budget process. This was actually in the Senate Ways and Means budget proposal that was presented to the Senate. At least that was my understanding.

BULGER: It could very well be the case, Congressman.

MEEHAN: Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

T. DAVIS: Thank you very much. And we can do subsequent research to see if there's any other.

OK, gentleman from Indiana is recognized.

BURTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The bottom line is you just don't remember.

BULGER: That's right.

BURTON: Just don't remember. Five people that were after your brother, they were penalized financially, when you were the president of the Senate, you had nothing to do with it and you don't remember.

BULGER: Well, the premise is not true that such people were penalized.

BURTON: What did the amendment do?

BULGER: The amendment never -- it only becomes effective when it's signed by the governor.

BURTON: But what did the amendment do?

BULGER: I'm uncertain of that.

BURTON: You say it wasn't...

BULGER: It freezes...

BURTON: You say it wasn't penalizing them, then you must know what it did.

BULGER: But it never became law, Congressman.



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BURTON: No, but you just said it didn't penalize them.

BULGER: Because it never became law. Unless something -- there are proposals. We have about 5,000 proposals a year at legislative level. They only achieve their purpose, whatever it might be...

BURTON: I know...

BULGER: ... when they're passed into law.

BURTON: The thing that's very interesting is you said you didn't remember anything about it, but now you're saying it didn't become law. How do you recall that?

BULGER: I don't think -- it's not inconsistent.

BURTON: Well, tell me why it's not inconsistent.

BULGER: Well, if you can tell me...

BURTON: You said you didn't...

BULGER: No, I'm trying to tell you that it doesn't...

BURTON: You said you didn't remember the amendment.

BULGER: ... if it doesn't become law, it doesn't achieve its purpose, whatever the purpose might be.

BURTON: No, I understand.

(CROSSTALK)

BULGER: If it's to save money -- let us just say we have an amendment or a measure which would...

BURTON: You're thinking.

BULGER: ... which would -- I'm thinking.

BURTON: You're thinking. I'm a legislator, too. You said you didn't recall the amendment. You had thousands of amendments going on and you were the leader of the Senate. But you just said that, Well, it didn't become law. How do you know that if you don't remember?

BULGER: Because subsequent to that it's been written about.

BURTON: Oh, I see. You picked it up from the newspapers. Did you check to see if it became law when you read it in the newspapers?

BULGER: I don't believe so. By the way, I'm also relying...

BURTON: Then how do you know it didn't become law?

BULGER: Can I -- may I just acquaint you with what Mr. Agnes (ph) says of it? And he is one of those people who was affected. If you give me a chance I'd like to just give you his affidavit.

BURTON: I'm only concerned about the amendment, whether or not you recall.

BULGER: Yes, and he's speaking to the amendment. Mr. Agnes (ph) is a -- he's a retired lieutenant colonel in the Massachusetts State Police. He says, I'm one of five former senior officers who would have been adversely effected...

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BURTON: Mr. Bulger, I simply don't have the time for you to read that into the record. I'd like...

T. DAVIS: It's in the record.

(CROSSTALK)

BURTON: You can submit it for the record.

BULGER: But it would be enlightening, I think, if folks who are hearing...

BURTON: I would rather your answers be as concise as possible.

T. DAVIS: Gentleman controls the time.

BURTON: You grew up with John Connolly, didn't you?

BULGER: I did.

BURTON: And you and your brothers were buddies with John Connolly throughout your childhood and into adulthood.

BULGER: I didn't know that. That's news...

BURTON: Well, were you or weren't you?

BULGER: No. I mean, I know when I went into the Army when I was 19 years of age, John Connolly was 12 years of age, Congressman.

BURTON: Oh, I see.

BULGER: So it's highly unlikely in the course of normal relationships.

BURTON: So he was very close to Whitey, though? He was closer to Whitey?

BULGER: I don't think so.

BURTON: Well, how did he and Whitey get to know each other?

BULGER: I think it all came years later.

BURTON: But they came from the same neighborhood?

BULGER: Yes.

BURTON: Did Mr. Connolly assist you in any of your political endeavors?

BULGER: I believe so.

BURTON: In what endeavors did he help you?

BULGER: When I'd be involved in campaigns in the district.

BURTON: Did he help you in your campaign to become president of the Senate?

BULGER: No that was within the body, and he did not.

BURTON: Well, one of your opponents was indicted, wasn't he, and convicted?

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BULGER: No.

BURTON: You didn't have an opponent that was a potential opponent that was going to...

(UNKNOWN): The incumbent.

BULGER: The majority leader was indicted, and that paved the way for upward mobility.

BURTON: Well, that was one of your potential opponents. Was he indicted about that time?

BULGER: I don't think -- he is still, I hope, a friend of mine. And he was indicted, yes.

BURTON: And that paved the way for you to become the president of the Senate?

BULGER: It was still within the power of the president to decide who would be named majority leaders. So there was nothing definite about my ascendancy into that position.

BURTON: Do you know of any threats made by your brother, Whitey, to people that were giving you political difficulty, being difficulty for you?

BULGER: I don't know. But nothing authorized by me, I assure you, congressman.

BURTON: But there are people who said Whitey came up to them and said, hey you know who I am, you SOB, if you don't leave my brother alone, you're regret it. You don't know anything about that?

BULGER: I don't know much about it, no.

BURTON: Do you know who the people were that were threatened?

BULGER: No.

BURTON: You had no connection or...

BULGER: I assure you I would never, never ask for or authorize such a madcap kind of conduct on his part, or on anyone's part.

BURTON: Other than the property we talked about a while ago, did you ever use any of your authority to chastise or threaten people that were after your brother?

BULGER: No, never.

BURTON: Never did?

Did you talk to your brother about rumors that he was an informant?

BULGER: I don't recall such conversation, but I would assume that some place after it appeared in that newspaper, I might have asked the question, what is this all about?

I know his answer would -- again I'm speculating -- be very swiftly: Oh, that's just not true.

BURTON: Did you talk to Connolly about whether or not your brother was a government informant?

BULGER: No, I don't believe so.

BURTON: You know, I can't...

BULGER: Well, I have to say I don't believe so on somebody because these things are...

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BURTON: I know but that's pretty significant. You cannot categorically say you didn't talk to Connolly?

BULGER: No...

BURTON: What's that?

BULGER: No, I cannot categorically say that I did not talk...

BURTON: So you might have talked to Connolly about it.

BULGER: Of course.

BURTON: In retrospect, given your power and prestige, did you ever discourage law enforcement from doing everything it could to go after your brother?

BULGER: Never.

BURTON: Never?

BURTON: Never? You referred to your brother as reverend at a Saint Patrick's Day function. As a side, I'd like to know why you did that.

BULGER: I would like to know myself. I don't believe I ever did. But I can assure you those things are on tapes all over the place, and we could find out.

I never in my experience used that expression to describe my brother ever.

BURTON: You had a long-time aide, Mr. Joyce (ph). And I believe he was working where, at the convention center?

BULGER: Right.

BURTON: Now, he hired people like Theresa Stanley (ph), who was one of the people that fled with your brother when she came back. Did you have anything to do with that?

BULGER: No, I'm reminded by counsel that it may turn out that he, Mr. Joyce (ph), never did hire Theresa Stanley (ph).

BURTON: He did not hire her?

BULGER: That's what I believe has been...

BURTON: Well, then we have an error in the information we have. We'll check that out. But you say she was not hired by him?

BULGER: Right.

BURTON: Was anybody else hired by him that had a connection with you and your brother?

BULGER: I don't know. I'm sure there were people in South Boston. My problem with the question, if I may, is that if I recommended someone, and it was rare that I did, because when Joyce (ph) got the job I said, Please just do the very best job and you won't be imposed upon by me. And...

BURTON: But the question is...

BULGER: ... if I recommended someone, Congressman, it might very well be that he is known or she is known by both of us. But that's not the cause of it.

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BURTON: Did you have anything to do with the efforts to get the Billy Johnson police report. I think you answered that to some degree earlier?

BULGER: I what?

BURTON: Were you involved in the efforts to get the Billy Johnson police report?

BULGER: No.

BURTON: About the money at the airport?

BULGER: Never, it comes from the tabloid talk show stuff in Boston. And it was concocted there. And there is not even an accusation that I can bite on that. And when Mr. David Davis, who is the one named by them as having been asked by me, his affidavit says at no time did we inbulge (ph) or any person perporting to act on his behalf and to cede with me to affect our handling of the incident or how we dealt with information about it.

I never provided copies of reports written by Trooper Johnson to send to President Bulger. No one at Mass Port Authority ever indicated to me they were contacted in those matters by William Bulger.

BURTON: OK.

BULGER: Whenever I have been asked -- this is I think important to know...

BURTON: Well no, I think you've made the point. You don't need to read it all.

BULGER: Well no, but there's a larger point to be made, Congressman. May I respectfully just make it one sentence?

BURTON: All right.

BULGER: Whenever I have been asked about what I have described as the incident which did occur, a William Bulger in deceiving in any way in connection with it or Trooper Johnson, which did not occur, I have attempted to make clear that the former Senate president did not, to my knowledge, involve himself.

Nevertheless, the insinuation that he did persists in some circles. The insinuation is false.

BURTON: You indicated in your opening statement that you were -- you knew your brother was involved in some of the various activates, but you didn't know, you know, a great deal about it. Isn't that correct?

BULGER: That's correct.

BURTON: Did you know that he was involved in murder?

BULGER: Never, no, I do not, I did not.

BURTON: Did you know he was involved in narcotics trafficking?

BULGER: No.

BURTON: You and your brother -- you didn't know anything about that? Did you know anything about the Winter Hill mob?

BULGER: The what?

BURTON: The gang that he was connected to.

BULGER: No, I didn't. I don't think I met anybody from that...

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BURTON: You didn't know Flemeys (ph).

BULGER: I did know Steve Flemeys (ph), yes.

BURTON: Well, he was part of that gang. You didn't know he was part of that gang?

BULGER: No.

BURTON: Or his brother?

BULGER: I don't -- didn't know his brother.

BURTON: Do you know a gentleman named Maratano (ph)?

BULGER: No -- oh, no, I don't, I've read of him.

BURTON: Let me see what Mr. Maratano (ph) said here. Mr. Maratano (ph), who was the hit man for the Mafia, testified at Connely's (ph) federal racketeering trial that Connely (ph) protected James as your urging. Did you ask Connely (ph) to protect James, saying something like, Just keep my brother out of trouble?

BULGER: Whatever was done by Connely (ph) would not have been done at my urging. And I know -- there was no urging on my part along those lines. There was something about the quote itself which seemed to be kind of innocent, but then depending on the circumstances.

BULGER: And if ever said such a thing, it would mean that I am saying, Please stay him clear of getting into trouble, or keeping his nose clean, following the straight and narrow, the kind of thing we might be inclined to say.

BURTON: Did you ever ask any law enforcement officer -- state, local, federal Mr. Connely Bulger, anybody -- to assist your brother in any way?

BULGER: Never.

BURTON: None?

BULGER: I don't believe ever in my life. Never.

BURTON: I don't want you to say I don't believe...

BULGER: Well, I have to say that because you know I've lived -- I've got some mileage on me, so who knows? But I don't believe there is anything anywhere that was done nefariously or any kind of request for anyone not to do his duty -- ever.

BURTON: Did you ever express gratitude for law enforcement efforts to keep your brother out of jail?

BULGER: No.

BURTON: Never did?

BULGER: No, I don't believe so, ever.

I have to say I don't believe so because who knows what you might have said in jest or whatever? And you know that, Mr. Congressman. You know that that's the only way -- I assure you no one has been -- I have expressed gratitude to anyone on any serious note for their having failed to do their job -- ever.

BURTON: Well, you're a very good attorney, and you qualify your statements very well.

BULGER: Thank you.

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T. DAVIS: Gentleman's time has expired. If he would ask for an additional 10 minutes by unanimous consent...

BURTON: I think my colleagues may have some questions so why don't...

T. DAVIS: I think we'd be willing to do that and then break. As I understand it...

(UNKNOWN): Mr. Chairman.

T. DAVIS: Yes.

(UNKNOWN): Our side has 30 minutes to inquire of this witness. Many of us have conflicts. I have another committee going on. And I wondered if we could start off with five minutes on our side.

T. DAVIS: That's fine, gentlemen. You'll have your time.

BURTON: I think these colleagues deserve the same amount of time so that's fine with me.

T. DAVIS: All right, we will flip it to your side.

(UNKNOWN): That's fine. Mr. Waxman for five minutes.

WAXMAN: Mr. Bulger, you've just stated unequivocally that you've never intervened in any way to aid your brother in any of his activities to aid him in avoiding arrest. Is that your testimony?

BULGER: That is my testimony. Yes, sir.

WAXMAN: Then, it comes down really to a question about a conversation you've had with your brother. And I want to ask you about that last contact with your brother. You testified you spoke with him by telephone in January of 1995. Is that the only contact you've had with him?

BULGER: That was the contact.

WAXMAN: For how long a period of time?

He fled?

BULGER: Yes. Since he fled.

WAXMAN: What was the substance of your conversation?

BULGER: It was a conversation of about three or four minutes duration, Congressman. It was he calling me. And it's at like the first four or five weeks after his indictment. And I never thought that there would not have been a resolution of it. Ordinarily, in these cases...

So the tone of it was something like this. He told me don't believe everything that's being said about me. It's not true. I think he was trying to give me some comfort on that level.

And he -- I don't know -- he, I think he asked me to tell everybody he's OK. And then I told him, Well, you know we care very much for you, and we're very hopeful.

BULGER: I think I said, I hope this will have a happy ending.

WAXMAN: Did he ask you...

BULGER: I'm telling you there was not talk of the more terrible crimes.

WAXMAN: Did he ask you to do anything, other than to tell people he was OK?

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BULGER: No.

WAXMAN: And did you ask that he do anything?

BULGER: No.

WAXMAN: Did you provide him with any advice, such as advice to surrender to the authorities?

BULGER: No, the subject, I've said this before in my grand jury, Congressman, that that subject never came up.

WAXMAN: It's been alleged that you and your brother made arrangements for the call to evade surveillance of your telephone by law enforcement authorities.

Where were you when you received the telephone call from James Bulger?

BULGER: I was in a friend and an employee's home, and I was asked the question before, Did you have a desire to avoid electronic surveillance in connection with that call? And I answered, no.

I was asked where I would be, and I received the call up there.

WAXMAN: Who asked you where you would be?

BULGER: I don't have a specific recollection, but the only person it possibly could have been would be his friend Kevin Weeks (ph).

WAXMAN: You've been criticized for not contacting law enforcement officials about your call with your brother. Did you contact the authorities before or after receiving the call?

BULGER: No, I told my lawyer immediately after it. In Massachusetts, we have the benefit of a statute which allows for a sibling to talk to a brother or sister under these circumstances, and I think now that that's somewhat protective.

WAXMAN: There was a law that said...

BULGER: This is special Chapter 274, Section 4, I think, and it's one that is protective of the family relationship. It seeks to encourage the family relationship and be protective of it.

WAXMAN: Many people have written about your actions, and they said you had a basic choice, you had to choose between loyalty to your brother and your civic duty to assist in his arrest, and you chose your brother. How do you respond to that criticism?

BULGER: Well, they're wrong on that. I'm his brother, he called me, or he sought to call me, and I told his friend where I'd be, and I received the call, and it seems to me that that is in no way inconsistent with my devotion to my own responsibilities, my public responsibilities as a, well, at that time president of the Senate.

I believe that I have always taken those as my first obligation.

WAXMAN: When the ...

T. DAVIS: The gentleman's five minutes have expired.

WAXMAN: If I might just ask for one clarification for the record?

T. DAVIS: Certainly.

WAXMAN: One of my colleagues made the statement that you requested immunity before testifying, implying that you were, in essence, fishing for an immunity deal. Was that the circumstance?



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BULGER: No, it was not. The immunity request came on a couple of bases. This is the immunity I sought recently, in December, and then, Mr. Chairman, I mean, Congressman, at that time my grand jury notes, minutes, had been leaked to The Boston Globe.

I felt as though I was going to be involved in a huge memory test about what had been my testimony a couple of years before at the grand jury, and I would like to have seen my grand jury minutes, but they were denied to me.

The judge had no problem, apparently, with the fact that the Globe had my grand jury minutes, but he nevertheless denied them to me. And so it made me concerned about it.

The business of, when you're going into a grand jury, I mean, others have written about this, but innocent people are more likely to plead the privilege in secret proceedings.

BULGER: In a secret proceeding you're all alone, and the prosecutor knows -- and the prosecutors, in this case plural -- know what they're doing. And it's a time, I think, for great caution.

And it's an exercise, in my belief, of a constitutional right that is for the innocent. And so I exercised it, and I thought there should be no punishment for it and no one should question it as it being something bad. That's my understanding of it as an attorney.

And in fact the law, the cases in the Supreme Court of the United States insist that it's a law for innocent men who find themselves in ambiguous circumstances. And it should not be a method of punishment or persecution for anyone who exercises that right.

May I try one more moment on this, since you seem to be patient?

WAXMAN: Well, before you get into some of the details on the privilege, you took the privilege before this committee previously.

BULGER: Right.

WAXMAN: This committee has granted you immunity.

BULGER: Right.

WAXMAN: Which means we can compel you to testify...

BULGER: Right.

WAXMAN: ... because you will not be incriminating yourself, since you've been granted immunity. Does that grant of immunity come at your request to the committee?

BULGER: The grant of immunity?

WAXMAN: Yes.

BULGER: Well, the committee did what I would have expected, it would grant the immunity once I declined to testify. But I guess it's not at my request so much as at the request of the committee, of the Justice Department, is that...

WAXMAN: There was an offer by the committee.

BULGER: I see.

WAXMAN: Well, that clarifies it for the record. Because I think there was an impression that was not a fully thought out one. And I appreciate you elaborating on it.

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(UNKNOWN): And I appreciate the gentleman clarifying that it came from this -- this committee's reaction to his being...

WAXMAN: Mr. Chairman, I'm compelled to go to another committee.

Mr. Tierney is going to manage the time on our side. And I appreciate the courtesy that you and he have extended to me.

T. DAVIS: Thank you. The gentleman from Massachusetts.

TIERNEY: Thank you. This is a difficult format for you Mr. Bulger, probably as much as for the committee members here. We have a limited time. I'm going to do five minutes or so here, and then ask Mr. Lynch followed by Mr. Meehan and Mr. Delahunt to do the same. And then we'll collectively deal with whatever time we have left.

(UNKNOWN): Will the gentleman yield? Weren't other members expecting a break at this point?

TIERNEY: They were, but I think the chairman has...

T. DAVIS: I think at this point, we're going to let Mr. -- if we recognize people in five minute intervals, we can move through a little quicker because we have a vote expected at 1:00.

(UNKNOWN): I see. Well, I understood there was going to be a break, and I asked -- I have my opportunity now so others might have been expecting the break...

TIERNEY: That's what changed things.

(UNKNOWN): What's that?

TIERNEY: That's what changed things.

(UNKNOWN): Well, I would urge you to think through whether members have been relying on the expectation of a break, and I interceded to change. But whatever you two decide.

TIERNEY: We'll take some time and then we'll assess that. Thank you.

Mr. Bulger, at the close of your opening remarks, you made the statement that you think that the fair perspective will surface again for those other family members who have shown great strength in the face of the onslaught by the media and by overzealous government authority.

What were you referring to in the overzealous government authority part of that?

BULGER: Well, there has been a deep inquiry from various people. I'm not sure, for example, I don't mean -- I'm not thinking even of the government in Boston when it released by grand jury minutes to the press and refused to give them to me.

TIERNEY: Do you believe the government did that?

BULGER: Well, the government had control of it. I think it bears responsibility in some way for it.

TIERNEY: So that was it?

BULGER: No, there are other things. As recently as a week ago, we received a visit at my home from two people who identified themselves as FBI people. And they met my daughter. And I asked her to just give me a quick synopsis of it. May I just read it to you?

TIERNEY: I think at the end of our time we'll do that.

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BULGER: OK.

TIERNEY: But if you want to enter the written in the record, we could ask the chairman to do that with unanimous consent.

And I've got some other questions I want to...

BULGER: May I just quote one of the...

TIERNEY: Sure, we will extend some time

BULGER: One of the gentleman said, Look, I'm from Boston. We want to talk to your mother. She doesn't have to say a word.

BULGER: We just want her to listen to us. We want to explain things to her. Do you see what's going on in North Carolina with Rudolph? They're tearing that town apart. That's what will happen here.

But if we can get someone in the family, just one person, to drop, say something that will help us arrest the fugitive. It will be over just like that. We will even help to rebuild your father's reputation.

TIERNEY: Do you have the names of those two individuals?

BULGER: Yes.

TIERNEY: And would you share those names with the committee?

BULGER: Well, should I state them right now?

TIERNEY: Fine.

BULGER: One's name is James Stover (ph) and the other is J. Michaels Doyle (ph).

TIERNEY: And we ask that document be submitted on the record...

T. DAVIS: Without object, so ordered. And we'll resume the time.

TIERNEY: Mr. Bulger, you know that this committee is investigating the conduct of the FBI, and I want to go into one particular agent at the moment and that would be Mr. Connolly on that. Did you encourage Mr. Connolly to attend Boston College?

BULGER: I may have. I honestly don't recall. I was a little older, of course, and Connolly would be around, and I could very well have.

TIERNEY: Did you write a letter of recommendation for him to attend graduate school?

BULGER: I don't believe so. But the Kennedy School of Government, I'm reminded, I think I did send a letter over to the Kennedy School.

TIERNEY: And did you know whether or not he had a relationship with your brother, James?

BULGER: At some point, I became aware of it.

TIERNEY: And when was that?

BULGER: It was -- well, I'm uncertain there too -- but sometime in the '80s.

TIERNEY: Now, Mr. Connolly worked on some of your campaigns, you testified earlier.

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BULGER: I believe he probably did.

TIERNEY: And do you recall meeting with him or being in his company at your own office once you got elected?

BULGER: Yes, sir.

TIERNEY: And is it a fact that he used to bring in new FBI agents and bring them over to your office...

BULGER: He'd bring people through.

TIERNEY: In that view, did he ever introduce you to John Morris (ph)?

BULGER: I don't recall any meeting with John Morris, but I'm told that he's among those who came through.

TIERNEY: And after Mr. Connely left the FBI, did you in any way assist in his procurement of employment of the private sector?

BULGER: No, I did not, congressman. I could also tell you that I have an affidavit from the hiring authority.

TIERNEY: We would ask that be submitted on the record also.

T. DAVIS: Without objection.

Did you write any recommendations for him?

BULGER: Pardon me?

TIERNEY: Did you write any recommendations for him to go to the Edison Company?

BULGER: Yes. No, no I did not.

TIERNEY: You didn't allow your name to be used as a reference?

BULGER: No, I didn't. I don't -- I think it's against the law by the way in Massachusetts for us to intervene on the matter of employment at a utility.

TIERNEY: After Mr. Connolly left the FBI, it's a fact, isn't it, that he used to attend some of your political events?

BULGER: More than likely, yes.

TIERNEY: And at those events, isn't it also a fact that you used to ask him as a courtesy to you to take certain individuals around the room and introduce them to various people that were there?

BULGER: No, I don't remember that.

TIERNEY: Now Special Agent James Ring of the FBI, whom I believe you know -- James Ring?

BULGER: I think I know who he is.

TIERNEY: OK. He testified that in 1983 you walked into the home of Steven Flemmy's (ph) mother while James Bulger, John Connely, Mr. Ring and Steven Flemmy were there. Do you recall that event?

BULGER: I do not.

TIERNEY: Do you recall ever seeing Mr. Connely and your brother James in the same company?

BULGER: I don't believe I ever saw them together, ever.

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TIERNEY: Did you ever remember Mr. Connelly telling you that he had had conversations with your brother James, or was in his company from time to time?

BULGER: I don't think he told me. I don't think he ever told me.

TIERNEY: And on September 20, 1988, The Boston Globe article suggested that your brother James had a relationship with law enforcement. Was that the first awareness you had of that circumstance?

BULGER: Nineteen eighty-eight?

TIERNEY: Right.

BULGER: That was the first time I had heard that term. And, by the way, the word informant had a different meaning then than it has now for me. I didn't know whether it meant that someone had on one occasion informed, or whether there is now I see it as some kind of a special status, or whatever, but it was not the way I saw the word, the meaning of the word at that time.

TIERNEY: How did you see the meaning at that time?

BULGER: Well, I didn't know what to make of it. I didn't know whether, but I was very certain that at that time, and again, it was my feeling that the purpose of characterizing my brother as an informant was to put him in grave danger.

TIERNEY: Mr. Bulger, what is it that you thought your brother did for a living in those years?

BULGER: Oh, well, I knew that he was, for the most part I had the feeling that he was in the business of gaming and whatever, it was vague to me.

For a long while he did have some jobs, but ultimately, it was clear that he wasn't doing what I'd like him to do.

TIERNEY: In your book, "While the Music Lasts," in chapter nine, Mr. Bulger, you write, "In the well-publicized case against my brother, all of the evidence has been purchased, inducements more precious than money -- release from prison, the waiver of criminal charges -- have been offered time and time again. Some of those who insisted they had nothing to offer at the beginning of their incarceration have had second thoughts and suddenly remembered things they could barter for advantages. Without such purchased testimony, there would be no accusations."

Do you still believe that to be the case?

BULGER: No, I have a different understanding of it now, I wrote that, I think, in 1995. It was published in '96, and so much has gone on since then I have a different understanding.

But I think at that time, it was a fair description of what it appeared to me to be.

TIERNEY: Let me go back just to 1985. We've all heard allegations that you accepted \$240,000 from a trust fund.

BULGER: Right.

TIERNEY: And apparently your bar associate, Mr. Finnerty, is it?

BULGER: Right.

TIERNEY: Had deposited some \$500,000 into that trust fund, and that's the fund from which you withdrew \$240,000? What was the nature of that withdrawal? Was it, what was the payment for?

BULGER: First, why did I say I don't want the money from that source?

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TIERNEY: No, starting at the beginning, why did you take the \$240,000? What was the...

BULGER: Oh, oh, I'm sorry. Because Finnerty and I were law associates, and Finnerty's office, while I had left my partnership with him, was the base for my practicing law, and there was a fee that was, that exceeded \$250,000 that was due me, and it was coming, and it was late.

And Finnerty was being accommodating by providing some money in advance.

TIERNEY: When did you disassociate from that law firm, in terms of practicing regularly?

BULGER: Well, no, I think after, well, I became president in 1978, and I realized that I was a burden, myself, because of the conflicts and the rest. So that someplace in the middle, I don't know whether it's, it's in the '80s, and I'm uncertain about when ...

TIERNEY: What was the nature of the case for which the fee was owed?

BULGER: That I was working on? It was called the Quirk (ph) case, and it was about property and the Quirk (ph) brothers, Bruce and Robert, were people who had a dispute with National Semiconductor about property. and I went to court for them on many occasions, and ultimately it boiled down to a settlement. And the Quirks (ph) publicly praised the work I had done for them: They were pleased by the settlement.

And the other side, I don't which one of them, could have been Halondor (ph), I think, the other side was, they had said for the record that I had handled the case and had been, to use the term, the heavy on the case.

TIERNEY: What was the total of the recovery in that case?

BULGER: I don't recall, but it could have been something like \$350,000, or something like that.

TIERNEY: That's what your client recovered?

BULGER: That was our fee. \$350,000 was my fee.

TIERNEY: And you were owed \$240,000 of that?

BULGER: Pardon me?

TIERNEY: And you were owed \$240,000 of that total fee?

BULGER: I was owed?

TIERNEY: Well, you withdrew \$240,000...

(CROSSTALK)

BULGER: Oh no, the \$240,000 was -- I'd call that some kind of a loan or an advance. And I gave it back to Tom.

TIERNEY: Do you remember when you took the \$240,000?

BULGER: No, he put it into my account. And it was -- I don't know what year any longer. By the way, Congressman, it turns out that because of the case, Finnerty had brought an action against Harold Brown. I never worried about too much the fact that Finnerty -- because it was his money to give as he -- you know, and I just -- so there was nothing sinister about it, I assure you.

TIERNEY: We're giving you an opportunity to delay that outbound, right?

BULGER: Yes, but can I just -- my friend Harold Brown...

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TIERNEY: We're going to get to that, but we'll allow that on the record, that. But what I'd like to know is when you added that \$240,000 deposit in your account, did you spend any of that money?

BULGER: I think I took some and invested it, some of it, yes, a little bit.

TIERNEY: And at some point in time, did you become aware that Mr. Brown had alleged that Mr. Finnerty had extorted \$500,000 from him?

BULGER: No, no, not during that period. Finnerty brought suit, and that was part of some of his defense. But Brown exonerates Finnerty now.

TIERNEY: And at some time you put the \$240,000 or gave it back?

BULGER: I have it back because I knew that Brown was the source of it.

TIERNEY: And why did that bother you so much?

BULGER: Because Brown was -- I didn't know Harold Brown, but he was in some kind of trouble. And I'm elected, and it gave opportunity to any one who would like to, to misconstrue it, to claim that there was some nefarious relationship between him and me.

TIERNEY: Did you ever talk to John Connolly about that situation?

BULGER: I don't believe I ever did.

TIERNEY: Did you ever talk to John Morris about that situation?

BULGER: I don't even remember John Morris.

TIERNEY: Did you ever discuss it with your brother James, or any of his associates?

BULGER: I don't think so.

TIERNEY: Did you ever discuss it with any one associated with law enforcement before the investigation started?

BULGER: I don't think so.

TIERNEY: Mr. O'Sullivan, Jeremiah O' Sullivan indicated that he reviewed the case and thought it was a question of power-brokering. Do you know what he would have been referring to on that?

BULGER: Yes, I do. You know, I -- O'Sullivan also said that -- he said there was no one who accused me of anything. And he said it was not a close call. He gave me a very good result, the same result I received from the attorney general in Massachusetts.

But when he said that, that was at a press conference, Congressman, and it was in response to a Globe reporter. And the Globe reporter was one of those who had this kind of a vested interest in this case. They had brought it, they had discovered it, and they had worked it to death for several months.

And I believe that Jeremiah O'Sullivan, who I didn't know, but Jeremiah O'Sullivan, I think he strayed from his mandate. That's what it is.

When asked the question, you know, what about, he really should have stayed with what he found. But he was giving an opinion that may be a power brokering situation. I don't think it was myself. But nevertheless, it gave the Globe people who have always insisted despite -- he says, You know, Bulger had any involvement, he had none. The simple fact is that this did not stop the media snowball. That's what Harriman complains about.

TIERNEY: My time has expired, Mr. Bulger. Thank you very much for thoughts.

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Mr. Lynch?

DAVIS: We'll make sure everybody gets questions. We'll yield as much time as you use, and then we'll go back and forth after the time is up. We're set for five minutes, but if you need more, we'll take it.

LYNCH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Sir, let's pick up right there with Jeremiah O'Sullivan.

In his testimony before this committee not long ago, he described the relationship or the dynamic in dealing with the FBI, who through various agents, have been charged with a lot of wrongdoing in this matter.

At one point, he said words to the effect that you don't mess with the FBI. You just cooperate. They can make life miserable for you.

BULGER: Right.

LYNCH: And what I'd like to do is I'd like to look at the action of the FBI with respect to your office, the Senate presidency. And it probably goes back to before you were Senate president, when you were in the Senate.

But there are a number of individuals here I'd like to ask you about, and about your relationships with them. They are all special agents of the FBI and/or supervisors.

BULGER: Sure.

LYNCH: I'd like to ask you about Dennis Condon. He is a special agent of the FBI, and he had some role early on with handling your brother James in his relationship with the FBI.

What was his relationship with you, sir?

BULGER: Dennis Condon became very friendly with me. I don't think I knew him before he retired from the FBI. I don't think I did.

LYNCH: When do you think you may have first become an acquaintance of Dennis Condon?

BULGER: I think it was when he became head of the public safety. He was appointed by Governor Dukakis, and I came to know him there -- again, because both of our duties were interrelated.

LYNCH: I see. Let me ask you then. Dennis Condon, working for the FBI, comes out of the FBI after handling matters with your brother as an informant and then becomes, I think, secretary of public safety for the Commonwealth?

BULGER: I think that's what it is.

LYNCH: Yes.

BULGER: I'm not certain of that.

LYNCH: Did he ever approach you...

(UNKNOWN): For the record, Mr. Lynch, he was commissioner of the state police.

BOLGER: Commissioner. All right, I stand corrected. He was the commissioner...

(UNKNOWN): Of public safety?

(UNKNOWN): State police.



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BOLGER: So he came out...

LYNCH: Do you recall at all then that -- did Dennis Condon ever come to you, at that point, where he was coming out of the FBI after handling your brother's case -- your brother's relationship -- and then trying to get this position with the state police, apparently -- commissioner -- did he ever come to you and use the fact of his relationship there...

BOLGER: Never.

LYNCH: ... to try to get you to refer him for that position?

BOLGER: I never was aware that he had anything to do with -- that he had any relationship at all with my brother.

LYNCH: OK. And he never approached you for help in getting appointed as commissioner?

BOLGER: I don't recall it, but he could very well have. I mean, we had many people who were friends in common. He came from Charlestown, I think.

LYNCH: And you were Senate president at this time. Would that be correct?

BOLGER: Mr. Dukakis -- well, at the beginning of the Dukakis -- there were 12 years of my (inaudible) with the Dukakis, and I think that he -- in the first one, first term in the '70s, I was not the president of the Senate, but I think that Dennis came along later while I was president.

I don't know the answer to when...

LYNCH: But you feel certain it was during the Dukakis administration?

BOLGER: I'm pretty sure.

LYNCH: OK. But you don't recall him ever coming to you and asking you for your help for that appointment? Is that your recollection?

BOLGER: I don't recall it, but if he asked, I'd probably be favorably disposed to him -- not based on any of the inferences that I draw from your question, I assure you.

LYNCH: Let me go on to another agent of the FBI, Nick Gianturco.

Do you have any knowledge, or do you have any acquaintance or relationship with Nick Gianturco?

BOLGER: I don't believe I -- I don't know him, I don't think.

LYNCH: OK. Nick Gianturco left the FBI, similar to Dennis Condon, and went to work for the Edison.

Do you recall ever getting a request from Mr. Gianturco?

BOLGER: I don't believe I ever did. But I -- don't think so.

LYNCH: Let me go back then. Do you remember Mr. Gianturco?

BULGER: I don't think I do.

LYNCH: OK.

BULGER: I know the name Gianturco, but I don't know the person.

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LYNCH: OK. We've already covered in this questioning special agent John Connolly, and just so we're certain, I do have on the record an affidavit from Mr. Davis...

BULGER: Right.

LYNCH: ... who was first at the Mass Port...

BULGER: Right.

LYNCH: ... and then went over as CEO for the Edison.

BULGER: Yes.

LYNCH: And the indication is, in his affidavit, that it is his knowledge and belief that it was others...

BULGER: Yes.

LYNCH: ... at the Edison who advocated on behalf of John Connolly.

BULGER: Right. It was Carl Gaston (ph), Congressman, not David Davis.

LYNCH: Oh, OK.

BULGER: And it's -- Gaston (ph) says, I'm aware of the rumors repeated in the press that former Senate President William Bulger got Mr. Connolly his job at Edison. The rumors are false.

LYNCH: And he points to a gentleman named John Keogh (ph). Is that correct?

BULGER: Yes, he does.

LYNCH: All right, let me ask you about John Keogh (ph). Amazingly enough, John Keogh (ph) was also another FBI agent...

BULGER: Right.

LYNCH: ... former FBI agent that went to work for the Edison.

Can I ask you about your relationship with John Keogh (ph)? Do you have any knowledge of him?

LYNCH: Yes, I do know who John Keogh (ph) was. He's a very quiet person.

I don't think I ever had a conversation with John Keogh (ph), other than in the early -- or in the '70s around 1974.

There were helicopters flying over the community during the turmoil. And I called him and complained about it, I thought, angrily. And the only thing -- the reason -- somehow I remember him because I thought he was very fair with an elected official who was advocating for the community, angrily, that he never made any kind of -- he never exploited it. Never said how tough I was on him or any of that.

LYNCH: OK. Do you recall if John Keogh (ph) in getting -- now he was also involved with those whole matter with the FBI and the Boston office.

BULGER: Right.

LYNCH: Went to work -- came out of there, went to work for the Edison.

Do you ever recall John Keogh (ph) quietly or otherwise, lobbying you or asking for your support in getting his job at the Edison?

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BULGER: I don't think he ever did. Now I have no recollection. I don't think that I ever knew that John Keogh (ph) had gone to the Edison.

LYNCH: OK. Let's go to special gent Robert Sheehan of the FBI. Left the FBI. I believe was involved with some of the informant operations there at the FBI. Actually, I think, preceding relationship with your brother and Mr. Flemmi, but also during that, he left the FBI and retired and went to work at the Hines Convention Center. What is your relationship? Do you have any knowledge of Mr. Sheehan?

BULGER: I think I came to know Sheehan toward the end of his days. I would see him at certain restaurants. And he had -- he was hooked up with a breathing apparatus.

LYNCH: What time period? Do you have a recollection...

BULGER: I don't remember exactly, but it was -- he died shortly thereafter.

But he, Sheehan, would have been friendly with the head of the convention center, Fran Joyce. So I don't know that I ever was asked even to use my...

LYNCH: Let me just ask the question and get it on the record.

LYNCH: Do you recall that Mr. Sheehan came to you, or requested -- well, given the backdrop here that your brother is in this relationship, and at some point you're aware from your earlier testimony from things that were in the paper -- I think Mr. H. Paul Rico had let slip the fact that your brother had an ongoing relationship with the FBI.

Do you have any recollection that Mr. Sheehan might have capitalized on that back to try to get you to help him in getting a job at the Hines Convention Center?

BULGER: I don't think he did. I don't think he did, but you know if you don't mind my just mentioning that the state house is in our senatorial district. People came through that office by the hundreds, and I would use my vast intercessory power for folks if I thought it was all right. And I would say to the person on the other end that this is not something you should not do; just don't. I was always careful of it.

LYNCH: Probably nobody on this panel...

BULGER: I just don't remember Sheehan coming through looking for help; I have to say that. And I knew him and his wife but -- a little restaurant they frequented -- I used to go over and chat with him, but it was in the last year or so of his life.

LYNCH: It's just that what I'm getting at is the fact of your responsibility in trying to help constituents.

BULGER: Right.

LYNCH: That is quite normal in the course of your duties. What I'm getting at is Dennis Condon, Nick Gianturco, John Connolly, John Keogh (ph), Robert Sheehan, and others who leave the FBI and then perhaps try to exercise the leverage of their relationship with your brother to get you to help them.

And so I'm looking at the wrong doing, misconduct of the FBI agents in this case, and I'm trying to find out whether or not there is a systematic...

BULGER: There was never, not one -- not to interrupt, excuse me -- but there was never a case that anybody came ever and said, I knew your brother, I befriended your brother, I therefore ask you to please befriend me. No one ever said that to me -- ever.

So those people would go to such jobs -- I'm sure they were finding similar berths before I ever arrived.

LYNCH: No doubt.

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I know I have exhausted my five minutes, Mr. Chairman.

T. DAVIS: Thank you, and then some.

Mr. Meehan?

MEEHAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

First I guess I want to clear up the record. Mr. Bulger said that few, if anyone, has condemned the leaking of grand jury minutes.

When we had this hearing in Boston, I condemned the leaking of the grand jury minutes at that time, said that violations of law relevant to leaking of grand jury minutes is every bit as serious as the abuses in law enforcement that we are investigating and trying to correct today.

And I think that they should be investigated. And I think your rights in that instance were violated -- and spoke out at the time.

The other point that I wanted to mention was the outside section of the budget. I just think there's a difference between hundreds of amendments being put in and the Senate chairman of the Ways and Means presenting a budget that has this provision in, and I just view it differently.

And at the time, it was a major issue because the commissioner of public safety, Gianturco, called on Governor King to veto that provision saying that if the investigators lost their jobs to reduction and rank or retirement, we would lose our intelligence gathering management team. It would dismantle the operation of all intelligence gathering in this area would stop.

Going back to your relation, obviously, you've had a close relationship with John Connolly.

Do you recall seeing John Connolly when he came back in 1975, when he returned to Boston as an FBI agent?

BULGER: Do I recall seeing him?

MEEHAN: Seeing him, talking to him when he came back in 1975.

BULGER: I'm sure I must have, but I don't have any distinct specific recollection.

LYNCH: Well, would you have regular contact with him, for example, on the phone or in person?

BULGER: No.

LYNCH: But you were aware that he was an FBI agent?

BULGER: Right.

LYNCH: And he would bring certain people from the FBI by the see you, is that correct? That's what you testified.

BULGER: Occasionally, he did.

LYNCH: And I'm not clear on -- did you ever discuss your brother, James, with Connolly?

BULGER: I don't think I ever discussed my brother with John Connolly. I don't believe I ever did.

LYNCH: And when did you first...

BULGER: ... during those times. In later times I did; in the '90s, for example.

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LYNCH: OK, so when did you first learn that your brother, James, had an ongoing relationship with Connolly?

BULGER: I'm uncertain of that. It didn't come in a flash. It became known to me as time went on.

LYNCH: So when did you...

BULGER: In the late '80s, I'd say, or the early '90s.

LYNCH: OK, when did you first learn that he was an informant? Apparently, when it was published in the Globe.

BULGER: Right, and I wasn't sure then.

LYNCH: Did you ever discuss this relationship with your brother, James, with Connolly?

BULGER: No.

LYNCH: Did you ever discuss this ongoing relationship with James with John Connolly?

BULGER: I don't think so.

LYNCH: Now you've indicated that you didn't help John Connolly get a job with Boston Edison. Were you on the board of New England Power in 1990?

BULGER: No.

LYNCH: At anytime were you on the board?

BULGER: I went on to the board of New England Power after I left the senate and became president of the university.

LYNCH: And that was after John Connolly had gotten a job with Boston Edison.

BULGER: Yes, long after.

LYNCH: Did you serve on the board of directors at South Boston Savings Bank?

BULGER: No.

LYNCH: Did you ever assist John Connolly in ever securing a loan from South Boston Savings Bank?

BULGER: Not that I know of.

LYNCH: Did John Connolly ever bring by Special Agent in Charge James Greenleaf?

BULGER: James who?

LYNCH: Greenleaf.

BULGER: I don't -- the name doesn't ring a -- I don't know.

LYNCH: OK.

The issue of 75 State Street -- and my recollection was it was actually investigated by two state attorney generals. You can understand why it would be an issue, though, because -- and it's unfortunate, but we're looking at the FBI and there's evidence now to suggest -- John Morris was Connolly's supervisor. He's admitted to taking bribes from Whitey Bulger at the same time he apparently was in charge of this investigation.

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I mean, I don't think past investigations should be brought up. However, it's just a little funny how John Morris is in charge of the FBI portion, and now we find out that not only was he Connolly's supervisor but he's admitted to taking bribes. It's, sort of, the reasons why one would ask questions on it. Otherwise, I don't think any members would bring it up.

BULGER: May I just point out that John Morris was clearly no friend of mine? He...

LYNCH: Well, you've made that clear, but he has admitted to taking, I think, \$5,000 from James Bulger.

BULGER: And I don't know what his function was, but I don't think he was pivotal in this whole matter.

LYNCH: In the 1995 telephone call that you had with your brother, why did you go to the home of an employee to accept the call?

BULGER: I have to reconstruct, but I think that Kevin Weeks asked me where I'd be and I think I told him that.

LYNCH: And you knew Kevin Weeks pretty well?

BULGER: Not very well, no. Only through him.

LYNCH: Did he mention that you would have to use a different phone because it was likely that...

BULGER: No, he did not. Just asked where...

LYNCH: So you didn't go to the home of an employee for any reason other than -- you weren't trying to avoid being -- having a phone call tapped?

BULGER: I've been asked that question several times, Congressman, and I always said no. I was just doing what I was asked -- where will you be answering the question.

LYNCH: Do you know a Richard Schneiderhan?

BULGER: I don't recall him, but I've been told that I know him, yes.

LYNCH: But you don't know him?

BULGER: I don't remember him. I think he came to my office, according to press reports, one time, because he was interested in a particular edifice, a church which might qualify, and did ultimately qualify for some kind of protection under architectural laws. 0

LYNCH: In 1991, did anyone ever tell you that you should be careful using your phone because of law enforcement investigators?

BULGER: Prior to that I had been told my counsel, who had been told by U.S. Attorney's Office, that my phone -- my brother Jack's phones were both -- they had pin registers on them.

LYNCH: After that, did anyone ever give you any reason to suspect that any investigator was in any way monitoring your phone calls?

BULGER: No, I don't think so.

LYNCH: Did anyone...

BULGER: Other than that monitoring I suppose -- again, the meaning of the word monitoring -- I don't think they're listening in, but they were in fact hard at the task of calling people who might call me from strange places like Connecticut or places like California, Florida, Virginia, everywhere.

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So they would be visited and David Wilson lives in Stonington, Connecticut, and he liked to call from time to time.

LYNCH: Did anyone tell or suggest to you that you should be careful using your phones other than your counsel after your brother fled? Specifically, did Kevin Weeks indicated that you should be careful and investigators...

BULGER: I don't think he ever said a word to me. Kevin -- I don't think he even -- does he say he did?

I don't -- he never spoke to me about it.

LYNCH: When did you first meet Kevin Weeks?

BULGER: Well, I know his brother Jack. Jack was active in the national campaign. He was a lead person or something in the Dukakis campaign, so I know the family from -- they did not live too far from me. I don't think I knew Kevin very well until later. I would see him around occasionally.

LYNCH: So the circumstance under which you might have a discussion with Kevin Weeks would be in person or on the phone, or what was the nature of those communications?

BULGER: I don't think Kevin Weeks ever called me. Occasionally he would come by, I think, because there was just absolutely no place else to go and he'd chat with me.

LYNCH: When did you become aware that Kevin Weeks was cooperating in the investigation regarding James?

BULGER: I'm uncertain of that, but it was hugely publicized, so there was no mystery to it.

LYNCH: When did you learn that he had been arrested and charged? Is that the same time you learned that he was cooperating?

BULGER: No, but if I...

LYNCH: Did you know he was -- did anyone tell you or do you remember becoming aware that Kevin Weeks was cooperating with the investigation?

BULGER: No, but I think I saw it in the paper. I don't think anyone ever told me that, I don't think.

LYNCH: So you learned of it through the newspaper?

BULGER: I think so.

T. DAVIS: Thank you.

We have a vote pending, and the time on this side has expired.

Mr. Delahunt, do you want to be recognized?

DELAHUNT: I'll try to do these five minutes.

Following Congressman Lynch's line of inquiry in terms of your relationship with a variety of federal agents, and I will give this to your counsel during the break, and you can review it and we'll inquire after we return.

I just want to be really clear that the first time that you realized that your brother was an informant for the FBI was in 1997 when it appeared in The Boston Globe?

BULGER: No -- well, we were referring, Congressman, to a 1987 story where...

DELAHUNT: Right. But let me ask you this question, then.

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BULGER: Sure.

DELAHUNT: When you were first aware that -- or you were satisfied that, in fact, your brother was an informant with the...

BULGER: I think one of the moments when I was confident that it must be so was when, during the preliminarily proceedings in the federal court, Judge Wolf, that someone, I think it was Flemmi, used it as a defense.

DELAHUNT: So that would have been the late '90s?

BULGER: I think so.

DELAHUNT: '97, '98?

BULGER: Yes.

DELAHUNT: Were you aware or did you learn subsequently that, in fact, your brother had been an informant for the FBI since 1979?

BULGER: Since 1979?

DELAHUNT: Correct.

BULGER: I think this is the first time I ever heard about...

DELAHUNT: That date?

BULGER: Yes.

DELAHUNT: Well, let me indicate to you that there has been evidence before this committee that John Connolly and John Morris cultivated James Bulger as an informant, and in 1979 approached Jeremiah O'Sullivan to inform him that your brother James was an informant for the FBI, and that he should be given consideration in a particular case, and that was done. That's been evidenced before this committee.

Subsequently -- and, again, I want to inquire as to the involvement of the federal authorities as it relates to the so-called 75 State Street.

BULGER: Right.

DELAHUNT: And I'm not interested in the facts. I presume that you were interviewed. I don't know whether you appeared before a grand jury, but you were interviewed, I understand, by two assistant U.S. attorneys...

BULGER: Right.

DELAHUNT: ... as well as two FBI agents that were present.

BULGER: I'm sure there were other people beside those -- the two counsel. But the counsel did all the talking.

DELAHUNT: Fine. And the statements that you made to them, you'll testify here today were to the best of your ability the truth.

BULGER: Oh, sure.

DELAHUNT: So that we can obviously refer to those if necessary.

BULGER: Sure.



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DELAHUNT: Let me just digress and go back to...

(CROSSTALK)

DELAHUNT: When you were called in front of the grand jury, and you indicate that your testimony was released -- I share my colleague's concern about that leak -- the purpose of that grand jury, the purpose of those questions was to seek assistance in the whereabouts of your brother?

BULGER: I think so.

DELAHUNT: That was your understanding?

Prior...

(CROSSTALK)

BULGER: Harboring and obstruction of justice were the two matters that brought us there.

DELAHUNT: Were you declared, was it indicated to you you were either a subject or a target of that investigation?

BULGER: No.

DELAHUNT: So presuming that the purpose of the grand jury was to secure information as to the whereabouts of your brother...

BULGER: Right.

DELAHUNT: ... prior to your grand jury testimony, were you interviewed by the FBI?

BULGER: The grand jury is in 2001.

DELAHUNT: 2001?

BULGER: That's correct, yes.

DELAHUNT: If you have a memory, were you interviewed by the FBI prior to 2001 as to the whereabouts of your fugitive brother?

BULGER: I don't believe I was.

DELAHUNT: You were not?

BULGER: I don't think I was.

DELAHUNT: Are you aware that there is a task force that was created for the sole purpose of apprehending your fugitive brother?

BULGER: Yes, I am.

DELAHUNT: And you were never inquired of, by that task force prior to your grand jury testimony?

BULGER: I don't believe so, no.

DELAHUNT: Was your brother John, Jack, inquired of? If you know.

BULGER: I don't know.

DELAHUNT: You indicated that your wife was inquired of this week?

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BULGER: Last week.

DELAHUNT: Last week.

BULGER: They were looking for her.

DELAHUNT: With the purpose of determining the whereabouts of James Bulger?

BULGER: Correct.

DELAHUNT: What year did your brother flee the commonwealth?

BULGER: '95.

DELAHUNT: 1995? So eight years later, the FBI gets around to inquiring of you and your wife, in your case some six years, as to the whereabouts of your brother.

BULGER: That's the first direct effort, yes.

DELAHUNT: Do you have something prepared that you were about to read or submit to the committee regarding a conversation some Doyle (ph) had with...

BULGER: Yes. These were two FBI agents, Congressman, who came to the door last Wednesday, a week ago. This is very brief.

T. DAVIS: Can I just interrupt? We've got to get over to a vote. Let me ask this. This is a great time for us to take a break. Their time has expired, we've indulged them a little extra time so they could have some continuity.

What I'd like to do is take a 40-minute break. If you'd like, we can make sure you have lunch in the back and have some privacy.

BULGER: Thank you.

T. DAVIS: And you prepared. Allow you to read anything that you'd like to supplement at that point when you come back and read anything into the record.

Then we'll resume questioning a half an hour on our side and then a half an hour over in the Democratic side.

OK. Hearing will be in recess.

(RECESS)

T. DAVIS: Committee will return to order.

Before I refer questions over to Mr. Bulger, I have one issue that I wanted to get to the bottom of.

We'd asked earlier about the special legislation that was put in the budget amendments in 1981 following the Lancaster Street garage bugging incident.

This was legislation that, at least as I read it, was aimed at about five officers, two of whom were involved in the bugging of Whitey Bulger and the Lancaster Street garage, that some in the press have dubbed retaliatory.

I'm just trying to understand in my mind other than singling out five officers who would have to retire early or lose other benefits, how this could have happened or what other public policy issue might have been at stake here.

And I just wonder, Mr. Bulger, if either you or your counsel, Mr. Kiley, could shed any light on that? In fact, Mr. Kiley, if you'd like to -- I know you were -- can I swear you in on this just to...

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Do you solemnly swear that the testimony that you're about to give be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

KILEY: I do.

T. DAVIS: OK.

I say this because I understand you were around the state house at the time and at least were acquainted with the issues.

KILEY: I was in 1981, as I had been for the prior six years, the first assistant attorney general for the commonwealth. I served in that position for 10 years.

We had a state police contingent in the office, which at one point, and I believe it included in 1982, was headed by Captain and later Lieutenant Colonel Agnus (ph), one of the gentleman who provided you an affidavit.

In the affidavit, and in the president's testimony, there is an allusion to, a reference to a controversy that existed in Massachusetts following the United States Supreme Court's decision in the United States v. Murgia. It related to the retirement ages in the uniform branch and the detective lieutenants.

The uniform branch people were required to retire at a very early age. The detective lieutenants, and these five individuals who were among them, were not. They had civil service status. They retired at 65.

The controversy that existed for years was whether it was fair to the uniformed branch people to leave the senior staff on top of them so that there were not opportunities for promotion. There was the issue, and if I may refer you again to the affidavit of Peter Agnus (ph), he alludes to that problem.

I also want to suggest, and I think it's an important point to the committee, that we have provided you news clips contemporaneous from 1981 in addition to these clips.

And to Congressman Meehan's point.

KILEY: One of those articles suggests the outside section actually emanated from the House and was in the House budget.

I've not been able to nail that down with historic research, but this amendment -- the outside section that you are talking to -- has an unclear provenance. It may have originated in the House, not the Senate, and there were certainly other issues on the table at the time.

One other quick point -- the Lancaster Street garage surveillance, by all accounts, was conducted largely by uniform branch personnel. The uniform branch personnel would have benefited -- not been harmed -- by the passage of the (inaudible). Now that, again, as I've told your staff that's argument -- that last point -- is argument, not fact.

T. DAVIS: Just trying to put it all together. Of course, we're going to go back to check the legislative record to the extent that we -- 20 years later -- but that at least from my perspective clears up at least what might have happened.

KILEY: And again, it's referenced in those Agnus (ph) and Nelly (ph) affidavits that you passed.

T. DAVIS: Thank you very much.

(UNKNOWN): Mr. Chairman, just so we're clear on this issue.

So, Mr. Kiley, you're saying that it wasn't an outside section that was included in the Senate Ways and Means proposal?

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KILEY: Congressman, I have gone back and done the research in our journal and so forth and I have not been able to nail it down. I can't tell you where it came from and I've been trying to do that with...

(UNKNOWN): So you can't say it is or it isn't?

RILEY: I can't.

(UNKNOWN): OK. Great.

T. DAVIS: Thank you.

Under unanimous consent, each side will now be given 30 minutes. We'll proceed with Mr. LaTourette.

LATOURETTE: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

And Mr. Bulger, it's nice to see you again.

The affidavit that's sort of sporadically been put into the record during the course of the day. I have received them last night and it looks like they were faxed down from Mr. Kiley's office yesterday morning maybe about 10 o'clock.

And while I appreciate them, the difficulties I have with affidavits like these is you can't ask them questions. I mean, they are what they are.

And I might ask the chairman -- that since these folks have been kind enough to want to participate in a hearing -- maybe we should chat with them just a little bit later if there are questions on the affidavits.

And I just want to ask you, I assume that they came into existence because you and your lawyer reached out to these people. They didn't know you were coming today and said: Hey, I got something I want to say. You reached out to them -- is that true?

BULGER: Yes, my counsel has done so.

LATOURETTE: OK. And I want to return to the 1995 phone conversation between you and your brother that took place at an employee's home. And again it was set up by Kevin Weeks -- wanted to know where you were and the phone call was made.

In your opening remarks, you referred to it as a short conversation three or four times and then in response, I think, to Mr. Waxman's question, you indicated it was a three- or a four-minute conversation.

LATOURETTE: When asked what the substance of the conversation was, just to summarize what I heard you say, you said, you know: Don't believe everything you hear and tell everybody things are going to be OK. And you expressed the concern on behalf of your family that you all care about what happens to him.

That only takes about 30 seconds. I've learned that folks in the South and New England speak slower than we do in Ohio, but that's only 30 seconds.

So was it a 30-second phone call or was there more that you're not remembering today or were there variations on that theme about expressions of concern back and forth that then consumed another two and a half, three and a half minutes?

BULGER: Congressman, I don't have a distinct recollection of the minute-by-minute conversation. I don't have that. That's the idea that I came away with, that everything is not as it seems and that I'm OK. And in turn I told him, You know, we care about you...

LATOURETTE: Right.

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BULGER: ... and we want you to -- I hope it's going to have a happy ending.

LATOURETTE: Right.

BULGER: And I think what I've probably provided you with is not so much the words, but the gist of the conversation.

LATOURETTE: The gist of the conversation.

During the course of the conversation, when we spoke a couple of weeks ago, you did not advise your brother to turn himself in during that phone conversation.

BULGER: That's correct.

LATOURETTE: And likewise he did not reveal to you where he was.

BULGER: That's true.

LATOURETTE: Now, there's been some discussion about the leaking of grand jury evidence, and I find that as abhorrent as my colleagues from Massachusetts do.

But one of the newspapers is quoted as saying, that allegedly was in receipt of those documents that indicated that in fact when you were in front of the grand jury you testified that you told him not to turn himself in.

BULGER: That's not true.

LATOURETTE: That's not an accurate...

BULGER: I mean, if you reported -- I believe the Globe may have reported that, but it's absolutely not so that I told -  
- I never said such a thing to him.

LATOURETTE: Prior to your appearance at the grand jury, or maybe during the course of your appearance at the grand jury, did you request immunity from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts before making that appearance?

BULGER: Did I request immunity from the commonwealth?

LATOURETTE: Before your grand jury testimony.

BULGER: I never had no occasion to do that, no, sir.

LATOURETTE: OK. Also, as I asked you a couple of weeks ago, I think -- I don't have the same strong feelings that maybe Mr. Shays expressed, but I think that when you invoked the Fifth Amendment privilege on December the 6th up in Boston that caught some of us by surprise.

LATOURETTE: I've heard you explain today and the other day that you were afraid that there was going to be some sort of memory test, and I also understand that the idea of immunity was one that was generated by the committee. It wasn't you and your counsel calling up and saying, I'm only going to come see you if you give us immunity.

But I guess the question that I have is, between the date that you invoked the Fifth Amendment when the committee was in Boston, and then I would assume that there would come a time I would think when you would say, I don't have anything to fear here.

And I think, as I expressed to you a couple of weeks ago -- as I listened to you a couple of weeks ago, and I listen to you today -- I'm not conversant with Massachusetts law, and if you and your lawyer say there is a section where

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you can talk to your brother or your sister and you don't get in trouble for that even if they happen to be killers, I'll take that on face value.

But I'm wondering, there is nothing that you said today that you've done anything wrong, so I'm trying to figure out why there didn't come a time after you took the Fifth in December and then finally the negotiations are for you to show up here, that you didn't reach that conclusion as well?

BULGER: Well, I became increasingly comfortable after the conversations, I do know that but I thought the die had been cast back in December by my invocation of my constitutional right.

And at that time in December, I can just tell you that I was very much concerned about the fact that just upon the arrival of the committee in Boston, the government had released or leaked my grand jury minutes to The Boston Globe, and I feared that other people might have it and therefore I would be at this huge disadvantage in my view where I would be required to remember exactly what I had said two years before, and they would have all the advantage of being able to look at my notes, and that was a matter of large concern to me.

LATOURETTE: Sure. Well, that's a commonly used trick that prosecutors do to take former testimony and try and trip you up, and I certainly understand that.

Let me ask you, when you received a subpoena in December -- to appear in December, did you hire a public relations firm to help you? Aside from legal counsel, did you hire a public relations firm to deal with the subpoena and your appearance before the committee?

BULGER: I hired counsel, and we had people who do public relations work who were being helpful to us, yes, and I did pay them myself.

LATOURETTE: And was the purpose of that to somehow get out your side, aside from the appearance, but was it also to help with the media, in terms of spinning whatever it is you wanted the Boston media to believe about this?

BULGER: That's exactly right. I was trying to get some part of my point of view into the public domain.

LATOURETTE: Following that retention and around the time of your testimony there were also some -- not so pleasant stories about our former chairman, who I see now is in the chair today.

LATOURETTE: But was there any strategy discussed that -- it's not an uncommon technique in politics to not only defend, but to attack. Was there any suggestion of that?

BULGER: I never heard of it, Congressman. If there were any ad hominem, they didn't come at my suggestion.

LATOURETTE: And certainly, from that answer, that isn't a tactic that you would approve of certainly by...

(CROSSTALK)

BULGER: No, I think -- no, I should...

LATOURETTE: OK.

BULGER: ... care for myself.

LATOURETTE: I want to now just turn quickly to the wire to the PEN registers for just a second. As I understand Kevin Weeks, who has recently testified in the Verizon case, has indicated that information was given to him by Mr. Schneiderhan.

And he testified that he gave that to your brother Jackie. Do you know that to be true other than I've just said it and Kevin Weeks testified under oath the last time?

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BULGER: No, I don't know that it's so.

LATOURETTE: And again, your story is that no one in law enforcement, or no one outside of law enforcement ever indicated to you that there were PEN registers on your phone, and that knowledge only came to you when pursuant to statute, your lawyer was notified that you had been a subject of a electronic surveillance.

BULGER: That's right. It was back in 1998.

And by the way, Jack would have heard the same thing from his -- yes. So the two of us were well aware of it.

LATOURETTE: Well, but I think that the allegation is that the tip came before the notification. It's after? You think it's after?

BULGER: Subsequent.

KILEY: If I may, Congressman...

LATOURETTE: Sure. Well, sure.

KILEY: Our correspondence is dated October 9, 1998. The allegation with respect to Trooper Schneiderhan is the tip came in 1999, a year later.

LATOURETTE: Well, thank you for clearing that up.

So the last area, with the chair's indulgence, I want to talk a little bit about the safe deposit boxes.

Apparently your brother has safe -- dead, or may still have safe deposit boxes around the world. And one of them was in the United Kingdom. Today you're aware of that fact, is that right?

BULGER: Yes.

LATOURETTE: And you're also aware of the fact that you were a contact name on at least one box...

BULGER: Right.

LATOURETTE: ... today. And how did you come into possession of that information?

BULGER: Through the newspaper. It was reported in the newspaper, and that was the very first I ever heard of it.

LATOURETTE: I had thought -- and I'm not trying to do anything tricky -- I had thought when we talked a couple of weeks ago that they had in fact -- that one of the banking institutions had called your home.

BULGER: That's what I understand, too. They claimed to have done so.

LATOURETTE: But in checking with your family members...

BULGER: Nobody...

LATOURETTE: ... no one remembers receiving a telephone call from the bank about such a call?

BULGER: No.

LATOURETTE: I would yield back. I don't have anything else.

T. DAVIS: Mr. Shays?

SHAYS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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And thank you, Mr. Bulger, for being here.

I have a different view of the Fifth Amendment than yours, and maybe they're not all that different, but I believe that a public official has a duty to cooperate when you have an official body that wants the truth.

And it blew me away when you exercised your Fifth Amendment right, which you're allowed to do, but you are a public official.

And it bugs the heck out of me that we've had to delay six months what you could have answered. I heard nothing you said today that you couldn't have said back then.

My view is the Fifth Amendment gives you the right not to incriminate yourself, and you have the right to use it.

SHAYS: And the courts have made it very clear that you can't convict someone on it. But it doesn't say what public opinion has a right to think, or what a congressional hearing has a right to think, about the exercise of anyone using that right. And so my natural instinct is to think what do you have to hide?

And I've listened to you, and you've used as an excuse that your memory might not be good enough and that, therefore, you don't want to, you know, do something where your memory isn't good enough.

But whatever you say here -- whatever you say here -- has to be the truth. And your immunity doesn't protect you from lying before us. You were sworn in, correct? Everything you say here has to be the truth, correct?

(CROSSTALK)

SHAYS: Or you, in fact, can be prosecuted. Is that not true?

BULGER: That's exactly right, Congressman.

SHAYS: OK. So I'm just, like, mystified.

I want you to tell me what you think about Joseph and Marie Salvati.

BULGER: Joseph Henry Salvati, the gentleman who spent -- I have the same sense of outrage, same sense of actually revulsion at the story of Mr. Salvati and the other two defendants who were wrongfully convicted and sent to jail for all those years. And Mrs. Salvati, I've met her on occasion, and she knows of my feeling on that.

SHAYS: Does it bother you that you helped provide an environment in which it seemed difficult for law enforcement agencies to get at the truth?

Does it bother you that the FBI was involved with sending this man to jail when he was innocent?

Does it bother you that your brother was involved with sending this man to jail when he was innocent?

I want to know what you think about your brother's involvement in this outrageous, obscene, gross circumstance.

BULGER: This is the very first I have ever heard of my brother's involvement in that, Congressman, the very first.

SHAYS: Very first?

BULGER: Yes.

SHAYS: Yes? So somehow he just wasn't connected with this in any way?

BULGER: Somehow he was not connected with this?

SHAYS: Yes.



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BULGER: No.

SHAYS: In any way with the Salvati case?

BULGER: I don't believe so.

SHAYS: OK.

BULGER: IN fact, it's the very first I've ever heard of it.

SHAYS: You've never heard anyone suggest that before?

BULGER: No.

SHAYS: Let me ask you, when you received the phone call, you received -- your brother fled in December '94 and you received the phone call in January of '95, correct?

BULGER: Correct.

SHAYS: OK. Your brother broke the law and you were a public official. Did you go the authorities to say that your brother had contacted you?

BULGER: I informed my attorney just about immediately.

SHAYS: Did you go to the officials?

BULGER: No.

SHAYS: Why not.

BULGER: I told my attorney, and he in turn...

SHAYS: Well, big deal.

BULGER: And he in turn told the officials.

SHAYS: OK. And who interviewed you after that?

Why wouldn't you -- just offhand -- why did you have to tell the attorney, why don't you just -- I think you're a senator, correct?

BULGER: Pardon me?

SHAYS: You were a state senator at the time.

BULGER: Yes.

SHAYS: Why wouldn't you have just gone to the officials? Why do you need to speak through your attorney to tell the authorities that you spoke to your brother? Why are you looking at me...

BULGER: I have a right to do. I exercised my right to...

SHAYS: But why? You have a right to do it, but why would you do it? Why wouldn't you just pick up the phone and say, My brother who's fled contacted me. And by the way, I'd like to know why you just didn't speak to the authorities directly, why did you speak through an attorney.

BULGER: That was my preference.

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SHAYS: OK. Let me ask you this.

SHAYS: The individual who told you that you were to go to a house, his name was Kevin Weeks (ph)?

BULGER: Right.

SHAYS: Whose house did you go to?

BULGER: He didn't tell me to go to a house. He asked me where I would be.

SHAYS: And where were you?

BULGER: And I went to the -- I was, in the course of my duties that day, I was at a home in Quincy, the home of...

SHAYS: What home? Whose home?

BULGER: Edward Phillips.

SHAYS: So you spoke to your brother at Edward Phillips' home?

BULGER: Right.

SHAYS: Did Mr. Phillips know you were going to receive that call?

BULGER: I can't remember whether he knew.

SHAYS: Why not?

BULGER: I don't know whether I informed him that I was receiving...

SHAYS: So you came to that home and you said, I'm going to receive a phone call from somebody, or, I need to come to this home. Tell me how that's logical.

BULGER: No, when I go to this home -- very frequently, I'm receiving phone calls wherever I am. And it would not be unusual at all for me to receive a phone call while at his home.

SHAYS: But you knew that when you went to that home you were going to receive a phone call from your brother.

BULGER: I expected that I might.

SHAYS: Right. Why did you think you would receive it there? Why was your brother calling that...

BULGER: That was his request. I'm sure he would like a private conversation.

SHAYS: Did the FBI ask you why you received the call there?

BULGER: I'm reminded by counsel that the U.S. attorney asked me, in the grand jury.

SHAYS: Yes, when was the grand jury?

BULGER: When?

SHAYS: Yes.

BULGER: In 2001.

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SHAYS: Isn't that amazing? You receive a call in 1995 and nobody wanted to have details of why you went there and whether or not that individual knew you were receiving the call and so on. It didn't strike you as kind of interesting?

BULGER: I think the U.S. Attorney's Office knew about it far in advance.

SHAYS: Yes, the problem is that there is a suspicion, why you obviously don't agree with, that the FBI and others were intimidated in interacting with you because you were a powerful political person, and you know you were a powerful political person. Did the FBI ever try to question you, and did you refuse to talk to them or answer them? Did you ever shoo them away? Did you ever suggest that maybe they should go somewhere else? Did you ever do that?

Under oath. I'm asking you under oath if you did that.

BULGER: I think whenever they have come I told them I'd like to -- if I'm going to talk to them, I want to do so with counsel.

SHAYS: Did you ever suggest to them to get lost.

BULGER: No.

SHAYS: Did you ever suggest to them that you did not want to answer their questions?

BULGER: I don't recall. But I know that if they...

SHAYS: So if we have someone from the FBI who comes up to us in a hearing and says, We went to Mr. Bulger, we asked him, and he told us to get lost, you would...

BULGER: I don't think I used that expression...

SHAYS: Well, you get the gist. Maybe they don't say get lost up in Boston, but you get the idea of what I'm suggesting. Not willing to cooperate.

BULGER: You're suggesting...

SHAYS: I'm suggesting that -- I am asking whether you gave a signal to the FBI that you did not want to answer their questions and that they should not ask you and that they should leave.

BULGER: I don't recall meeting the FBI. I really don't recall it.

SHAYS: Did the FBI ever come to your home?

BULGER: I've told that they did, but I do not recall it.

SHAYS: Did the FBI ever come to your office?

BULGER: No, I don't think so.

SHAYS: Did any other law enforcement people come to your home?

BULGER: I don't think so.

SHAYS: Did any law enforcement people come to your office just to ask you questions?

BULGER: I don't believe so.

SHAYS: Do you think the FBI felt that if they asked you questions about your brother that you would cooperate?

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BULGER: I have no idea what the FBI is thinking. They're not too friendly to me, Congressman.

SHAYS: I'm not friendly because I'm outraged at this whole case.

BULGER: No, I'm saying that the FBI is not very friendly to me.

SHAYS: I don't blame them.

Let me ask you this question...

BULGER: Well, if you can understand then -- if you don't mind -- Congressman why I would therefore be reluctant to be a cooperative witness.

SHAYS: No, I don't understand that. The fact that someone may not like you doesn't mean you can't tell the truth. That's an absurdity.

Let me ask in the final area: Did you have any knowledge of any organizations or people that were involved in gun running to Northern Ireland?

BULGER: No.

SHAYS: Were you aware that your brother was involved in any way in with providing some kind of munitions to Northern Ireland?

BULGER: I read that in the paper.

SHAYS: When did you read it in the paper?

BULGER: The year, I have no idea. In the '90s.

SHAYS: How did you react when you read about it? Were you proud of him?

BULGER: I didn't even know whether it was true or false, Congressman. I don't know how I felt.

Is this the question that I'm here for, to answer what how I feel about things? At any given time, I don't know.

SHAYS: That's not an unusual question because it gives me a sense of your attitude about a variety of things. I just want to know if you know anything relating to Valhalla (ph)?

BULGER: No. I know nothing about it.

SHAYS: Let me just conclude with these questions about your -- you have a variety of children -- were any of your children interviewed by the FBI about anything to do with your brother or their uncle?

BULGER: Oh yes, they have been.

SHAYS: OK. They've been interviewed, but you haven't been.

BULGER: Well, they been -- I'm trying to think of how -- they've been approached. And then once counsel called them, I think that was the end of it each time.

SHAYS: So the bottom line is when anybody approaches you or your family, they're told to speak to counsel?

BULGER: That would be a sensible attitude, yes.

SHAYS: OK, thank you very much.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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T. DAVIS: Before I ask questions, Mr. LaTourette, did you have some follow up real quick?

LATOURETTE: I just wanted to ask a couple of questions. From chatting with you the other day and also listening to you today, I get the sense that your family is close -- you and your nine children -- you have a very close-knit family. Does that exist in terms of your relationship with your brother? And by that I mean over the course of the years, like most families, did you get together for Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter? Did you have family get-togethers like that, where your brother would be present?

BULGER: No he would not be on hand for such occasions.

LATOURETTE: And then whether or not those events occurred, what was your understanding that your brother did for a living? I mean, he had a lot of money. What was your understanding...

BULGER: You know I answered, Congressman, earlier that I recognized that he was doing things that were...

LATOURETTE: Extra-legal...

BULGER: That were beyond the law at some point.

LATOURETTE: Thanks.

Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

T. DAVIS: Let me ask a few questions here.

You indicated at first that you heard that your brother might have been aware of the killing of Deagon (ph)?

BULGER: Deagon?

T. DAVIS: Deagon was the gentleman that was killed -- that they accused Mr. Salvatti of being involved with, as well as the others. You indicated you didn't brother knew anything about that, or at least the first you've heard about it if that's the case. Is that right?

BULGER: That my brother did not know anything about it?

T. DAVIS: Yes.

BULGER: That was not my intention to say that, I'm sure.

T. DAVIS: Well, I just want to clarify one thing.

MORES

T. DAVIS: The Winter Hill mob, or gang, or whatever you want to call it, he was pretty much the head of it. And Barboza and Flemmi, those guys answered to patriarch up there, who was north of them, I believe, in Connecticut.

And when they gave the approval to kill Deagan (ph), I'm sure that they had to know that, I'm sure he had to know that Deagan was going to hit.

BULGER: Could I ask you what year that was, Congressman?

T. DAVIS: What year was that?

BULGER: 1965? I think it's the year my brother was released from prison: 1965. So I...

T. DAVIS: He nevertheless was very tightly involved with all these guys.

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BULGER: He was?

T. DAVIS: Well, he was the head of the Winter Hill mob as far, as I know. Isn't that correct?

BULGER: He was...

T. DAVIS: I know he was in Alcatraz.

BULGER: Right. And I don't think he could manage it from there. I'm not being -- I don't mean to be -- seeming -- excuse me for that.

No, but I mean that's my problem with this.

T. DAVIS: I understand.

BULGER: You see my problem?

T. DAVIS: Earlier you said that Linda Riordan (ph), who left with your brother, he came back and you said that she did not get a job with the -- was it Linda Riordan (ph)?

BULGER: I think it's Theresa Stanley (ph), sir.

T. DAVIS: Theresa Stanley (ph), excuse me. I've got the wrong year.

Theresa Stanley (ph) -- that she didn't get a job at the convention center from your friend?

BULGER: I don't know that she did. I just...

T. DAVIS: It was...

BULGER: I didn't think she had worked there.

T. DAVIS: No, it was her daughter.

BULGER: Her daughter, OK.

T. DAVIS: I just want to correct that for the record.

Do you know whether John Connolly ever tipped your brother off to the fact that a criminal investigation was underway?

BULGER: With respect to -- do I? No, I don't know of it.

T. DAVIS: Did you consider writing a letter to Judge Terrell (ph) regarding Connolly's sentencing?

BULGER: Did I consider writing a letter?

T. DAVIS: To Judge Terrell (ph) regarding the sentencing of Mr. Connolly?

BULGER: No.

T. DAVIS: Did you encourage any others to write letters?

BULGER: I don't believe so.

T. DAVIS: Well, you say you don't believe so. Could you be more specific?

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BULGER: But I know I never called anyone, Congressman, Mr. Chairman, and said to him, please write a letter. There was nothing of that nature.

T. DAVIS: Did you ever talk to anybody on the street and say, you know, Connolly is a friend of mine and appreciate it if you'd write a letter to the judge?

BULGER: No, I don't think so ever.

T. DAVIS: You don't think so.

BULGER: No.

T. DAVIS: So categorically you're saying you never did that?

BULGER: I'm categorically telling you that I have no recollection of such a thing.

T. DAVIS: I know you have no recollection. But you can't say for sure that you didn't ask somebody to write a letter to the judge on his behalf?

BULGER: I believe I never asked anyone to write a letter to Mr. Connolly, never.

T. DAVIS: Did you encourage -- did Connolly introduce you to John Morris and any other FBI agents?

BULGER: Yes. Along the way he did introduce me to FBI people. I don't recall us meeting, or an introduction to John Morris, but I hear it frequently that Mr. Morris claims that there was such an introduction.

T. DAVIS: Now, I don't know if you answered this question -- I was out of the room for part of the time.

Did you ever take any steps to help Connolly get the police commissioner of Boston's position? Did you ever refer him to anyone for that job?

BULGER: Can you give me an idea of the year of that?

T. DAVIS: Well, I presume it was right after his retirement party, which would have been around 1990.

BULGER: 1990? And that was when he went to work, I think, for the Edison Company.

T. DAVIS: But did you recommend him for that position as police commissioner of Boston?

BULGER: Excuse me, who's the mayor at that -- maybe way back many years before there was a neighbor of ours who was mayor and I heard that I may have suggested John to Raymond Flynn (ph). He was the mayor some years back.

T. DAVIS: Did you try to help Connolly get other jobs, I mean, like at Edison? I guess you did.

BULGER: No.

T. DAVIS: You did not. That's the only time that you can recall?

BULGER: No, I think -- it wasn't even an effort. It wouldn't qualify as an effort to get the man a job. I may have suggested him as a possible candidate, somebody that might be looked at.

T. DAVIS: When you got that phone call, did you know in advance how far in advance you were going to get that call?

BULGER: I've answered that question before. I'm not positive. It seems as though it was very close to the time that I'd be in Quincy, where...

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T. DAVIS: Well, I just wondered if maybe you felt it might be better to get a call someplace besides either your office or your residence because your phone or something might be tapped.

BULGER: Yes. This request was one as to where I would be at a certain time of day, and I was quite certain I would be there at that particular place.

T. DAVIS: Well, if you knew you were getting a call from your brother, who was gone, had fled, why would you go to somebody else's house instead of your own to get the call, or go to your office? Because he was your brother after all.

BULGER: Right.

T. DAVIS: I mean, why wouldn't you just say, Well, you know, I'll be someplace. You can give me a call if you get a chance?

I mean, if he was on the lamb, you would know that he might not be able to make three or four phone calls chasing you down if you were going to different places.

BULGER: No, I answered where I would be. I was pretty sure I'd be down at Phillips' house that evening.

T. DAVIS: And of course you knew that Phillips would -- there wasn't any chance that anybody would be listening in on that phone conversation down there.

BULGER: Well, it was my brother's request that he wanted to talk to me.

T. DAVIS: Yes, going back to the State Street episode: You have the \$240,000 back because it came from Brown.

BULGER: Right.

T. DAVIS: Did he get the \$240,000 back when the money came? Did you get the money back when it came from other sources? You ended up getting a fee. Right?

BULGER: No. I got the money to which I was entitled. And I had done other work in that office. And because I now was in a more difficult position as president of the Senate, I had to step away from the formal practice of law as a partner of Mr. Finnerty.

T. DAVIS: But it had nothing to do with the first issue, the first case, the \$240,000.

BULGER: No, but the money was something in the nature of an advance. Finnerty was working on a particular matter with Mr. Brown.

Mr. Brown had a degree of notoriety, which caused me say to Finnerty, Why don't I just -- since the money's coming immediately from Mr. Brown, I should probably not receive it.

It was more to do with appearances. I don't think there's anything substantively wrong.

T. DAVIS: Nevertheless...

BULGER: It turned out to be Tom Finnerty's money. He could do whatever he wanted with it.

T. DAVIS: Nevertheless, you did receive \$240,000 later.

BULGER: Later? Oh, much more than that, I hope. No, more, because I was entitled to a fee. I think we may have covered this when you were out of the room.

T. DAVIS: You did. You did.



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BULGER: What happened was I had a fee coming for about \$350,000, and I was expecting that. Ultimately, that did come.

T. DAVIS: But it had nothing to do with the \$240,000 that you gave back.

BULGER: No, that's a totally different matter.

T. DAVIS: I see my time's expired.

Mr. Tierney?

TIERNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Let me just try to round out on that subject. What was the name of the trust from which you took the \$240,000?

BULGER: The Saint Pascal (ph) trust.

TIERNEY: And for what purpose was that trust established?

BULGER: Finnerty established the trust. It was his, he did it, I think just for the sake of separating some assets in his office. He ran the office.

TIERNEY: Who were the trustees?

BULGER: I think just himself.

TIERNEY: And who were the beneficiaries?

BULGER: I think just himself. I don't know. I think it doesn't stand the test of a real trust ultimately.

TIERNEY: Have you seen the documents?

BULGER: Well, way back I think I did. It was the fact that he's the beneficiary, as well as the...

TIERNEY: Trustee?

BULGER: Trustee.

TIERNEY: He was the only beneficiary and the only trustee?

BULGER: Yes, he was everything in that trust, yes.

TIERNEY: And nobody else shared either of those positions, so in fact it wasn't a trust.

BULGER: Yes, I think that's -- I'm remembering that from Emil Shlosetzski (ph).

(CROSSTALK)

TIERNEY: So when you took that money, you didn't take it as a beneficiary...

BULGER: Oh, no.

TIERNEY: ... it was some other form of transfer?

BULGER: He was free to pay it as he wished.

TIERNEY: And you didn't take it as a beneficiary, you took it as some other...

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BULGER: Oh, no. It was really because the other money was coming, it was slowed up. And I think he had some sense at the time that the slow-up on the other fee, which I had earned, was something which was the fault of the office. They had not been receiving the money on time, due to some inaction of their own.

TIERNEY: But as you testified just a short while ago when you received that money you invested it.

BULGER: Yes, I did. Some of it. Yes.

TIERNEY: Were there immediate needs that you had to meet with that money?

(CROSSTALK)

TIERNEY: Were you putting pressure on Mr. Finnerty for it?

BULGER: I don't think I did.

TIERNEY: I'm trying to figure out why he felt compelled to have to give an advance when everybody knew the fee was coming in eventually...

BULGER: I don't think he felt...

TIERNEY: ... and you had no apparent need for it.

BULGER: My sense of it is now, so many years later, 15 years, maybe more -- must be longer -- my sense of it is that he just wanted to do it. There were needs, nothing critical, I don't think, but it would be something he would be willing to do.

TIERNEY: Can you tell me how much of that money went towards needs that you had and how much of it got invested?

BULGER: Oh, only a very -- I didn't have it very long. I didn't put it toward needs. Just a very little bit, about \$10,000 or \$15,000, I think, was invested.

TIERNEY: When that money was paid back, did you make the check out to Mr. Finnerty or to the trust?

BULGER: I assume it was to the trust. I assume.

TIERNEY: And did any of the money which you used to reimburse the trust come from James Bulger...

BULGER: Oh, no.

TIERNEY: ... or any of his associates?

BULGER: No.

TIERNEY: Now, you had testified earlier also that Mr. Connolly from time to time brought by various FBI personnel to your Senate office to introduce them to you.

BULGER: Sure.

TIERNEY: Do you know what the frequency of those visits were?

BULGER: It would be occasionally, maybe -- I think if new people were coming to town, he might come by and introduce them.

TIERNEY: Did he visit your office on other occasions?

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BULGER: He may have. I have some sense that he was around a bit. He knew everyone, nearly everyone who worked for me.

BULGER: And I think frequently that was the reason for his presence there.

TIERNEY: Was there any associations with other people in your office?

BULGER: He was friendly with several people, yes.

TIERNEY: Did you have periodic telephone conversations with Mr. Connolly while you were in the state Senate?

BULGER: No.

TIERNEY: Would he call your office?

BULGER: Not very frequently, no.

TIERNEY: And when he would call what were the topics that he'd discuss with you?

BULGER: I don't know. He might ask me if I would be an emcee at something, that was always a request that I would receive. I think I visited every senatorial district in Massachusetts doing that, Democrat and Republican.

TIERNEY: And Mr. Connolly would ask you to do that?

BULGER: He would do that, too. There were some event that he were interested in, if there were a charitable event or something, and I think I recall his asking me on some such event, Would you come and be the emcee?

TIERNEY: Is it your testimony that in none of those telephone conversations and in none of those personal visits between you and Mr. Connolly was the subject of James Bulger made?

BULGER: I don't -- no, it was -- no, he didn't. He just didn't -- there is an awareness on the part of people that my brother is there, Congressman.

TIERNEY: But this individual was somebody that you and your brother grew up in the same neighborhood with him, you had a long- standing relationship. He's in the FBI, he's running your brother as a confidential informant.

BULGER: Right.

TIERNEY: And he never mentions anything of that to you?

BULGER: He doesn't tell me about it. He does not. He, I think, years later, as he's leaving, maybe around 1990 or thereabouts, it's becoming clearer and clearer that they all know each other. He knows my brother. But I don't think I ever was even aware of it until much later.

You know, can I -- just an example. Governor Welles served for, I don't know, seven years as governor of Massachusetts, and we were very close during the five years in which I was still the president of the Senate.

He never mentioned my brother, never once, and we had traveled together and we worked together to resolve some of the problems that confronted both the House and the Senate and the governor. And I can only say he never mentioned it, and that is not an unusual way that the fact of my brother's presence was handled. Everyone knew about my brother, but it frequently was just something that didn't get referred to.

TIERNEY: Mr. Bulger, you wrote that...

BULGER: Can I have one moment?

TIERNEY: Sure.

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BULGER: I'm reminded by counsel that one time I did ask John Connolly about something that was in the paper, that my brother was involved in drugs, and I began to, I think, asking people about that because I didn't think it was something that could go on without a lot of people being aware of it.

And I asked him, you know, if he could find out within his right to know and he came back to me and said, they gave me a negative on it. He said that he didn't think that was so.

TIERNEY: Earlier when we talked about what it is that you thought your brother did, you indicated you thought that he was involved with numbers and things of that nature.

BULGER: Yes.

TIERNEY: How come you never asked John Connolly then if your brother was engaged in those things?

BULGER: Well, because I thought there was validity to it. In the case of this drug business, I thought it was false. There was something, a claim made against him that was false. I asked other people about it too.

TIERNEY: You've never asked Connolly to the extent that your brother might be involved in gaming or anything of that nature?

BULGER: No, no I didn't, no.

TIERNEY: You never asked him if your brother was in trouble with the FBI or other law enforcement officials or should you have talked to your brother about it?

BULGER: I don't believe I did. I didn't think it was within my right to inquire or that it was his right to tell me.

TIERNEY: You wrote a while back that your wife at one time all you and informed you that your brother and a group of people purchased the lottery ticket together and that the ticket had been bought jointly. Apparently, a \$1 ticket we're talking about here. But it had been bought jointly by Mike Linsky (ph) and his brother Patty (ph), Kevin Weeks and Jim. Half of the purchase price, I guess, 50 cents, was paid by Mike -- was thus entitled half of the proceeds of the \$4.3 million prize. The remaining half was divided equally among Patty, Jim and Kevin. And my brother's share amounted to about \$1.6 million.

Do you have any idea of whether your brother would or not have received \$80,000 a year I guess over 20 years. Do you have any idea where your brother may have invested or spent that money during the five years before his disappearance?

BULGER: No, I don't know where he spent that money.

TIERNEY: Do you know if he took it as a lump sum or if he did take it over the periodic payment period?

BULGER: I don't think he took the lump sum because there was a squabble about whether it was a valid win.

TIERNEY: You testified at one point -- there was information at one point -- that your brother had a safe deposit box in London with your name on it. What knowledge did you have about that box, and when did you acquire knowledge about it?

BULGER: Whenever it appeared in the newspaper is the first I knew of it. Understand I'm not a joint, but rather somebody to whom they would go if there were no one else.

TIERNEY: In that phone conversation you had with your brother, he mentioned to you that this was the case in case something happened to him?

BULGER: No he never told me that. I don't think he -- he'd know that I would tell him that I don't want to be on it.

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TIERNEY: Do you know of any other safe deposit box belonging to your brother James?

BULGER: No, I've heard of one in Florida which is involved.

TIERNEY: How did you hear about that?

BULGER: Because my brother, Jack, was paying the annual bill for it.

TIERNEY: Was your name on that one also?

BULGER: Oh, no.

TIERNEY: Do you have any financial interest in any money or property or business that's owned in part by your brother James?

BULGER: No, not at all.

TIERNEY: Do you have any awareness of any assets belonging to James and where they might be at this point in time?

BULGER: No.

TIERNEY: Have you ever received any large gifts with the value of \$1,000 or more from your brother, James?

BULGER: No.

TIERNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

T. DAVIS: Mr. Lynch?

LYNCH: Let me continue. I just have a few questions, but let me just continue on that line of questioning.

Based on earlier testimony by, I believe, Mr. Weeks, Mr. Martorano, and actually confirmed by Mr. Morris, for a certain period of time there was an awful lot of money flowing between the FBI agents themselves and other third parties as well as your brother and Mr. Flemmi and their organization.

Were you ever confronted with an offer of money either from the FBI or from any of your brother's associates like Kevin Weeks or any of those gentlemen that are affiliated with your brother's organization?

BULGER: Never, no.

An offer of money to me from...

TIERNEY: From either an FBI agent or from -- all right, even an unexpected offer of money from an unknown third party?

BULGER: No.

TIERNEY: That's all I have, Mr. Chairman.

T. DAVIS: Mr. Meehan?

MEEHAN: This will be my final question on this 75 State Street.

Before you paid back the money, had anyone suggested to you that Harold Brown was going to be indicted?

BULGER: No.

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MEEHAN: So you never had a discussion with anyone relative to Harold Brown potentially being...

BULGER: No, I didn't know much about Harold Brown at all and then, but it became pretty clear that he was in some sort of difficulty. And I'm not sure how I came to know it but I thought it would be advisable since the money - - the source was from him -- and (inaudible), by the way, was suing him by that time. And that it would not be sensible for me to receive that money, since I already have the other money coming before long.

Tom Finnerty was trying to be helpful to me. He had it, and he thought that would be some help to me.

MEEHAN: Going back to the telephone conversation in 1995, when you went to your staff person's house, you knew that you were going to get a call -- it's not clear to me: Did you know that you were going to get a call from your brother?

BULGER: Well, you know, I still don't have a specific recollection, as I've indicated about the conversation with Kevin Weeks.

MEEHAN: But you testified that the information came from Kevin Weeks.

BULGER: Right. I have. But I've also said I hope each time -- I don't remember exactly the conversation, I settled on Weeks because I don't know anyone else -- I didn't know anyone else then -- who ever seemed to be in touch with my brother.

MEEHAN: And this is the same Kevin Weeks who was involved in the Logan Airport incident in 1987 where he escaped, apparently with the money.

MEEHAN: And this is the same Kevin Weeks that issued the lottery ticket. Apparently he was involved in this, maybe still in dispute of extorting a \$14 million winning ticket from the first person who won it. That was Kevin Weeks?

BULGER: I didn't know that that -- is that -- I didn't know that that was a claim.

MEEHAN: I think he's testified, I think that he's testified...

BULGER: That he did?

MEEHAN: ... to that.

BULGER: Yes, I didn't know that.

MEEHAN: And this is the same Kevin Weeks who along with -- apparently along with your brother and Steve Fleming -- at least according to his testimony -- forced legitimate owners of a south Boston liquor store to sell them the business apparently, according to Mr. Weeks, at gun point in 1984. And I think it's the same Kevin Weeks who, at least according to his testimony, has said that he participated in burying bodies all over the -- apparently all over south Boston.

Is it fair to say John Connolly was a close friend?

BULGER: Of mine? Yes.

MEEHAN: Yes. And John Connolly and John Morris apparently were friends.

BULGER: I didn't think so...

MEEHAN: You don't know that -- you don't know that...

(CROSSTALK)

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MEEHAN: John Morris was, apparently, was the agent in charge of Connolly. Are you aware of that?

BULGER: Pardon me?

MEEHAN: Are you aware that Morris...

BULGER: I think he was, yes. I think I was aware of that too.

MEEHAN: On the issue of the safe deposit box in 1997, you never, ever got notification that your name was on the box.

BULGER: No.

MEEHAN: Is that correct?

BULGER: Never.

MEEHAN: And was there a phone conversation or not, a telephone conversation, relative to that box? It's unclear to me whether or not...

BULGER: Well, I think there was some claim -- I'm remembering the newspaper reports that at some place something was changed -- I don't even know the name of the bank -- but that that was communicated. And my sense of it is that it was communicated by telephone. But no one seems to have heard that.

MEEHAN: So you never knew that he had put your name on...

BULGER: No.

MEEHAN: ... this box in London. And your name wasn't on the one in Florida, and apparently you heard of the one in Florida only through...

BULGER: Right.

MEEHAN: ... your brother Jack. After the phone call from your brother, you've testified that you notified your attorney.

BULGER: Well, I did tell my attorney that I had received the phone call. I didn't...

MEEHAN: You've stated that that was your last conversation, in 1995. And have you receive any other information from any source relative to your brother?

BULGER: Well, back in '95, there were people who they all seemed to claimed to have received a phone call or were aware through someone else who had that he was doing fine, or something like that.

Now I would hear it through third parties. And that seemed to be sort of a common bit of information.

MEEHAN: So information would get to you generally through third parties relative to how he was doing.

BULGER: I think so, yes.

MEEHAN: Do you recall the names of any of those third parties?

BULGER: Well, now I remember the incidents, some of the people. I mentioned that there was a young lady named Kathy McDunna (ph). I did not know her at the time. I since have come to know her. And I understand that she had received such a call.

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And then there was someone named, I said Hart (ph). I don't know if it might be Caputo (ph). And she was someone who was a friend of Theresa Stanley. She may have received a phone call. I'm not sure of that.

And then there were some folks who made large claims that would just -- the usual things you hear, you know, that were false.

MEEHAN: On a separate subject: Do you know a man named Roger Concannon (ph).

BULGER: Yes.

MEEHAN: How do you know him? What's your relation with him?

BULGER: Well, Roger grew up in that community. I know his brother for the most part, James.

MEEHAN: Have you ever been to his home?

BULGER: Roger? No.

MEEHAN: Has he been to your home? Are you close friends?

BULGER: No. I don't think I've seen him in years and years.

MEEHAN: Are you familiar with a musical group called The Irish Volunteers?

BULGER: Musical group? Yes. Very flattering.

MEEHAN: And you know they were...

(LAUGHTER)

... they would perform with the group. Is that right?

BULGER: Roger did, yes.

MEEHAN: Did you ever hire them to perform at events?

BULGER: Oh, I'm sure I did. But they were -- yes, they were -- yes, I know who they are.

MEEHAN: Were they any good?

BULGER: Well, you know -- well, I'm not a -- no, I would not recommend them.

(LAUGHTER)

I would also say that -- well, I used to chide them -- do you want to hear that? I should say it's a nice group. They hold themselves out as volunteers. The trouble's 3,000 miles away, and they're here.

MEEHAN: Are you aware that Roger and Bill Driscoll owned the Coconut Beach Inn?

BULGER: No. I don't know that place. I never heard of it. Coconut Beach?

MEEHAN: Coconut Beach Inn. Have you ever been to Saint Vincent?

BULGER: Pardon me?

MEEHAN: Have you been to Saint Vincent, in the Caribbean?

BULGER: No. I was going to -- I know another Saint Vincent.



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MEEHAN: Thanks, Mr. Chairman, that's it for now.

T. DAVIS: Mr. Delahunt?

DELAHUNT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

You mentioned Theresa Stanley. I'm sure you're curious about the whereabouts of your brother.

DELAHUNT: Have you ever had a conversation with Theresa Stanley since she returned to Boston?

BULGER: I have...

DELAHUNT: After your brother dropped her off?

BULGER: Yes, I did -- I saw her at a couple of events, and I've seen her a few times, but she becomes very silent, very quiet about things.

I don't bring up those subjects, but even the chance meetings seem to be subdued. She doesn't -- I don't know what -- but she's very polite and very...

DELAHUNT: But you've had no conversation with her about your brother?

BULGER: No.

DELAHUNT: I just want to name some FBI officials and determine whether you know them, and if you do, how you know them.

A James Ring, Jim Ring?

BULGER: Jim Ring, I do know that name and I think I have met him.

DELAHUNT: Do you remember where you met him?

BULGER: No, I don't remember meeting him at this alleged chance meeting at Mary Flemmi's home, but that's where I've seen his name. I don't remember that. I told you -- but it's, I think, 20 years.

DELAHUNT: You're familiar though with his testimony?

BULGER: Yes.

DELAHUNT: Regarding your appearance at the Flemmi household while he was there with John Connolly and your brother and Stephen Flemmi?

BULGER: Yes.

DELAHUNT: And you have no memory?

BULGER: No, I could not have seen that. I would have -- I just -- I never saw that.

DELAHUNT: Have you ever met a Dennis O'Callahan (ph)?

BULGER: I don't know that I have. I know the name.

DELAHUNT: He was a former assistant special agent in charge.

BULGER: Yes, I know the name.

DELAHUNT: But you don't remember meeting him?

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BULGER: I don't remember meeting him.

DELAHUNT: Are you aware that there is testimony that was given in the federal court that it was Dennis O'Callahan (ph) that provided John Connolly information relative to the indictment of your brother?

BULGER: I didn't know that, no.

DELAHUNT: There is a -- do you know this name, a Richard Baker? Would be a special agent.

BULGER: No, no.

DELAHUNT: There were reports that pursuant to a recommendation or instructions from John Connolly, you purchased liquor from the south Boston liquor mart that reportedly was owned by your brother after the incident that was just related by Mr. Meahan. But you don't remember -- you don't know a Richard Baker?

BULGER: No, and Richard Baker is an FBI...

DELAHUNT: Special agent.

BULGER: I don't know him, no.

DELAHUNT: A James O'Hearn (ph).

BULGER: I know that name.

DELAHUNT: He was a former special agent in charge in Boston.

BULGER: Right, I don't -- I'm sure I must have met him at some point, but I don't recall him or I don't recall ever having any conversation with him. But I do know he was -- I think he was very much in the news.

DELAHUNT: Yes, he was very much in the news. Do you remember a John Claridy (ph), Jack Claridy (ph)?

BULGER: Yes, I do. I think I know his sister.

DELAHUNT: You know his sister?

BULGER: Yes.

DELAHUNT: But you know Jack Claridy (ph)?

BULGER: If he is from West Roxbury, then I think I know him.

DELAHUNT: Do you remember being, again, a master ceremonies at his retirement party?

BULGER: Jack Claridy's (ph)?

DELAHUNT: Yes.

BULGER: No, I don't.

DELAHUNT: You don't?

BULGER: I could have done it, though. I did it all the time.

DELAHUNT: But you don't have a memory of...

BULGER: I don't have a specific memory. If you told me when and where it took place, I might.

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DELAHUNT: I think it was actually in June of -- if you give me a moment.

BULGER: Sure.

DELAHUNT: I think it was June of 1989.

BULGER: Yes, and the place?

DELAHUNT: I don't know the name of the place. I just...

BULGER: I could very well have been. I know his sister. She worked at the statehouse.

DELAHUNT: Her name was Hagedy (ph), as I remember?

BULGER: Yes, she -- and she always mentioned her brother as though we were -- we knew each other, yes.

DELAHUNT: Others have indicated that on multiple occasions, John Connolly would introduce you, either at your office or elsewhere, to members of the FBI.

BULGER: At his house?

DELAHUNT: Not at his house, no, either at your office or...

BULGER: That's how I remember him coming through. Someone new was in town and would you like to say hello, and that stuff. But that's very common. Lots of people did it. The place was open for traffic all of the time.

DELAHUNT: I understand, but you know, others have asked the frequency. I'm not asking you...

BULGER: Oh, but I don't know how. It wasn't very frequent. I'm sure that there were a couple of times a year, that would be about the way I would think of it.

DELAHUNT: But one inference could be drawn that Mr. Connolly enhanced his own status by bringing FBI officials in to meet the president of the Massachusetts Senate? That's an inference that could be drawn, would you...

BULGER: Sure, we assume that anyone who comes through, and is doing it either a social purpose or a self-promotion purpose. But I think it happens to all of us in public office.

DELAHUNT: And let me just -- again, I'm not interested in the facts of 75 State Street...

BULGER: Sure.

DELAHUNT: ... because you have testified here that the statements that you provided to the federal prosecutors were the truth. So I don't think there's any need for us, but by incorporation, those statements could be made part of our record.

And I would recommend to the chair that they be made part of our record.

BULGER: I hope you'll consider carefully, if I may...

DELAHUNT: Certainly.

BULGER: ... the affidavit I've submitted from Harold Brown. Harold Brown seeks to set the record straight, and he uses the word that I was totally innocent, that he doesn't ever intend to accuse me of anything.

DELAHUNT: I understand, Mr. Bulger, and I'm confident that this committee will consider that. But if the chair would honor my request, if we can secure the statements of Mr. Bulger...

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T. DAVIS: Without objection.

DELAHUNT: Thank you.

But what I find interesting is the -- well, let me ask you this question, Mr. Bulger. Who represented you during the 75 State Street...

BULGER: Bob Popio (ph).

DELAHUNT: Bob Popio (ph) represented you.

BULGER: Yes.

DELAHUNT: Did he ever raise with you the question of, or did he ever raise with you, an issue regarding a request or a suggestion by the federal government that would entail that investigation being conducted by another United States attorney's office or by a different office of the FBI?

BULGER: I never heard of that.

By the way, it had been already investigated.

DELAHUNT: I understand that.

BULGER: And then it went to a grand jury, and they said no.

DELAHUNT: I understand that all...

BULGER: And you know there are no accusers. The accusers of the lawyers of Harold Brown.

DELAHUNT: Well, let me explain the reason again why I'm posing these questions, is that while you testified here that you were unaware...

(CROSSTALK)

DELAHUNT: ... you were unaware that your brother was an informant...

BULGER: Right.

DELAHUNT: ... for the FBI...

BULGER: Right.

DELAHUNT: ... the individuals that were either involved in the investigation of 75 State Street, or even were in the periphery, were fully aware of your brother's status as an informant.

BULGER: But...

DELAHUNT: Go ahead.

I was doing some reading last night, and in a story that was dated December 9, 1988, it appeared in the Globe indicating that the FBI had called off an investigation of some two and a half years into the matter involving 75 State Street. And I'm quoting now: "FBI Agent John Clougherty (ph) yesterday confirmed that there was a formal investigation started in March of 1986. This investigation failed to develop any evidence of a violation within the jurisdiction of the FBI."

In December of 1988, as you've indicated, the investigation was closed.

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Let me just interpose a question here. At that point in time it has been reported that you had never been interviewed by the FBI. Do you have a memory of being interviewed by the FBI as it related to 75 State Street?

BULGER: No, of course not.

DELAHUNT: Thank you. But they did go ahead and made an announcement closing the investigation.

BULGER: May I also -- I think that's exactly the same time as the grand jury spoke and said there was nothing to...

(CROSSTALK)

DELAHUNT: Now, let me try to refresh your memory. The grand jury was subsequent to the announcement by the FBI. And obviously, it was John Clougherty (ph) who made that particular announcement.

BULGER: I never knew there was any kind of an investigation going on. I didn't.

DELAHUNT: I'm not in any way suggesting that you did. What I am saying, Mr. Bulger, is that the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Boston made an announcement that they were closing an investigation that you indicate of some two and a half years that you were unaware of, and then made that announcement. That doesn't happen very often with the FBI.

In fact, back in December I asked a question of the head of the Organized Crime Strike Force and the U.S. attorney, Mr. O'Sullivan, regarding his statement after the grand jury concluded its work, and he made the announcement that it was not even a close call.

And I posed the question to Mr. O'Sullivan: In your 16 years as a federal prosecutor when did you ever make an announcement that it was not a close call or that someone was vindicated?

Now, I'm not suggesting that's a policy that should be rejected out of hand, but what I am saying, it's a very exceptional policy. And he indicated -- his response to me was -- that it was very rare and he could only think of a single -- maybe one -- his words were: maybe one other time. And I requested that he, as he left, to go reflect and submit to the committee a letter outlining that other time, and I don't think we've ever received that.

Have we, Mr. Chairman.

BURTON: Not that I know of.

DELAHUNT: No.

BURTON ... the gentleman about concluding his questions. Do you have more questions, sir?

DELAHUNT: I do, but I'll be happy to...

BURTON: No, go ahead. There's continuing of questions that we want to make sure we get completed. But go ahead.

DELAHUNT: I'll do whatever the chair recommends.

And again, it was Mr. O'Sullivan that reopened that case, supervised that investigation and presented evidence to the grand jury, which, in a public statement, he exonerated you. And I think his words were "no close call."

But what I find interesting here is, we have Morris, John Morris, whom you've made a serious allegation about here today, who is in charge of that investigation; Mr. Ring, who was the special agent in charge -- strike that -- Mr. O'Hearn (ph), who was the special agent in charge of the Boston office, who clearly was not only aware of the informant status of your brother, but would sign off on any statement that was made in the name of the FBI, and

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also would have supervised Mr. Morris; we have Mr. Clougherty (ph) who was the former partner of John Connolly; and in addition to that we have Mr. O'Sullivan, who exonerated you.

And then we have testimony from Morris that he was approached by Connolly, and Connolly sought his advice as to whether you should testify in front of the grand jury. I think you've indicated...

BULGER: No, it was a meeting.

DELAHUNT: It was a meeting.

BULGER: That is what it was. It was my own request. I asked Popio is there some way I could talk to these people? So it's not the grand jury, Congressman; it was a meeting with the prosecutors.

DELAHUNT: No. This is prior to that, Mr. Bulger. There was an approach made by John Connolly to John Maurer (ph), and this has been testimony, you know, in the federal court.

BULGER: I wasn't aware of that, then.

DELAHUNT: And what I'm trying to do is clarify the record, because one could draw an inference that you requested John Connolly to make the approach to Maurer.

BULGER: Be absolutely certain, I never made such a request. Never.

DELAHUNT: But what I'm trying to relate to you is the testimony of John Maurer that was never refuted by Mr. Connolly.

Many things are said in all of our names that we're unaware of. But again -- well, I guess the bottom line for me is that the federal authorities, having knowledge that your brother was an informant, and that you were either the subject of a target of an investigation, concluded that it was fine for those that I mentioned to proceed with the investigation into 75 State Street, as opposed to referring the matter, like occurs frequently, to either another FBI office or to another U.S. attorney's office.

What I'm suggest is that I have reservations as to whether that's a very good practice, particularly when several months after you are cleared, that these same FBI officials invite you to be a master of ceremony for a departing member of the FBI.

I think it -- and again, I'm not leveling criticism at you, Mr. Bulger. What I am suggesting is that in terms of appearances and the confidence of people in our justice system, that just doesn't, as the former Governor Welles I think once said, that doesn't pass the smell test.

BULGER: May I just say a couple of things? First of all, as to the publicity, at the very -- there was a whole -- it was The Boston Globe, I'd call it a concoction. And it ran from that time, about December 8 of '88, and it ran right to the March 31. I remember it well because it was a daily, daily drum beat upon me.

And ultimately Bob Popio asked people who were conducting this thing, Please, there's never been so much publicity, if one were to go back and look at the publicity during that period, and he therefore asked, If you would please just make a public announcement so that my own opportunity to be made whole would occur.

Another thing, about being a master of ceremonies: I have to tell you, I did it more -- I'll bet I was a master of ceremonies for more state police than I have been for any FBI. I just did it all the time. It seemed to go OK.

I'm just telling you, it was a constant problem for me because people would so frequently ask me to do it. And it becomes difficult not to do.

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BULGER: I mean, Elliot Richardson (ph), who was the United -- Would you please, he said, do it? And I did it with Popio (ph), and we retired his debt. And he was ever grateful. But Elliott Richardson (ph), I mean, it was everyone. And I didn't know how to turn it off. And I did it all of the time.

And one of the things in my opening statement I don't mention, but the fact is these offices keep you very, very busy. And that was one of the...

And so, there's nothing sinister about my having agreed to be -- and by the way, I don't even know about this...

DELAHUNT: Mr. Bulger, let me be really clear. I'm not even suggesting sinister. What I am suggesting is responsibility of the office.

BULGER: My office?

DELAHUNT: No, not your office, the office of the FBI.

BULGER: Oh.

DELAHUNT: Because they were aware of the informant status of your brother.

BULGER: Right.

DELAHUNT: They knew that your brother was an informant to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and they proceeded to conduct an investigation into the matter involving 75 State Street. And I'd just say the appropriate action by the government should have been to refer that matter to another U.S. attorney's office, to another office of the FBI.

And far be it for me, Mr. Bulger, to defend the blow. But they were correct in the information they provided relative to the status of your brother as an informant. My understanding is that it was Mr. Morris that was the source of that particular information. But that information did lead to, I dare say, the Wolf (ph) hearings, the hearings of this particular committee, that have really given us some insights into what was occurring within the Department of Justice, not just in Boston, but by implication elsewhere.

BULGER: I appreciate that, Congressman. I can't even be in disagreement with you on it, not at all.

DELAHUNT: Mr. Chairman, before we get off this round, can I ask one question on the subject of...

(CROSSTALK)

... I want to get off this Coconut Grove end. And I didn't ask the last question. I get a little sidetracked with the evaluation of the Irish Volunteers, how they were. But I do want to ask this question. You indicated that you knew Roger and James Concannon (ph). And there's a story in the Herald today. I don't suppose you've had an opportunity to read the Herald yet, but...

BULGER: I don't ever read it.

DELAHUNT: I just want to ask you this. You had indicated you knew Roger and James. Have you ever spoken to them about your brother?

BULGER: To whom?

DELAHUNT: Roger Concannon (ph) and James Concannon (ph) or Bill Grisgal (ph)?

BULGER: I don't think I've ever spoken to Roger Concannon (ph) about my brother. I see Jim Concannon (ph) so frequently that I could very well have.

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DELAHUNT: So you could have. Any idea what the content would have been?

BULGER: Jim is a contemporary, and I see him once a week. And he's usually very supportive and that sort of thing. So it would be probably just giving him some assurance that we're doing OK. And I can't remember discussing my brother with him, though, Jim. Jim is a probation officer.

DELAHUNT: You never had a conversation with them about your brother potentially being at the Coconut Grove Inn or anything of that nature?

BULGER: The Coconut Grove Inn? I don't know where that is. Where is that? Do you mind me asking that?

DELAHUNT: Well, yes, it's in Saint Vincent -- the Caribbean, apparently. But I just asked the question because it was in -- it was a piece today, and I just thought I would finish that off.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

T. DAVIS: Thank you very much. Your time on this side has expired.

The gentleman from Indiana is recognized.

BURTON: I just have a few questions, Mr. Chairman, to kind of wrap up. Stevie Flemmi, were you aware that he had extensive real estate holdings?

BULGER: I think only after he was in trouble, indicted. I read it in the paper. I was not aware of it before that.

BURTON: But did you ever talk to his mother about him and what he did for a living, or anything like that?

BULGER: No, his mother was just exactly next door to me, just a few feet away. And she's a very fine lady, Congressman, and she was -- really she just -- she was seldom visited. She didn't have anybody after her husband died, and she would, I think, be kind of waiting when I come home or when I was going out. And I...

BURTON: I understand. That's laudable. Was he like your brother? I mean, did you have any idea what he did for a living?

BULGER: No, I thought he had a restaurant somewhere. And also I thought he had a club or something like that, some club.

BURTON: Did you ever hear any rumors or anything that would indicate your brother was involved in murders?

BULGER: Someplace I saw it in the paper. I didn't believe it, but I did see it someplace. And that was in the '80s.

BURTON: Now, all of these -- after 1995, you were called in January, I think, in 1995, and he left around Christmas in 1994.

BULGER: Right.

BURTON: Can you give us a list of all the people that passed along information to you about Whitey and where he was and how he was doing? Or is that a...

BULGER: I could -- well, I've done it for other authorities. I've told them...

BURTON: Well, we'd like to have it here for the record, if you can give it to us.

BULGER: OK, well I think that...

BURTON: I think it's important to know how many times he contacted people.



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BULGER: Yes, well I don't think...

BURTON: The only time he contacted you.

BULGER: I think Theresa Stanley was the source of some communications, because she had been with him and then was dropped off.

BURTON: This is the one whose daughter got the job at the convention center?

BULGER: Right.

BURTON: Yes.

BULGER: And I think, by the way, that youngster had worked at the convention center long before that. She's a very good employee. And she was savaged by the local press about being there. And she left, she went someplace else.

BULGER; I think Mrs. Caputo (ph), who I haven't spoken to in years, but I think she may have received a call. There's a gentleman that I used to meet, and I told the police about this, he is a retired policeman, and he told me that he had seen my brother in Maine and decided not to arrest him.

BURTON: Now, did they pass on to you anything specifically that Whitey said to them?

BULGER: No.

BURTON: He didn't say, Tell Billy I'm fine?

BULGER: No.

BURTON: Or didn't say Merry Christmas or anything?

BULGER: When I was in public office, I listened to everyone. Frequently knew better than to take them very seriously. He would fall into that category. Very nice fellow, but he could tell a wonderful story. That happens. I mean, I just didn't go about saying to people, You're fibbing and you're telling the truth, because they're all...

(CROSSTALK)

BURTON: Were there any other people in that list?

BULGER: And then there was -- I don't know (inaudible) ended some eight years ago. It happened then, and then nobody has said anything in years and years.

BURTON: So you don't recall anybody else other than those you mentioned?

BULGER: No.

BURTON: OK. Now, I'm going to be a little redundant, but I want to make sure we've got this for the record. When did the FBI first interview you after your brother fled Boston?

BULGER: Well, I'm informed now that they said they came to my house or something, and if they say that, then they probably came, but it would not have...

BURTON: The information that we have on that is that about four days after he left there was a knock on your door, you answered the door, they asked you questions, and you were supposed to have said, I don't have anything to say, and you just shut the door.

BULGER: Well...

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BURTON: You don't recall that?

BULGER: I don't remember it, you know, but my sense is, if I did speak to them, I think I'd handle it much more diplomatically, and I'd say, I have a lawyer and would you, and I'd give them his name.

BURTON: Well, what other interviews were there?

BULGER: With me or with other members of the family?

BURTON: With you.

BULGER: No, I don't think there were other interviews, no.

BURTON: OK. Were you concerned that your Senate office was bugged?

BULGER: No, I wasn't.

BURTON: Did you ever ask anyone to conduct a sweep of your office to determine if it was bugged?

BULGER: I accepted the routine sweep of the office. There was someone from one of the police departments or the state...

BURTON: Suffolk County district attorney's equipment was used?

BULGER: Something like that. And they would go through -- I think they'd go through all of the constitutional offices, and they'd make themselves -- if you wanted to do it, fine. I think I said yes to it.

BURTON: That was a common practice for them to sweep your office?

BULGER: No. But whenever they -- it probably happened once or twice.

BURTON: Did you ask them to sweep your office?

BULGER: No, I never went looking for anyone to do that, never.

BURTON: You didn't say, You know, I'd like to have my office...

BULGER: Oh, please, no. I didn't. No. No, I didn't say, Oh, please come and do it, no. I didn't do that.

BURTON: Well, how did it happen? Did they just say...

BULGER: I think that they called, the people who were doing it...

BURTON: But they initiated the call.

BULGER: I believe so. I think so. Again, it's years and years.

BURTON: If you were concerned about your office being bugged, it seems to me you would call and say, Look, I'd like for you to sweep my office.

BULGER: Sure.

BURTON: Or if they just said, You know, we would like to come by and check your office for bugs, you would know the difference.

BULGER: I don't think I ever felt that it was...

BURTON: Necessary.

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BULGER: Necessary.

BURTON: The only reason I ask that is you went to this other house to get that call from Whitey, and I just wondered if there was any correlation between that, having your office swept.

BULGER: No.

BURTON: There wasn't?

BULGER: No.

BURTON: You did not ask them to sweep your office?

BULGER: I don't think so.

BURTON: No, no, you did not ask them to sweep your office, you didn't think so. Just a yes or no. Did you ask them to sweep your office?

BULGER: No.

BURTON: Thank you.

OK, I just have a few more questions.

In your book, you showed a great deal of contempt for informants. And you've covered this, you heard that your brother was an informant, refresh my memory, how did you find out he was an informant or alleged to be an informant?

BULGER: The very first was in this piece in the Globe in the late '80s. That's the first time, I think, that, you know, my curiosity was piqued about this.

BURTON: What steps did you take to find out if it was true?

BULGER: I didn't take any steps.

BURTON: Did you talk to your brother about rumors that he was an informant?

BULGER: No, I don't think so. I don't think so. My brother's an older brother, Congressman, he doesn't listen to -- he didn't listen to -- he didn't come to me looking for advice.

BURTON: Yes, but it seems to me you'd remember if you said, Are you an informant? I mean, that's a pretty significant thing. I mean, Are you talking to the cops? You don't remember doing that?

BULGER: I don't think so, no.

BURTON: But you can't say categorically you didn't.

BULGER: I may have said it if I saw him, but, you know, I doubt it.

BURTON: But you were curious about the truth of the Globe article.

BULGER: The truth of it was not as interesting to me as the other aspect that I have described.

BURTON: Did you talk to John Connolly about your brother and whether he was a government informant?

BULGER: No.

BURTON: Did you talk to any friends or aides about the possibility that he was an informant?

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BULGER: I don't think so.

BURTON: You didn't talk to anybody else that you recall?

BULGER: No. I know what I said about it.

BURTON: I just have one more thing, Mr. Chairman, and that is, I'm very troubled by this Boston Herald article, not because of you, Mr. Bulger, but because how can a newspaper find out all this information and the FBI hasn't done anything about it. It just mystifies me.

BURTON: It says, according to one policeman, these two guys didn't have two nickel to rub together, and yet they paid \$130,000 at the outset, plus another \$27,000 for that hotel, to buy up controlling interest in it, and that Whitey Bulger allegedly was down there and had the top two floors. And they've talked to people down there that said that that was the case. And if that's the case and the Herald can find out about it, why in the world can't the FBI?

So I don't know if we have any U.S. attorneys around, but, guys, that kind of throws a little mud on your ability to get one of the 10 most wanted criminals in the country when a newspaper finds out about it and goes into great detail.

With that, I yield back my time, Mr. Chairman.

T. DAVIS: Thank you very much.

You doing OK? I'm going to recognize counsel. Do you need a break, Mr. Bulger, or you OK?

BULGER: I'm doing fine.

T. DAVIS: All right. Let me recognize counsel for questions.

KEITH AUSBROOK, COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, Mr. Bulger, Mr. Chairman.

I just wanted to ask a few follow-up questions to some things that have been raised today.

After your brother returned to Boston from Alcatraz, you tried to get him a job. Is that right?

BULGER: Yes.

AUSBROOK: And what job was that?

BULGER: I got him a job in the Suffolk County Courthouse, janitorial.

AUSBROOK: How long did he stay in that job?

BULGER: Some months, but not very long.

AUSBROOK: And do you what he started to do after that?

BULGER: And do I know what?

AUSBROOK: After he left that job, do you know what he started to do?

BULGER: I think he was with a company that was doing billboard advertising. I think that's where he went next.

AUSBROOK: And how long was he there?

BULGER: Excuse me?

AUSBROOK: And how long was he there?

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BULGER: I don't know. I think several years.

AUSBROOK: Was that a legitimate job, or was that something that he didn't really have to show up for...

BULGER: Well, I had assumed it was.

AUSBROOK: When did you come to realize that your brother was engaged in criminal activity?

BULGER: I'm uncertain of that, very uncertain of that.

AUSBROOK: Can you even make a rough estimate of when you might have figured out that he was engaged in criminal activity, loan sharking, numbers, other activities?

BULGER: Could I make a guess? It must be in the '70s sometime.

AUSBROOK: So I think you said that you certainly could have asked John Connolly to look after him at some point. Is that true? Is that what you testified to?

BULGER: Excuse me, this comes from a newspaper story, Counsel, that...

AUSBROOK: It actually comes from John Matarano's (ph) testimony.

BULGER: Yes.

AUSBROOK: And so he testified that you asked John Connolly to, Look after my brother.

BULGER: He said that?

AUSBROOK: Yes. To keep an eye on him. Keep him out of trouble. Something like that.

BULGER: Yes. That I said that to whom, to John Connolly?

AUSBROOK: To John Connolly, about your brother Whitey.

BULGER: And was Mr. Matarano (ph) there when I -- was he present...

AUSBROOK: No, I don't think he actually was there, but I think he understood that you had done that...

(CROSSTALK)

BULGER: Well, if I ever said something like, Boy, influence him to stay on the straight and narrow, if that's what's meant by it, I could well have said it, but I never was -- the other construction of my words is wrong. I don't know anything about what Mr. Matarano (ph) has heard. And I forget who it was that told him of it.

AUSBROOK: Do you think you would have said that at a time when knowing that John Connolly was an FBI agent and that your brother was engaged in criminal activity?

BULGER: Oh, no. I mean, I didn't intend that at all. I think it's a pretty innocent comment, if in fact I made it. I have no recollection. But I don't want to quarrel with that source.

AUSBROOK: But it's not something you -- I mean, maybe it's something you'd say to a lot of people, you know, just keep an eye on somebody, keep him out of trouble. It's not an unusual thing to say to somebody, is it?

BULGER: Do you think it's unusual?

AUSBROOK: No, I'm asking you if you think it's unusual.

BULGER: I don't think it's so unusual.

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AUSBROOK: But in the context of an FBI agent and a person involved in crime that might be an unusual thing to say.

BULGER: Oh, I suppose it could be, but it's not intended as it's purported.

AUSBROOK: Let me ask a few questions about Kevin Weeks. What is your relationship with Kevin Weeks?

BULGER: I just know him from seeing him around. His brother was a friend of mine, or at least I knew him from the campaigning. He lives in Chicago.

AUSBROOK: Kevin Weeks seems to be a person who would come to you with information about your brother.

(CROSSTALK)

BULGER: On several occasions he would stop by. I think I'm the last one to, at the end of a day, he felt like talking and not going home or something, yes.

AUSBROOK: Did you have any sort of special relationship with Kevin Weeks whereby you asked him to provide you with information about your brother?

BULGER: No. No.

AUSBROOK: Was there any special treatment that Kevin Weeks was afforded in getting access to you?

BULGER: No. I think I was inflicting my advice upon him. He seems very young to me. His brother was in Chicago, and I know I told him that he should go to Chicago and that he should take his wife and family and go to Chicago. That's what I would tell him.

AUSBROOK: So if he made a phone call to your office, would it automatically be put through?

BULGER: I don't think so. Somebody would talk to him. I don't think he ever made a phone call, ever, to my office.

AUSBROOK: What about visiting your office?

(CROSSTALK)

BULGER: I don't recall ever seeing him there.

AUSBROOK: Where would you see him?

BULGER: He would stop by the house, and he'd come through unannounced, suddenly.

AUSBROOK: Let me ask you some questions about your relationship with John Connolly.

AUSBROOK: Do you recall gathering some Friday nights at something called the Bayside Club?

BULGER: No, I know the Bayside Club, but there were no big gatherings that I attended.

AUSBROOK: Any kind of gathering then. Did you have a regular gathering of some sort on Friday nights anywhere?

BULGER: No -- what year is this?

AUSBROOK: In the early 1970s.

BULGER: In the early 1970s, I don't think so.

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AUSBROOK: In your last conversation with your brother, did you discuss at all any means of further communication with him?

BULGER: No.

AUSBROOK: Did he say he would call you again?

BULGER: No.

AUSBROOK: He did not?

BULGER: There was no discussion of it. It was the first few weeks. I thought the situation was temporary.

AUSBROOK: Let me ask you about your role as Senate president, and this outside budget item that keeps coming up. Have you been involved in other outside budget items?

BULGER: I don't know. I probably must have at different times.

AUSBROOK: Do you have any formal responsibility for outside budget items?

BULGER: No.

AUSBROOK: Is there a practice in the state legislation that the leadership, as Mr. Meehan has asked, suggested that the leadership has to sign off on outside budget items?

BULGER: No, the budget items come up as amendments, outside sections. And then there is an up or down vote on them by the body. But they come from all directions. They come from the committee on the judiciary, the committee on health, the committee on insurance and taxation. They are also...

AUSBROOK: Can they be voted on without the approval of the leadership?

BULGER: Oh, sure.

AUSBROOK: Let's go to the Billy Johnson incident. Did you ever receive a copy of the incident report?

BULGER: No.

AUSBROOK: And you've mentioned that you also had some contact with people who say they've heard from your brother. Cathy McDonna (ph), Caputo (ph) maybe?

BULGER: Yes, I don't think I spoke to those people, but I think they were the source of it.

AUSBROOK: Did you tell this information to the grand jury, that you'd had contact with those people?

BULGER: I think I did, but I don't -- I told them I was hearing it. And if it were attributed to someone, I think it might be such people as that.

AUSBROOK: And did you give them their names.

BULGER: Yes, I think so.

AUSBROOK: Did you ever tell the FBI that these people -- that you had heard that these people might have had contact with your brother?

BULGER: No.

AUSBROOK: Do you have any information as to whether federal investigators have contacted any of these people?

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BULGER: Oh, yes, there's evidence of that.

AUSBROOK: And how do you know that the FBI has contacted...

BULGER: I mean, because one of -- the young lady, Cathy McDonna (ph), ended up with a perjury charge against her. And I don't know, Theresa, I've seen her picture in the paper, testifying in court. So they've all contacted.

AUSBROOK: And finally, let me just ask you a little bit about if you ever saw John Connolly in the company of your brother?

BULGER: Never, I don't believe I ever saw that. I think I'd -- that will be -- I just never saw that.

AUSBROOK: Would that have surprised you to see that?

BULGER: It would have.

AUSBROOK: Did you ever see your brother in the company of any other federal law enforcement officials?

BULGER: No, not at all.

AUSBROOK: James Ring, John Morris?

BULGER: No.

AUSBROOK: How about did you ever see federal law enforcement officials going to Steven Flemmi's mother's house?

BULGER: No.

AUSBROOK: Those dinners apparently were not -- there was more than just one?

BULGER: Right.

AUSBROOK: But you never saw anybody going in and out of the house?

BULGER: Well, of course, I've seen many people going in and out.

AUSBROOK: But I mean any of the FBI agents with whom you were familiar?

BULGER: No, never. I can recall her family coming, because she would be inviting everybody that came from Lawrence, Massachusetts. And they would come. And she loved to cook for them, and that would be a big event.

AUSBROOK: Let me go back to the Billy Johnson incident report. Did anybody tell you what was in that report?

BULGER: No, no one ever told me what was in that report.

AUSBROOK: So you have no knowledge of what was in that report?

BULGER: Absolutely no knowledge of it. I never knew his name until years later, only because the press was writing about his problems.

AUSBROOK: Was it your earlier testimony that people did suggest to you that they had been threatened by your brother?

BULGER: I have a sense that I'd hear it, not from an individual, but I hear people say, you know, your brother frightened someone to death or something. And if I share it -- if I saw him.



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Sometimes I wouldn't see him six, seven months at a time. But if I did, I'd say to him, Please, I hope that's not true. That's all I could say is I hope it's not true.

AUSBROOK: Were these people involved in politics? Or were they just -- or were they also other people?

BULGER: I'm not -- well, they, I don't know. I don't know anyone who has been a candidate or anything.

AUSBROOK: I'm not sure I understood you. But when you did see your brother and you'd heard about these threats, did you ask him to try to stop that?

BULGER: I would say I hope that that's not true. I wouldn't want to get -- there's no sense in getting into an argument. He would say I think it's not true. But rather than argue about it, I would express my consternation with that kind of behavior.

AUSBROOK: So did he ever talk to you, not just about the threats, but about any of his other activity that was illegal?

BULGER: No, he didn't, no.

BURTON: Would the counsel yield to me, Mr. Chairman?

T. DAVIS: The gentleman from Indiana (ph)?

BURTON: These people who you had heard through the grapevine were threatened, do you know who any of them were?

BULGER: I suddenly remember one.

BURTON: Well, how many were there that you know of?

BULGER: I wouldn't hear it from them.

BULGER: But as I say, indirectly.

BURTON: I understand. But if somebody said, you know, someone was scared to death by Whitey...

BULGER: He scared the...

BURTON: No, excuse me, if somebody said a friend of mine was scared to death by Whitey, they obviously would tell you their names. So we'd like to know the names of the people that were threatened.

BULGER: Oh, but not necessarily. He'd say he's arguing with someone about you, me, taking my part, he thinks. And it wouldn't necessarily be -- I do recall one maybe.

BURTON: You only recall one?

BULGER: This, by the way, happened many years ago. We're back to 25 years or something. And it was in 1970. And one of the people running against me, someone in his camp there called me and said, Boy, your brother's angry and he's sounding off about things. And so I drove up the street and I found him and I said, You know, this is madness. Don't do that, you know.

BURTON: Well, who was this person.

BULGER: The candidate was a fellow named Patrick Loftus (ph).

BURTON: Patrick Loftus (ph)?

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BULGER: Yes.

BURTON: OK. Now, were there any others like that?

BULGER: No, that's the only one I pinned down like that. I had forgotten about it. It was 30 years.

BURTON: It was a political opponent...

BULGER: Right.

BURTON: ... and you had a very long and, according to what I've heard, a pretty distinguished career.

BULGER: Right.

BURTON: You obviously had other political opponents. Did Whitey threaten any of the others that you know of?

BULGER: No. I never...

BURTON: Well, you said that from time to time you would hear this.

BULGER: I would hear him arguing. I think he probably thought he was doing it for me. And I think ultimately, I'm sure around that time, I made it very clear to him that I did not want that and please don't do it.

BURTON: But you can't recall any other names of people that were threatened?

BULGER: No. I don't think there were big incidents. It was just -- it was his displeasure, and they were concerned about it. I know that night I went and found him, and I think at that time he said, I assure you I will never be near any of this again, the political thing. I supposed that's what was intended. I had forgotten about that incident, but it comes to mind now, and it was in 1970, 30...

BURTON: You don't recall any after that time?

BULGER: I don't think so. I'm sure, you know, he'd be willing to argue, but none of it comes to my mind at this moment.

BURTON: One last question. When the majority leader of the Senate, who was the heir apparent to becoming the pro tem, who was indicted and convicted, who you said was a friend of yours and is a friend of yours, that happened just prior to you becoming president of the Senate, president pro tem, didn't it?

BULGER: No. I think it happened...

BURTON: Can you give me the time...

BULGER: Well, it was in the '70s that all of that occurred. And then I became the president in the middle of 1978. The president of the Senate at that time was the one who would decide who would be the majority leader, and he appointed me.

BURTON: So you were then in the line of succession, so to speak.

BULGER: Right.

BURTON: But you have no knowledge of anything that led up to that indictment or that investigation?

BULGER: No, I have no -- and I'm absolutely certain that I never would ask anyone or even indicate any way that I would want some harm to befall someone to further my ambition. I mean...

BURTON: Was Connolly involved in that?

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BULGER: I don't know. I don't think so.

BURTON: So Connolly was not involved in that business.

BULGER: I don't think he was.

BURTON: OK.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

T. DAVIS: Well, I think we're close to the end here.

Let me just ask, you had weapons found next door. There were a lot of activities going on next door to you.

BULGER: Right.

T. DAVIS: Were you aware of this?

BULGER: Sure. I was aware when they were discovered and picked up.

(CROSSTALK)

BULGER: But I didn't know. I mean, whoever, when they put them there, didn't tell me, By the way, we...

T. DAVIS: Oh, no, I understand. But what'd you think afterwards? I mean, obviously -- were you concerned?

BULGER: Well, I don't know. They were hidden away. And I think at the time when they were discovered I didn't even realize that people had come and done it; that is to say, have come and take them away. I just didn't know that.

For all of those years that the Flemmi family lived there it was two very fine people, old people, and for a long, long time the widow and the mother of Stephen Flemmi. The house had become vacant and they were looking for someplace and they came there.

T. DAVIS: Yes, I mean, these were big lots or anything, though, right?

BULGER: Pardon me?

T. DAVIS: These were relatively small units and small lots?

BULGER: Oh, yes. Very small.

T. DAVIS: Very close to each other, right?

BULGER: Very, yes.

T. DAVIS: OK.

Any other questions?

Mr. Meehan, Mr. Delahunt, I think (OFF-MIKE).

DELAHUNT: So the Flemmi house was right next door to...

BULGER: Right.

DELAHUNT: ... to your home.

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BULGER: Yes.

DELAHUNT: How much distance is there between the two?

BULGER: Perhaps from here to the desk, the first desk.

DELAHUNT: And you're aware of the machine guns and the other ammunition that was taken out of, I guess, the back shed.

BULGER: Yes.

DELAHUNT: After the fact, I mean.

BULGER: Yes.

DELAHUNT: And you never had any knowledge of...

BULGER: None.

DELAHUNT: Not of guns, guns being in there, but nothing ever looked suspicious over there?

BULGER: No.

DELAHUNT: Did you know Debbie Davis?

BULGER: I don't think I ever met Debbie Davis, no.

DELAHUNT: You're aware it's alleged that she was murdered next door?

BULGER: Yes.

DELAHUNT: I realize the difficulty with this. I'm curious, after all that has transpired, do you want your brother to give himself up now?

BULGER: Do I want him to? I hope he does what is the right thing.

DELAHUNT: Do you want law enforcement, at this point, to effectively find him and bring him back to face charges?

BULGER: Do I want them to?

DELAHUNT: Well, let me phrase it differently...

BULGER: I worry about the thing I told you in the first place, Congressman. I can't get away from that, my belief that the effort was made to kill him and that it was done by an FBI agent, Mr. Morris. And I'm mindful of the finding of the judge, Wolf.

DELAHUNT: Wolf.

BULGER: He said, I believe, and uses the verb in order to murder Bulger, that the Morris went and met with O'Neil at the Globe to have that printed. And when the question is asked, each time they say well what did you think about -- I tell you, I -- one thing I knew, it was this, that whether it were true or false, the fact is identifying him as such might result in his murder. And that was the judge's conclusion. And I think it -- and it was a chilling thing for me, with all of the talk about killings and the rest.

Believe me, I don't -- I know it may seem as though I am expressing all my sensitivity to this particular situation, it's only that it's under color of authority that it really disturbs me, that people would violate their office by doing that. I

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think it's the same sense of indignation that I am -- well, I'm aware of because I'm here at the -- your committee as you try to deal with the perennial question of who will police the police.

So I have no quarrel with whatever you are thinking. In fact, I think if I were here, I'd be similarly outraged. And also, with respect to the question, the original question, I don't know, I don't know exactly how to give the answer. Just in view of my lack of confidence in these people.

DELAHUNT: Let me ask you a question. Was that part of your rationale in 1995 when you got the phone call not to go immediately to law enforcement in an effort to try to trace...

BULGER: 1995, I still hadn't seen the official kind of pronouncement by the judge. But I was always mindful of that fact, that some years before that had appeared. And the only people who would know it would -- you know, with any kind of degree of certitude would be the ones who were -- to be an FBI informant is surely to be known for being that by the FBI.

DELAHUNT: So do you question the ability of law enforcement to, if in fact they were able to capture James (inaudible) do you question whether or not they could keep him from being murdered?

BULGER: I don't know. I'm just -- I'm taken by the fact that I have to have the doubt. I do -- I have a doubt.

(UNKNOWN): Would my friend yield?

DELAHUNT: Sure.

(UNKNOWN): Mr. Bulger, today, as we sit here in the year 2003, and there have been changes obviously in the Boston office of the FBI as well as in the leadership of the FBI down here in Washington. You've expressed the concern. You made it in your statement that you believed partially, as my understanding, on the finding by Judge Wolf. But did you have any other evidence as opposed to a feeling that there was a -- that some wanted your brother killed?

BULGER: Yes, it was a strong feeling. I think...

(UNKNOWN): But it was a feeling?

BULGER: Based on reason.

(UNKNOWN): Can I -- let me interrupt.

BULGER: Sure.

(UNKNOWN): Would you provide this committee with what you would discern as the motive for the FBI wanting to kill your brother?

BULGER: I can tell you.

(UNKNOWN): Tell us.

BULGER: It's the finding of Judge Wolf, to at the large hearings. He said that Morris had been involved in this unsavory kind of relationship and therefore he had accepted something from my brother. He thought that my brother had outlived his usefulness and he therefore knew that some day my brother would be brought in.

BULGER: And his own misconduct would have...

(UNKNOWN): I understand -- let me interrupt you by saying Mr. Morris is no longer, obviously...

BULGER: Right.

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DELAHUNT: ... with the bureau. Do you have that same concern today?

BULGER: I'm sorry, I didn't -- that was your question. I apologize (inaudible). I think it's -- I don't know, my confidence is shaken, but I don't know. I don't believe that most -- (inaudible) me just saying this -- most of those people that we've had the names about, Mr. Condon and the fellow who -- Sheehan and those people -- they seem to me to be men of integrity.

I really don't -- I cannot believe -- you don't have to listen to this -- that they would knowingly been parties to this terrible commitment of three men for their whole lifetimes. I just find that so -- I don't know Rico, I don't know Rico. So if it's somebody I don't know, like Morris, I suppose that's easier for me, but when I'm around -- when I have been around with them, they were in state government, they seemed that it would be so base for them to have been a party to that and then to be, I don't know, so, in my view, upstanding.

DELAHUNT: Let me just change the subject for one moment. Let me go back to the issue of Mr. Davis and Trooper Johnson. When you were preparing the affidavit, I don't know whether it was Mr. Kiley or yourself that prepared the Davis affidavit, but I would suggest to you, Mr. Bulger, that was he inquired of as to whether he went to the state police office and sought the report?

KILEY: May I answer, Mr. Chairman?

All of the affidavits were my work product. All of them are the result of contact following our June 3 interview here. And I asked particular questions of all of them, drafted them. They edited them, every one of these individuals...

DELAHUNT: Well, let me interrupt you. Let me interrupt you.

KILEY: And, no, I did not ask them...

DELAHUNT: You did not ask them that question. Because I would suggest the fact that Mr. Davis, who was the director of Massport, should go and seek the report can be described as unusual.

In terms of the outside section of the budget, did you at any time inquire who happened to be the chairman of the Senate Ways and Means Committee?

BULGER: In '81 it's Chester Atkins (ph).

DELAHUNT: It's Chester Atkins (ph)?

BULGER: Right.

DELAHUNT: And it's my understanding that this outside amendment was inserted in the House as opposed to the Senate?

KILEY: We don't know, Mr. Congressman. There's different accounts in the press.

DELAHUNT: And do you know who would have been the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee at that time? If you can remember.

BULGER: I can't remember right now.

DELAHUNT: Mr. Chairman, I think that...

T. DAVIS: That's in the public record and we can find that out.

DELAHUNT: Yes. I would hope that the committee...

T. DAVIS: We're going to look at that...

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DELAHUNT: ... would review and have staff conduct its own interviews.

And let me conclude by saying to you, Mr. Chairman, I sincerely hope that this effort in terms of an examination of the FBI, and specifically the Boston office, continues. I think it's very important. And I believe that it's time for us to consider having Mr. Connolly in front of this committee, Mr. Morris in front of this committee, Mr. Weeks and Mr. Matarano (ph). And I would hope that under your direction that the staff would be instructed to initiate whatever has to be done in terms of interviewing them.

T. DAVIS: Well, let me just say, obviously this is probably not our last hearing on this issue, but we coordinate with the Justice Department on this. Mr. Connolly has an appeal pending. But that is something that we're certainly looking at, I want to assure the gentleman.

DELAHUNT: Thank you.

(UNKNOWN): Mr. Chairman, should I assume that Mr. Delahunt used all my time?

T. DAVIS: If you have another question, I think we're ready to wrap this up. It's been a long day I think for all of us.

(UNKNOWN): That's OK. No further questions.

T. DAVIS: Let me just ask Mr. Bulger, is there anything you want to add at the end of this, that you'd like to say, to straighten anything out, something you didn't get in the record?

BULGER: No, no. It's over now, but I wanted you to know that I understand your purpose and I'm serious about respecting it.

T. DAVIS: Thank you.

BULGER: I mean, it's the terrible questions, but it's the perennial question about who will watch the watchers. And it's going to be...

T. DAVIS: Going to continue here.

BULGER: ... other people will be doing it many years hence. It's an ongoing duty.

T. DAVIS: Well, unfortunately, I don't think it's confined to Massachusetts. We've had other issues we'll continue to look at, but this has been very helpful. Obviously, we're going to come back, and this has raised some other issues as you testified. We want to go back and look. But we appreciate your being here today.

All the affidavits will be entered into the record.

BULGER: Thank you.

KILEY: And how about also the statements that we alluded to and said (inaudible) instead concerning the visit last week?

T. DAVIS: That is -- that'll be -- Mr. LaTourette, do you have some questions still remaining?

LATOURETTE: One, if you can bear with me.

T. DAVIS: Sure.

LATOURETTE: I know you want to move along.

Mr. Bulger, earlier today I asked you if you'd asked for a grant of immunity when you testified, and I think I said a state grand jury. And my understanding is you never went to a state grand jury, it was a federal grand jury. So I

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS DAVIS (R-VA) HOLDS HEARING ON CONTINUING INVESTIGATIONS  
OF THE USE OF INFORMANTS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

hope that my bad asking didn't get me the wrong answer. When you appeared in front of the federal grand jury did you seek a grant of immunity?

BULGER: Yes, I did.

LATOURETTE: And can you explain to us why? If that section of the law is correct, the sibling exception that you talked about, why?

BULGER: Because it was a federal grand jury originally, and it was a question in my mind as to how much protection the Massachusetts statute afforded me. There were questions like that.

LATOURETTE: Thank you.

That's all I have. Thank you.

T. DAVIS: OK. Thank you. Thank you very much.

The hearing will be adjourned.

END

## Notes

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[????] - Indicates Speaker Unknown

[--] - Indicates could not make out what was being said.[off mike] - Indicates could not make out what was being said.

**Load-Date:** June 21, 2003



Victim's mother: 'I want him to suffer'



## *Victim's mother: 'I want him to suffer'*

The Boston Herald

October 11, 2003 Saturday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;**Length:** 626 words**Byline:** By MAGGIE MULVIHILL and JACK MEYERS

### **Body**

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Some relatives of Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi's murder victims said they backed a plea agreement in which he dodges the death penalty in exchange for revealing decades of the gang's corrupt dealings with law enforcement.

Flemmi's stunning decision to cooperate came to light Thursday with the arrest of **H. Paul Rico**, the FBI agent who first enlisted him as an informant and is now charged with helping murder Oklahoma businessman Roger Wheeler.

The mother of one of Flemmi's victims - 26-year-old Debra Davis - said yesterday death would have been too easy for Flemmi.

"I hope he rots in there for the rest of his life," said Olga Davis, of her daughter's former boyfriend. "With the death penalty, they give you the needle or the electric chair and you're gone. You don't suffer. I want him to suffer the way he made my daughter suffer."

Flemmi and James J. "Whitey" Bulger are charged with strangling the stunning blonde Sept. 17, 1981, in the basement of Flemmi's South Boston home.

Flemmi was allegedly enraged because Davis had told him she was ending their nine-year relationship to be with another man.

Olga Davis waited and wondered for more than 20 years for information about her daughter after she vanished.

When investigators dug up Debra Davis' remains in October 2000 - acting on a tip from a top Bulger lieutenant - they found Davis' fingers and toes had been severed and her teeth pulled out to prevent identification.

Davis said yesterday Flemmi, whom she has known since they were children, will do anything to save his own skin, including ratting on his former cohorts.

"I think he'll give up anything or anyone. He doesn't care," Davis said.

Victim's mother: 'I want him to suffer'

Larry Wheeler, a son of slain World Jai Alai executive Roger Wheeler, said cutting a deal with Flemmi will be worthwhile only if the victims' families and the public learn the truth about the Bulger-FBI relationship and the mayhem it caused.

"I would be very upset if it was just to avoid . . . the time and cost of the trials," Wheeler said. "To resolve this and . . . get all the answers, it's certainly worth it by all means, vs. bringing a hit man to Tulsa" to be executed, he said.

Wheeler said he is filled with outrage but not at the prosecutors who have made a deal with Flemmi.

"Flemmi, I never met the guy. Martorano, no acquaintance," Wheeler said. "Paul Rico, on the other hand, I've sat across the table from him. . . . That's disturbing."

Denise Castucci, the daughter of Richard J. Castucci, a Revere bar owner and FBI informant who was murdered in 1976, said Flemmi's agreement to plead guilty and cooperate is a positive development.

"Maybe it will help put some closure on this. It's been very traumatic for my family," Castucci said. "I would like to know all the details because for so many years I knew nothing."

During last year's trial of former FBI agent John J. Connolly Jr., John Martorano testified he killed Castucci and left the body wrapped in a sleeping bag in the trunk of Castucci's Cadillac. He was killed shortly after informing the FBI where a fugitive member of the Winter Hill Gang was hiding out.

Jeffrey Denner, who represents the family of John McIntyre, who was murdered in 1984 after providing information to authorities about Bulger's gun- and drug-smuggling, said Flemmi's cooperation should bring "some measure of satisfaction and justice to the Wheeler family."

Denner said he hoped it led to "global disclosure" about the murders and law enforcement complicity in protecting Bulger and Flemmi.

Caption: LET HIM ROT: Olga Davis, the mother of Debra Davis who was killed by Whitey Bulger's gang, holds a picture of her daughter as she is flanked by her sons Mike, left, and Victor. STAFF FILE PHOTO BY TARA BRICKING

**Load-Date:** October 11, 2003

Weeks: Whitey drove 'hit car'



### *Weeks: Whitey drove 'hit car'*

The Boston Herald

May 15, 2002 Wednesday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;**Length:** 992 words**Byline:** By J.M. Lawrence

## **Body**

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James J. "Whitey" Bulger drove a souped-up blue Chevy "hit car" complete with a smokescreen generator on a mission to murder a mob foot soldier whose FBI cooperation was allegedly leaked to Bulger by special agent John J. Connolly Jr., according to testimony yesterday in federal court.

"We called it the 'tow truck,'" Kevin J. Weeks told the jury. "It was basically a hit car."

His testimony late yesterday about the elaborate car set the stage for prosecutors to ask the former Winter Hill Gang enforcer today about whether Connolly tipped the gang to Halloran's cooperation thereby setting in motion his execution in May 1982. Weeks, who served as Bulger's loyal sidekick from 1979 until his arrest in 1999, is expected to echo previous testimony by former FBI supervisor John Morris and Winter Hill hit man John Martorano and say that Bulger learned about Halloran's betrayal from Connolly. Connolly's defense has contended that Bulger had other sources.

Yesterday, Weeks began to tell how he overheard Bulger and Steven "The Rifleman" Flemmi discussing how Halloran had gone to the FBI, but was denied admission into the bureau's Witness Protection Program.

His gangster bosses also talked about Halloran's refusal to take a lie detector test and about "two camps in the FBI" warring over Halloran's credibility, according to Weeks.

In chilling detail yesterday, Weeks then described the killing on May 11, 1982, outside the Pier Restaurant on Northern Avenue where the once-cocky Halloran with a reputation for bullying made a last phone call to his FBI handlers.

Halloran, 41, had ignored the bureau's orders to stay on the Cape in a safe house and went to the waterfront bar, where a Bulger associate saw him using the payphone, Weeks said.

According to testimony yesterday by retired FBI agent Gerald J. Montanari, Halloran knew he was marked for death and was seeking FBI protection.

## Weeks: Whitey drove 'hit car'

A Jan. 8, 1982, FBI memo released yesterday suggests Halloran had already survived three attempted hits the previous year, including one allegedly orchestrated by Bulger associate Patrick Nee.

But the bureau refused to rescue the father of two with a rap sheet for murder and drug dealing because he ticked off agents by refusing a polygraph and revealing his informant status to his lawyer, Montanari said.

"We wanted hopefully to wake him up and have him come on board," Montanari said. "If he was on board, we would have gone out and gotten him out of there."

Bulger associate John Hurley reported the Halloran sighting at the restaurant that afternoon to Bulger at the South Boston appliance store where he often gathered with Flemmi and Weeks, Weeks testified.

The gangster sprang into action.

Bulger headed to the City Point Athletic Club to look for someone - "Flemmi, Pat Nee, Jack, anyone" - and then he sped off to his girlfriend Teresa Stanley's home. When he returned, Bulger was driving the "hit car" and wearing a wig and moustache, Weeks said.

Sitting in the back seat of the Chevy was a passenger who waved, but Weeks didn't recognize him. "He had a ski mask on," he explained.

They headed to the restaurant where Weeks, who drove a separate vehicle, waited with a police scanner and walkie talkie to alert Bulger when Halloran appeared.

"I told him the balloon was in the air. We used to refer to Brian as balloon head," Weeks testified.

Bulger drove up alongside Halloran.

"Jim Bulger leaned across the passenger seat, yelled 'Brian' and started shooting with a carbine," Weeks said.

When the Halloran car drifted across Northern Avenue and ran into a building, Bulger made a U-turn and came back beside Halloran's vehicle, firing into the car again.

Week's account of the murder closely matches eyewitness accounts recorded by the FBI and the Boston police shortly after the murder. Also killed in the gangland execution was Michael Donahue, 32, a friend of Halloran's who had offered him a ride home.

Montanari, who retired in 1999 after 30 years with the bureau, testified that three FBI supervisors and agents, including Connolly, gathered for a May 27 meeting shortly after Halloran's murder.

Montanari and his partner, agent Leo Brunnick, who is now deceased, told Connolly that Bulger and Flemmi were now the targets of their FBI's investigation into who killed World Jai Alai owner Roger Wheeler in May, 1981 and Halloran and Donahue a year later.

Halloran had given the bureau information about the Winter Hill Gang's role in the murder of the Tulsa millionaire. He also implicated former Jai Alai president John Callahan and Jai Alai security head **H. Paul Rico**, the retired FBI agent who first developed Flemmi as an informant in the mid-1960s, according to FBI records.

According to a 1982 FBI memo entered into evidence yesterday, Halloran told agents that "Callahan bragged about having Paul Rico in his employ. Further, that he pays Rico \$ 65,000, per year and that 'He'll do anything I tell him to do.'"

Rico's attorney Peter Parker said Rico denies any role in the murders and called the claims "ridiculous."

According to earlier testimony by the gang's hit man John Martorano, who confessed to killing Wheeler, he was called to a meeting with Bulger and Flemmi in New York two to four weeks after the Halloran killing.

Weeks: Whitey drove 'hit car'

The gangsters said they knew from "their friend John Connolly" that the entire gang was facing prison because the FBI was going to target Callahan for information and he would fold, Martorano said. Martorano then agreed to kill Callahan and shot him in Ft. Lauderdale in August 1982.

Faced with "three interrelated homicides," Montanari then questioned Connolly about the killings, he said.

"He did not believe that either Bulger or Flemmi had anything to do with that," Montanari said.

Caption: GOVERNMENT WITNESS: Kevin J. Weeks takes the stand yesterday in the trial of former FBI special agent John Connolly, Jr. Staff illustration by Kathleen M.G. Howlett

**Load-Date:** May 15, 2002

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End of Document



## *Wheeler case suspect Rico dies*

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

January 18, 2004 Sunday Final Home Edition

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**Section:** TOPSTORYP1; Pg. A1

**Length:** 919 words

**Byline:** BRIAN BARBER World Staff Writer

### **Body**

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The 78-year-old was charged in 1981 slaying of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler. A retired FBI agent who was charged with helping his mob informants arrange the 1981 slaying of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler died late Friday at a local hospital.

**H. Paul Rico**, 78, died about 11:45 p.m. at Hillcrest Medical Center, only hours after a Tulsa County judge ruled that his possible release on bail couldn't be considered until it was determined whether Rico was competent to stand trial.

Rico was said to have congestive heart failure, but Tulsa County District Attorney Tim Harris said the medical examiner will perform an autopsy to determine the exact cause of death.

"We are frustrated by this development," Harris said. "The state of Oklahoma wanted a trial in this case. We wanted to present the evidence to a jury so that we could obtain a verdict."

Tulsa Police Sgt. Mike Huff, who has investigated the Wheeler slaying from the beginning, said he was disappointed Rico would not have his day in court.

"It's been a flood of emotions," Huff said. "The people of Tulsa County deserve to hear the whole story, which spans decades and involves multiple corruptions and multiple murders."

Rico was arrested Oct. 9 in his home state of Florida and charged with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder in the shooting death of Wheeler outside Tulsa's Southern Hills Country Club.

He maintained his innocence, but no plea had been entered in his case.

Rico, who was extradited to Oklahoma on Jan. 8, was transferred Wednesday from the Tulsa Jail to Hillcrest. He was put in the "critical care unit" of the hospital Friday.

His family and his defense attorney, Garvin Isaacs, complained about Rico's medical care while he was in custody in Florida and Oklahoma and said he had lost 53 pounds since his arrest.

They were unavailable for comment Saturday.

## Wheeler case suspect Rico dies

At a court hearing Friday, Isaacs said he was "gravely concerned about Mr. Rico's health. Every day he gets weaker."

Rico's daughter Melissa Rico Ferrari, who said she lives in Germany and is an attorney and a registered nurse, testified Friday that her father's health had deteriorated dramatically between November and December while he was jailed in Florida.

"In my judgment, he aged over a decade in a month," she said.

Ferrari said her father's health declined even further once he arrived at the Tulsa Jail and claimed his medical care there had been "terrible."

Court records show that an Oklahoma City psychiatrist who interviewed Rico on Jan. 11 about competency issues also feared for his health.

"Paul Rico's physical condition is deteriorating and in my opinion, he will not survive at this current level of care," Dr. John R. Smith said.

Isaacs asked Tulsa County Special Judge Carlos Chappelle to grant Rico a "medical furlough" but the judge said the issue was "not before the court today" and that Rico's competency would have to be addressed first.

The defense raised the issue of competency while Rico was jailed in Florida, claiming that he was confused, hallucinating and paranoid. Once Rico was moved to Oklahoma, his attorney tried to drop the issue, fighting instead for his release.

But under Oklahoma law, once the competency issue is raised, it must be investigated.

Isaacs accused prosecutors of trying to delay while Rico's health deteriorated.

The district attorney on Saturday rebuffed the notion that his office slowed up the court proceedings.

"The law must be followed," Harris said. "We wanted this to go by the book."

Harris maintained that Rico received "competent and adequate" medical care since his extradition to Oklahoma.

"We spent \$12,000 to bring him here in an air ambulance to make sure he had the best medical care possible for the transport," Harris said.

"It took a number of months to get him from Florida. I can't speak to what happened outside the jurisdiction of Oklahoma, but I know that we took every precaution possible."

Tulsa Jail Warden Don Stewart said his medical staff was in frequent contact with Rico's Florida doctors. Once Rico was moved to the hospital, his family even had special visitation privileges.

"We did everything we could," Stewart said.

Huff arrested Rico at his Florida home last fall and said there was no indication at the time that Rico's health would deteriorate so quickly.

"The man was out playing golf a few days before that," he said. "Who could have expected that this would happen?"

Huff extended his condolences to the Rico family, but said he doesn't regret arresting Rico.

"We were doing our jobs," he said. "We don't make decisions in a case based on the suspect's medical condition. We had a murder to solve."

### Wheeler case suspect Rico dies

Investigators believe Wheeler suspected that money was being skimmed from his World Jai Alai business by Boston gangsters who were informants for Rico when he was an FBI agent.

Rico allegedly furnished information to the mobsters about Wheeler's whereabouts so they could kill the businessman.

Reputed mobsters James "Whitey" Bulger, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi and John Martorano were charged here in 2001 with murdering Wheeler.

Admitted hit man Martorano pleaded guilty, Flemmi reached a plea agreement to resolve his case, and Bulger has been a fugitive since 1995.

Rico's death has Huff and other investigators focused on finally nabbing Bulger.

The district attorney also vowed that Bulger one day will be brought to justice.

"Only then will this case be closed," Harris said.

World staff writer Bill Braun contributed to this story.

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**Load-Date:** January 19, 2004





## *Wheeler murder charges are filed*

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

March 15, 2001

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**Length:** 1186 words

**Byline:** BILL BRAUN; NICOLE MARSHALL

### **Body**

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In a case of staggering scope, Tulsa County prosecutors on Wednesday charged three reputed New England mobsters with the 20-year-old murder of Tulsa millionaire Roger Wheeler.

"This is one step forward to bringing the Wheeler family justice," District Attorney Tim Harris said.

It was not as much of a step as Wheeler family members or Tulsa police investigators had hoped for, as one other suspect identified by police was not charged.

Harris filed first-degree murder charges against James Joseph "Whitey" Bulger, 71, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, 66, and confessed hit man John V. Martorano, 60.

World Staff Writers

Those three men -- all of whom have been implicated or accused of involvement in double-digit numbers of murders -- are also charged with a second count of conspiracy to murder Wheeler.

The 55-year-old Wheeler, who was chairman of the Tulsa-headquartered Telex Corp., was shot in the head as he sat in his car after playing golf at Southern Hills Country Club on May 27, 1981.

Investigators have long theorized that the killing was ordered by Boston-area "Winter Hill" gangsters and that 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.

In Dade County, Fla., meanwhile, prosecutors on Wednesday indicted Bulger, Flemmi and Martorano for the 1982 murder of Boston businessman John Callahan.

Callahan is a former World Jai Alai president whose bullet-riddled body was found in a car trunk at Miami International Airport.

The Tulsa County charge specifies that Callahan and another man, Joseph Maurice McDonald, would also have been charged with murdering Wheeler if they were not dead themselves.

Tulsa police had submitted an affidavit to support a request that Harris charge former Boston FBI agent Paul Rico, who headed security for World Jai Alai.

## Wheeler murder charges are filed

Rico was not charged. Without naming any uncharged suspects, Harris stressed that he has not formally declined to file charges against anyone in the case and said that "certainly the investigation of others will be continuing."

David Wheeler, one of the victim's sons, said that "our family is distressed because we were hopeful they would charge **H. Paul Rico**."

"My father would not have bought Jai Alai if it were not for the FBI agents who worked there," he said. "There was a great deal of trust there. The family feels that (Rico) betrayed that trust and he participated in my father's murder."

Larry Wheeler, another son, said that "we are very disappointed" with the lack of any charge against Rico.

"We are pleased with the progress to date in this case but disappointed that all of the parties named in the police affidavit have not been charged," the sons said in a joint press release. "We are hopeful that these issues will be resolved in the near future."

Rico is retired in Florida and has denied any involvement in Wheeler's death.

Harris acknowledged that the family is not completely satisfied with the decision, which he reached after what he described as an "objective evaluation" of the case.

Victims and law enforcement officers "don't make filing decisions," Harris said. "Prosecutors do."

"At the appropriate time, We will be seeking the death penalty" for Bulger and Flemmi, Harris said.

Neither Bulger nor Flemmi is likely to appear in a Tulsa courtroom soon, and prosecutors could be in a position of pursuing death sentences against two defendants who would be octogenarians before such a sentence could be carried out.

"I can't control the age of the defendants," Harris said. "Regardless of the age of the defendants, Tulsa, Oklahoma and the Wheeler family deserve justice."

Bulger has been a fugitive since 1995 on racketeering-related charges and is on the FBI's "Most Wanted" list. The FBI is offering a \$ 1 million reward for information leading directly to his arrest.

Bulger and Flemmi were secret FBI informants for many years, and a federal judge in Boston has previously determined that Boston-based FBI agents who wanted to protect the two withheld information from Oklahoma and Florida officers during prior stages of the Wheeler and Callahan murder investigations.

A federal racketeering indictment unsealed in Boston last fall implicated Bulger, Flemmi and their associates in 21 murders, including the Wheeler and Callahan killings. That indictment contained allegations that Bulger and Flemmi had some involvement in 18 and 10 murders, respectively.

Flemmi is in custody in Massachusetts and awaits a May trial in Boston on a racketeering indictment issued in 1995. He faces multiple different indictments there, and conceivably he could "take care of his business in one jurisdiction" before being transferred to Oklahoma or Florida to face charges, Harris said.

A federal prosecutor in Boston announced in 1999 that a plea agreement had been reached with Martorano, who was linked to some 20 killings in three states.

As part of a deal to solve numerous unsolved murders, Martorano agreed to plead guilty to the Wheeler and Callahan murders plus 10 murders in Massachusetts.

The Tulsa County charges allege that in May 1981, Martorano and McDonald went to the vicinity of both Wheeler's home and the Telex building at 41st Street and Sheridan Road, and they "determined that the 'hit' could not be done" at those locations.

## Wheeler murder charges are filed

In furthering the murder conspiracy, Callahan had furnished Martorano and McDonald with those addresses as well as the make, model and tag number of Wheeler's car, a court document said.

Bulger and Flemmi retrieved weapons from a hidden room in the basement of a Boston residence and sent those guns by bus to Tulsa, where they were picked up at the bus terminal by Martorano and McDonald. Callahan informed Martorano and McDonald that Wheeler would be playing golf at Southern Hills on May 27, 1981, according to the charges.

Martorano and McDonald went to the country club, found Wheeler's car and parked nearby. Upon seeing a man who matched Wheeler's description, Martorano walked to Wheeler's car, opened the car door and shot Wheeler once in the face with a pistol, the charges allege.

McDonald died many years ago of natural causes, said Assistant District Attorney Larry Edwards.

Martorano's deal calls for him to eventually plead guilty to second-degree murder in the Wheeler case in exchange for a 15-year sentence that would run concurrently with other sentences.

Harris praised the "tenacious efforts" of the Tulsa Police Department and specifically lauded the work of Sgt. Mike Huff and Cpl. R.T. Jones.

Huff and Jones have been deputized as U.S. marshals to better enable them to pursue leads across the country in an effort to find the fugitive Bulger.

"The investigation is going to continue in relation to other suspects so the full story can be told and all of the responsible parties can be prosecuted in the Wheeler case," Huff said. Bill Braun, World staff writer, can be reached at 581-8455

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## Graphic

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PHOTOS

James Joseph Bulger; Stephen Flemmi; Roger Wheeler

**Load-Date:** March 16, 2001



## [Whitey passed test - Memo says crime boss acted like loyal federal agent](#)

The Boston Herald

January 8, 1998 Thursday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 949 words

**Byline:** By Ralph Ranalli

### **Body**

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South Boston crime boss James J. "Whitey" Bulger was on his best behavior when he had a rare meeting with a top FBI official in 1980 to justify why he should continue to be the bureau's informant - rather than its target.

The tough-as-nails crime boss is known for expletive-laced tirades that have terrified associates and victims alike.

But in his Nov. 25, 1980, meeting with FBI Special Agent in Charge Lawrence Sarhatt, Bulger appears to sound more like a loyal bureau employee.

At one point, Sarhatt wrote in a memo about their meeting at the Logan Airport Hilton, Bulger proclaimed his deep affection for the bureau and his distaste for anyone who would disparage it, such as state police Col. John O'Donovan.

"With respect to Col. O'Donovan, (Bulger) stated that he has met with him on some occasions . . . especially one in which he made very disparaging and derogatory statements about the professionalism of FBI personnel to which he (Bulger) took great umbrage inasmuch as his association with the FBI has been nothing but the most professional in every respect," the memo states.

Sarhatt, who ran the Boston FBI office from 1980 to 1982, testified yesterday at federal court hearings about the bureau's relationships with gangster-informants Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi. He met with Bulger after state police officials complained that their own investigation of Bulger had been compromised by FBI agents.

Bulger went on to tell Sarhatt about his affection for two FBI agents, **H. Paul Rico** and John Connolly, the memo states.

Bulger credited Rico with recruiting him as an informant.

"Informant's intention to help the FBI stems from the favorable treatment received by his family from SA Paul Rico after Rico was responsible for his incarceration," Sarhatt wrote. Bulger served time in several prisons, including Alcatraz, on bank robbery charges investigated by Rico.

Whitey passed test - Memo says crime boss acted like loyal federal agent

"His family indicated to him that . . . Rico was such a gentleman and was so helpful that he, (Bulger) changed his mind about his hate for all law enforcement."

Bulger also told Sarhatt he had "a close feeling" toward John Connolly, who took over as his FBI handler when Rico left the bureau in the mid-1970s.

Bulger felt close to Connolly, Sarhatt wrote, "because they both grew up in the same neighborhood in Boston and had . . . mutual childhood problems."

Connolly's lawyer, Robert Popeo, said yesterday he knows of no bond between the two except to the extent that "growing up in South Boston is a childhood problem. They both grew up in South Boston."

Connolly is also expected to be a witness at the hearings but has reportedly said he will plead the Fifth and not testify.

Bulger also told Sarhatt that he held a "deep hatred for La Cosa Nostra" and that he was not a drug dealer.

Asked in court yesterday about his impression of Bulger's answers, Sarhatt said he felt they lacked "candor." He nevertheless approved Bulger's continued work as an informant.

Caption: HOLDING COURT: New England Mob boss Francis P. 'Cadillac Frank' Salemme, left, watches in federal court yesterday as attorney Kenneth Fishman questions a witness before U.S. District Court Judge Mark Wolf. Staff illustration by Kathy Geosits

**Load-Date:** January 8, 1998



## *Whitey: United States Of America v. James J. Bulger*

CNN CNN LIVE EVENT/SPECIAL 10:00 PM EST

September 18, 2014 Thursday

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**Section:** NEWS; Domestic

**Length:** 13193 words

**Highlight:** The story of James A. "Whitey" Bulger.

### **Body**

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UNIDENTIFIED MALE: 30 years ago, my wife and I have purchase a local license and we had a little store up and running by Christmas. Before (inaudible) and sale on and then along the hall, I guess he knocked on my door one night, I'm at the house. My wife is down in the liquor store working and it was Kevin Weeks and Whitey Bulger at the door and I didn't know what the hell that they want.

He said you got a problem, I said, what problem?

He said listen, who hired to kill you? I'm like, what? He's -- you got to understand. Other liquor stores -- they hired us to kill you. I just couldn't believe it. I didn't know what to even think. I was dumbfounded, actually I froze. He's -- but -- well then, what we're going to do instead of that. We're going to be coming by (ph) and he said -- no you're not become my partners.

And then Bulger is right, I mean he's just staring at me and just grinding his teeth like, you don't understand. We're taking you're liquor store is like, it's not for sale, and he said, I'll kill you. I'll stab you and then I'll kill you. I'm like, Holly Jesus. And then they pulled out a gun. I was like, Oh.

They picked up my kid (inaudible). It would be terrible to this kid to grow up without a father, I was like -- and I melted. Nothing you can do.

Ever since that they -- never been the same. I couldn't protect my own children as a man that just took me away and I'm not over yet. I won't be over and maybe I'll never get over but I'll surely can't wait together in front of that court. I'm going to stand and testify against that. 30 years ago he scared me to death and he don't scare me to death no more.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: After 16 years the FBI finally has this man. Boston, my Boston (inaudible), James Whitey Bulger was captured in southern California.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Along with his long time girlfriend, Catherine Elizabeth Greig.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: The 83-year-old of accused of drug trafficking, extortion and murder all while working as an FBI informant. He was on the limb for 16 years.

## Whitey: United States Of America v. James J. Bulger

JAMES WHITEY BULGER, MURDERER: I never commit a crime on 16 years I (work for the cops men). My whole life changed when I was on the right (inaudible) and become very, very human and I guess you could say it and I love woman intensively. When I was captured I told them (inaudible) will (inaudible) to all plans, any plans (inaudible) innocent to guilty. They can execute me. You can give me life sentence. You can do whatever you just want but I want her to be free and I meant it, and I mean it today.

If they plea guilty and we'll let her go free and shot you're mouth I would do it.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: It's been a long time coming. After 16 years on the land and two years in custody the criminal trial of James Whitey Bulger began today at the John Jay Moakley courthouse in south Boston. Just blocks away from Whitey's former home turf.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: This is what it looks like here the courthouse early at this morning. The police are escorting several black SUVs roll up to federal court. Behind the tinted window is James Whitey Bulger who is back in Boston to face 19 charges of murder in the same city he's accused of terrorizing as a gang boss.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Some of the victim's family is also arriving today hoping to see justice done after waiting almost 30 years.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I'm happy that this is about start. It's been a long waited, really, really long wait in time. So I'll see just when I get home.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: How are you going feel being in there?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I don't know. I'm sick to my stomach now. I can only imagine when I get there.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: All right.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Prosecutors describe James Whitey Bulger as the center of mayhem and murder in Boston for 30 years, the boss of Boston's notorious Winter Hill Gang. A man so dangerous that he joined Osama bin Laden at the top of the FBI's Most Wanted List.

DAVID BORRI, SENIOR REPORTER: It was a gang that run amok. You have people who are being extorted, we talk of having shotgun barrels stock in their mouths, of machine guns pointed at their groin.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Body (inaudible) before Bulger and shakes him down.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: It was absolutely terror. Back then, 1780s, people will listen everyday, bang. If (ph) come home he's a dead man, they'll never going to find him. Bryan (ph) (inaudible) and Michael (ph), Don (ph), Nick (ph). Bodies were being -- left and right in this. They're all involved in this circle of -- in South Boston.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You have a fascination Whitey Bulger as a Robin Hood figure, he's illusive, Houdini like crime boss. Who -- his younger brother Bill Bulger who was Senate President, the most powerful politician in Massachusetts. All this stuff, there were sort of magical about them and that made him seem beyond the reach of law enforcement.

HANK BRENNAN, BULGAR DEFENSE ATTORNEY: They were over 25 years where James Bulger ruled the organized crime world. He was never charged with even a misdemeanor. The Department of Justice did nothing to prosecute him.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Whitey was the guy that got away. Whitey was the guy out in the wind, funning his nose, "ha, ha I won" for years. So today it's huge. I mean you think that, you know, there's so many people who never thought this day would ever happens.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: James Whitey Bulger fled Boston at late 1994 as federal agents were eventually arrest him in connection with 19 killings, racketeering, and other crimes that expand the early 1970s to mid 1980s.

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UNIDENTIFIED MALE: He fled after being tipped-off by an FBI agent. He was about to be indicted.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Bulger's role as an FBI informant is essential to this trial.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Now, he'll face justice in the same city. Many say he ran with an iron fist.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I'll be honestly with you. I have today's date, June 12th but lately I couldn't laugh in the past few days. I couldn't tell you what -- and it's a (inaudible) I couldn't tell you if it was Sunday, Monday, Friday. It's -- I was -- my head been so twisted overall and, you know, it's like surreal. You know, it's happened.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Why did he killed my sister. She was looked upon as a good person, she come into a room and she'd lighted up. Me, you know, everybody, you know, I mean it's -- he had no right to take her away. He took her teeth (ph) out and...

You know me. I want to introduce (inaudible).

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Look at it. I didn't know I was supposed to get all dressed up.

Today? I feel fantastic. Well, 30 years ago, they tormenting me and it's been 30 years since that tormented and now it's coming to an end. Thank God, he's behind bars. My father always told me that good will always triumph over evil even -- it takes a long time and that's just what I'm getting for.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You don't forget?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: No.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You know what I mean? UNIDENTIFIED MALE: The only time that -- comfort I get, you know, me and Steve (ph) meet every morning, just about every morning for coffee.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: This way Steve and I may have something common, psychotic individual. We're going to bring justice. It has to be done.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I include them. I was nervous as I am, exciting, the adrenaline is pumping. I just can't, I can't believe I'm finally here. I'm finding if we can just talk. I have my day and my time.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: What your thoughts are?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Well, they're active. They just come.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: What are you going to be thinking as you look at him, you know, today?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Well, you know, 30 years ago, I've never looked at him, now I can't wait to look at him right in the eyes.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: It's day one of one of the most to be anticipated trials in decades.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Cameras should have been allowed in the court room in federal courts they are not allowed.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: For the people of Boston this case is about justice and it's about redemption, it is about retribution, opening statement in the trial of James Whitey Bulger.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: The assistant U.S. attorney Brian Kelly telling juries.

BRIAN KELLY, ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY: He did a dirty work himself because he was a hands-on killer. He ran amok in the city of Boston for almost 30 years. Bulger was deeply involved in the distribution of drugs in the South Boston area. He was one of the biggest informants in Boston



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Bulger routinely met with FBI agent John Connolly and gave him the information to protect himself or get the competitive edge that he wanted.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: He then the jury pictures of each of the 19-people investigator say Bulger killed.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: They describe victims former friends associate its girlfriend all killed and varied in secret graves, some relative and court listening chocked up when they heard that.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: That government handing its opening statement by slowly dramatically reading off the name of the 19 alleged murder victim.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (Inaudible), Roger Wheeler, Brian Holliman, Michael Donahue, John Callahan, Devra Davis, and Deborah Housen.

BRIAN KELLY, ASST. U.S. ATTORNEY, BULGER PROSECUTOR: This is not a traditional murder case. It's a racketeering charge. And within the racketeering charge there are multiple predicate crimes that we have to prove. We have to prove at least two of them and Bulger is charge with 33 separate predicate crimes, 19 separate murders, multiple extortions, drug dealing, gambling, and all of those we have to prove at least two beyond the reasonable doubt.

We have to prove that Bulger was part of this criminal enterprise that was committing all these crimes of 30-years.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Defense attorney J. W. Carney stunned the court room admitting for the first time that Bulger was involved in drug trafficking.

CARNEY: James Bulger was involved in drug dealing. He was involved in bookmaking, loansharking. These crimes are what he did.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: But, he proposed in government witnesses.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Carney try to paint a picture of Bulger associates turned government witnesses John Martorano, Kevin Weeks, and Stephen Flemmi as the real murderers who just pinned their crime on his client.

DAVID BOERI, SENIOR REPORTER, WBUR: The defense said all the three witnesses' testimony was purchased. They were murderous thugs who's testimony was purchased by sparing them the dead penalty, cutting there prison sentence and offering them also sorts of incentives.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Given these three individuals, given their background, given their character, would you believe them beyond unreasonable doubt?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Carney denied that Bulger was informant.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: The evidence will show that he was never an informant for John Connolly and the FBI. You will learn that depth of corruption in federal law enforcement that existed during this period.

This was how James Bulger was able it never, ever be charged.

BOERI: What makes this trial extraordinary and really crazy the defense is defending him from an assertion. That he as informant even thought it's not a charge. And so, what seem crazy is that government has gotten sucked into this as well they're trying to prove that he is even though he's totally irrelevant to his guilt or innocence.

So, it's not about guilt in a sense in his trial. It's about his legacy of wanting to establish. He wasn't tout. A rat, a informant whatever you want to call it.

J.W. CARNEY JR, BULGER DEFENSE ATTORNEY: I was just surprise as anyone when James Whitey Bulger was captured. He's a government excited about having Bulger come back? Some people certainly are. But there are others, I think who have many sleepless nights about what James Bulger is going to testify too.

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I believe the reason that they are giving so much protection to Bulger. He transported from the jail to the court house. Because they're worried about someone with the sniper rifle taking him out on the way to court so that he can't testify.

That's how explosive his testimony will be.

KEVIN CULLEN, BOSTON GLOBE COLUMNIST: This is Whitey's world. If you from Squantum where he never (inaudible). It's basically six miles if you drive it up to Castle Island, over there that's South (ph) where he did most to his crime. He murdered people there. He buried people there. And he went to sleep there. So, that's his world.

I spend much of my childhood in South Boston and even as a kid, I knew Whitey Bulger run the show there. But, Whitey was very lucky, in the 1960s, there was an Irish canyon (ph) and over 60 people were killed. But Whitey was imprisoned? So, he missed all that. He would have a high, high chance of being the victim of that violence.

When he got out of prison, Whitey went to Howie Winter. He was the leader of the Winter Hill Gang, preeminent known Mafia gang in this region. And he said to Howie, we're going to stop the war in the South. Too many people are dying, we're losing money. Howie was very impress by Whitey.

And one of the things that impress in most was that Whitey had done time in Alcatraz. Now, you know, for you and me, you know, we'd like to hand in our resume (inaudible) Stanford, I got my MBA (ph) (inaudible).

For the not in the year, you're a wise guy he said, "Oh, you went to Alcatraz." And Howie said that -- Whitey came across, he's a guy that could be a leader. So Howie immediate end of the war with a rival gang at South Boston called the Mullen. It was the Mullens actually were about to prevail. And Mullen guy think, you know, they're about to get the lion's share of everything and Howie throw them for a loop.

When he announced that James Bulger he's going to front money for them, they can put money on the street, loan shark, they can do a gambling operation, but Whitey going to be in charge.

And the Mullen guys are, "Why do you kidding me? We were willing." And Tommy King who's a member of the Mullens said, "We should have killed Whitey when we had the chance, this is going to come back to bite us."

KEVIN WEEKS, FORMER MEMBER, WINTER HILL GANG: South was great growing up. Everybody knew everyone, everyone watched out for everybody. It was great. We didn't have a lot but we had a lot of fun with what we had. My brothers both went to college. He went to Harvard so I was (inaudible) at home. I knew how to flight and that kind to of handy so I started working in different bars bouncing and I ended up with triple O, it was the neighborhood bar, it was kind of rough bar.

And that's why I mention (inaudible) from me. I was 18 at that time. Jim (ph) is like an old brother, he's guide me through a mine field and stuff and teach me a lot so much.

When I first started working with him, I started a little small, you know, and just, you know, digging (ph) people up and little by little take babies to steps, you know, from gambling, loan sharking to, you know, to extortion and stuff, and doing extortion with Jim Bulger and stuff. And so I was making a lot of money.

But the moment that everything has changed from me -- the moment my life changed is when I was involved in the first murder, it was a double homicide. So then I knew there was, you know, I was in there was no getting out, so I just decide, well, if I'm going to. I would be the best out of that I can.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: It was tense in court Tuesday between James Whitey Bulger and the man who was once like a son to him. His former right hand man turned cooperating government witness, Kevin Weeks.

Weeks was one of the government's star eyewitnesses as Bulger's mob enforcer. Kevin Weeks says he buried the bodies, moved the guns and collected the cash which book makers and businessmen paid to stay in business.

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Weeks calmly and coldly testified he watched James Bulger brutally murdered Deborah Hussey, John McIntyre and Arthur "Bucky" Barrett.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: James Bulger (inaudible) with the machine gun to put in chairs high with chains as we walked down the stairs James Bulger shoot him on back of the head and strangled, he was gagging. Jim Bulger asked if you one on the head and kids said yes please and shot him on the head (inaudible), strangled him in the neck is (inaudible). You know, what (inaudible) the eyes from all that from head (inaudible) she's not dead. He wraps the (inaudible) and twist (inaudible).

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: As for defense begin cross examining the former Bulger protege we (inaudible) look annoyed.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: So when he told me a moment ago that you never lie to the investigators that was a lie.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I've been lying my whole life, I'm a criminal.

BOB LONG, FORMER DETECTIVE: This is where Whitey used to take us walks and would meet with people.

He stayed on this street for quite a while and that shouldn't happen. It's just -- it's crazy, it's crazy.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I worked organized crime most of my career. So, I saw Bulger going up to chain with the Winter Hill Gang. Bulger finally moved up into control.

And in 1980, a young trooper working for me was assigned to get out and check out this garage down in (inaudible) to see about a possible stolen care rent and (inaudible) he notice to what organize crime (inaudible). He called me. I went down there for myself and as when we started this investigation.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Garage was right up here just a little after the track here.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: We (inaudible) across the street and we monitored it about four months, everyday. And then we saw James Bulger and Stephen Flammey.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Anybody was anybody in organized crime in New England came here to this garage. People who would pay him rent protection money, people who are in it are safe.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: So they were meeting daily with the latest of (inaudible) Mafia to the (inaudible) crime family patriarchal family and it was unprecedented to see that. It was absolutely shocking to see that they were actually working together.

That was like striking gold.

Lots are surprised when I say, where is the Boston police? Where is the FBI? Why is anybody else doing this? They're right here. They're operating so openly. It just was shocking.

And we monitored that, documented and we got enough probable cause to go to judge and issue a warrant so that we can place listening devices inside. And plants (inaudible) it works great. I mean, it was fine next morning.'

One of the first conversations we've picked up was, what a big drove that state police in the (inaudible) do. So, we knew the gig is up, right there and then.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Somebody was protecting them.

We knew what we had and we just configure out how.

And one night Morris of the FBI, met a Boston detective at bachelor party. And he was in a drunken state and told to Boston detector because I know you guys are working on with the state (inaudible) across the street and the bad guys know about it.

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I couldn't believe it as anybody know outside of that group. It didn't make sense.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: James Whitey Bulger's relationship with the FBI will be the focus of testimony this morning. Former FBI Supervisor John Morris is expected to take stand. He was head of the FBI's organized crime squad during 70s and 80s overseeing former agent John Connolly.

Morris claims that he and John Connolly shielded James Bulger from prosecution. In addition to hearing Morris on the stand today, federal prosecutors plan to discuss James Bulger's alleged 700 page FBI informant file.

T.J. ENGLISH, JOURNALIST, DAILY BEST: To understand the Bulger's story, you really have to understand how the FBI Top Echelon Informant Program came into being to destroy the Italian Mafia.

It really begins before the program even existed when Joe Valachi testified before congressional committee in 1963.

Valachi came forward and he described hierarchy of the five families in New York.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: What is the name of this organization?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (Inaudible) in Italian.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (Inaudible) in Italian.

ENGLISH: For the first time, one of these Mafia guys was talking into a television camera and it was a big deal and it still Hoover stand there because Hoover had for decades now been denying that there was a Mafia.

Now Hoover had a problem. He needed to make up for the last time. And he needed to go out and get informants as dramatic and as explosive as Joe Valichi.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: we should all be concerned but one goal, the eradication of crime. The Federal Bureau of Investigation is just close to you as you as your nearest (inaudible). It seems to be your protector and all matters within jurisdictions.

It's belongs to you.

ENGLISH: The Top Echelon Informant Program also was what gave power to guys like John Connolly because how you're going to get guys like Valichi.

Well you're going to need FBI guys who walk the walk and talk the talk, who can go out into that underworld and sort of make deals with these guys.

The power and influence of this swaggering agent within the hierarchy went way up.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: General topic of our discussion today is informant handling. And with me today is John Connolly, a 15-year veteran of the FBI.

How do you go about developing individuals for recruitment or targeting as informant for the bureau?

JOHN CONNOLLY: In the case of organized crimes people would, you know, probably wouldn't want to tie to the boss first since you'd want someone perhaps close to the level of criminal activity but not necessarily involved.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: When John Connolly was a boy, he live in Southie in the same housing project with the Bulgers. And he was in awe of Whitey who was a teenage thug with a platinum striking hair and the amazing Hollywood good looks.

So John Connolly given his history as a son of Southie, his connection to the Bulger family. He succeeded in forging -- what is since been called an Unholy Alliance with Whitey Bulger.

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CONNOLLY: Remember these are our most important assets that we have, informants. I mean, the name of the game -- you going to get friendly with them and you don't like them but you never can forget who you work for.

J.W. CARNEY, BULGER DEFENSE ATTORNEY: Hello?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Hi, Mr. Bulger is on the phone?

CARNEY: All right, please put him through.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Sure.

CARNEY: Thanks for calling. There were couple of things I wanted to ask you about.

BULGER: Sure.

CARNEY: The first is that you told me since the very first day I met you that you've never been an informant.

BULGER: That's correct.

CARNEY: Does that mean you've never been an informant in your entire life?

BULGER: Never. As a teenager, I took many a beating in the police stations and I never cracked.

As a bank robber, I was captured. I plead guilty to free the girlfriend that I was with, and I got 20-year prison sentence, first offender.

In prison, I was part of an escape plot but the plot fell a part. One of the guys gave them my name. I told him I don't know what you're talking about. I spent months in the hole naked and the whole thing. I went through a lot there and after four months for punishment they sent me to Alcatraz. And that was it -- I never, never, never cracked.

And the Boston FBI? No way. Met John Connolly, who was a Southie guy, Irish Catholic like my self. You know, it's friendship, if I ever hear anything, I'll tip you off, give you a heads up. And then I told, all right, John, I'll see you, if you can let me know, I appreciate it and that's how it got started.

CARNEY: This is isn't really a typical criminal trial. James Bulger knows that by following the strategy he is directed us to do. He will be found guilty and he's going to die behind the walls of the prison.

But for Jim it doesn't matter. He's at the end of his life. He doesn't know if he will live until the end of the trial, never mind until the end of year. But for him it's like it's last opportunity to tell people that he was never an informant that our federal government is more corrupt in law enforcement in anyone ever imagined even to this day in this trial. It's corrupt and he wants people to know it.

HANK BRENNAN, BALGER DEFENCE TEAM: There's a lot of things that we knew to disembowel (ph), the fact that James wasn't an informant. I mean, the local thinking is that actually he was an informant.

Everybody talks about it -- folks have written about it. Until you actually go through everything and look at it to make your own independent assessment -- you can't have an opinion.

So getting involved in case, I had not committed. I don't think anybody in the public does is, I got to see the files that the government had to suggest that he was an informant.

I thought that there were some things about the file that was all suspicious that I wanted to look into in depth. And so I sat down with Daryl and I ask him if he comes up with an independent assessment (inaudible) there was any illegitimacy to the files.

DARYL ZULES, BALGER DEFENCE TEAM: Of course I was eager to the start the project (ph) and see what I could I find but I was also a bit skeptical. I mean, just looking at the file what it was handed to me I thought, how

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could that possibly be suspicious. Its 700 pages and it look very official. So it seems like it had to be solid but fully I've done (ph) strange repetition in the file.

What I've done is created tabs one every page where I found alternate sources for the information and we learned that John Connolly was pilfering through files and Connolly took specific information from these sources and placed it into Mr. Bulger's file. These alternate sources comes from wires taps, it, comes from phone calls, news articles, public information, FBI memorandums and the majority of the information come from other informant files.

A top echelon file is supposed to be filled with singular unique information that can lead to prosecution. And just based on the patterns that I found looking at other alternative sources is just not consistent with someone who's providing unique information.

Like this first page file for May 29, 1981, the tip reads that 1544 by that the Mafia whacked-out a guy several weeks ago. He's in a trunk of a car.

It doesn't tell who whacked-out the guy. It doesn't tell what guy was whacked-out. It doesn't tell where is the car is. There's no subtenant information in that and there's no follow-up in the entire file.

If you turn especially at last page Q&A (ph) of that same year the same of that tip shows up. 1544 (inaudible) source heard that the alpha people whacked-out a guy several weeks ago and that's the individual in the trunk. It's vague. There's no detail and it shows up twice in the trial.

FRED WYSHAK, U.S. ATTORNEY: This is not unusual to see reports in one informant's file that similar to reports in other informant's file.

If a crime occurs, a law enforcement agency surveys their informants. They get multiple reports from various informants about the same criminal activity. That's exactly what Connolly was doing with Bulger.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: The federal government is so desperate in this trial. To try to convince people that he's not an informant because James Bulger had such a strong and influential reputation. His name had value, as a commodity from the Department of Justice.

They needed search warrants to take down the Mafia. They needed to put something down to justify intrusions into people's civil liberties.

Nobody was going to look and see if the information was verified. No ones going to determine whether it was made up by a street agent, no one is going to determine whether it was true or not. It wasn't and not simply for magistracy to sign off on probable cause.

And there was example after example in this case and when they talk James Bulger name and use it as a commodity.

WYSHAK: That's a preposterous assertion that he was not an FBI informant.

In fact, he used the FBI. And they used him. What this is all quite frankly? Is -- he doesn't mind being called the murder. He doesn't mind being called the criminal. Obviously, he doesn't mind being called the drug dealing. But he doesn't want to be called an informant because where he came from in Southie.

That's the worst thing you can be. He can be a crock, you can be a murder, (inaudible) to be an informant. That's the way he's broad up and his sick mind, that's what he believes.

CARNEY: Remember the day when Hank (ph) and I were with you and showed you the so called informant file that John Connolly had been keeping.

BULGER: Yes.

CARNEY: Remember, your reaction seeing that?

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BULGER: I was shocked. I was angry. I couldn't believe that was -- I considered the worst betrayal that ever, ever happened to me in my life. I couldn't believe than anyone could dream such of thing. I never knew what existent.

CARNEY: Did you recognize the information that was contained in it? Has anything that you would ever talk to John Connolly about?

BULGER: No. I ask the questions. I got the answers. I was the guy who did the directing. They didn't direct me.

CARNEY: What are some of the things they would give you in terms of keeps?

BULGER: The thing that we needed most us. Number one was wire taps. And then like photos, surveillance, search warrants when they were common, indictments they were common -- guys could get a chance to make a run for it.

CARNEY: Well, if you weren't providing information to this people, why were they willing to give you all this information?

BULGER: For money. For money. Money is the common denominator. It's a way of doing business. It happens all the time, it will never stop.

CARNEY: I remember, you told me once that Christmas is for kids and cops.

BULGER: Correct.

CARNEY: How many people would you be paying off on a holiday period?

BULGER: Everybody I knew, I took care of in Christmas time. Put money in envelop for all of the different police I had contacts in the state police, the Boston police, the ATF and also in the FBI. There was more people in John Connolly, but I'm not going to say who they were, I would never see any about the name, you know. But, I took care everybody.

CARNEY: And was this in cash or?

BULGER: It is always cash.

CARNEY: (Inaudible).

BULGER: I never had anyone money. I had them an envelope. It makes it a little bit easier for them to accept it, you know, or I took the money maybe in a box. If it was that much money.

CARNEY: What was the most amount of money you ever paid in FBI person, FBI agent?

BULGER: At one time?

CARNEY: Yes.

BULGER: Maybe \$25,000, \$50,000.

WEEKS: Everybody could be corrupted. People have the opinion of the FBI. He's above reproach. Well, they're just regular people. They put it their pens on the morning just like everybody else.

They are regular people except they have a badge that says, you know, special agent. But there's nothing special about them, they are regular people. You can corrupt them.

Maybe they like money, maybe they wine, maybe they like jewelry, you know, trips whatever. There's always a way to corrupt somebody.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: During a rapid fire and sometimes intense cross examination disgraced Former FBI Supervisor John Morris admitted taking thousands in cash from Bulger.

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UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Mr. Morris, you were Mr. Bulger's paid FBI informant weren't you?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: That's not correct. He did give me money, but I was not his paid informant.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: He gave you money?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yes.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: He gave you gifts?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yes.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Is that in case in one, didn't you from Mr. Connolly and a basement of a Federal Office.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: That's correct.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Did you throw it away?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: No, I kept it.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You know, seeing a day like today were (inaudible), you see thoroughly, despicably corrupt FBI agency. John Morris a supervisor, you know, with just a moral -- I mean he was a moral coward and you see him, can you see Connolly taking advantage of it? And all his witness to bring him in to the group, you see that. And you see it was allowed?

And so, the real story here is that our government enable to killers to run free in this city, you know. Bulger is to wake up in South Boston. And for South Boston you can look across and he would say, "I owned that town." And he really did and he owned it because he was allowed to turn the Federal Bureau of Investigation into the Bulger of Bureau of Investigation. He, about his tentacles into the Bureau and he turned it exactly the worked for him and it was because there were all crazed about getting the Mafia, that they enabled the Irish Godfather to run the show here. And he was far more dangerous than Italians.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: So what we need to do is get inside a little bit and talk about how the FBI works. And what the rules in certain people were like Mr. Connolly and Mr. Morris.

And the more we can keep you understand from my perspective better because it hopefully it will go to really illustrate the efforts you made and so they see the good side of our enforcement. And recognize it was a problem we try to do something to save lives. And because they were pursuing whatever agenda they were, they check it out.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (Inaudible).

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Absolutely.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I think the whole thing was a con. I think at some point, they get in over the heads and this success was wrapped around (inaudible). To the point where he had to be validated, he had to be made into this informant that gave him all this information.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: That's the myth.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: That's the myth.

FITZPATRICK: (Inaudible) I work to organize crime. I work fugitives and so when the Boston problem was going on, I was told they needed somebody with this background to be send to Boston and my mission was to find out what is going on between the (inaudible) police, Boston Police, the local police and the FBI. How come they're not getting along together? They had territorial issues.



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The state police was blaming the FBI for cavorting with criminals because they had seen Connolly and Morris with Bulger and Flemmi. So, they formed the opinion that the agents were doing something bad. Well, as it turned out, they were. But they didn't know it then and I didn't know it then. So I go out and interview Bulger and assessed his assertibility if you will.

I arrived at Bulger's place and met at the door by Bulger. He's got a baseball cap on. He's got sunglasses. He got muscle shirt. I hold out my (inaudible) my hand and he doesn't take it. Well, gay (ph), you know, so I look at my empty hand and I follow him in. The place is dark and we walked in the back. I said, look, Bulger, I'm here to find out what you're doing for us. What are you doing for us? And he gets angry. And about that time, Connolly pops out. And remember this was supposed to be Mano a Mano, one on one, and I get very angry.

And I look over and he says, "Hi Fitzey (ph) how you doing?" And I'm saying to myself, "Oh, you know, this does not look good." But then, we have the conversation about him. I finally get the conversation back. And what he tells me that he's not an informant. That he has his own influence and he pays them, they don't pay him. And that, he's the head of a gang, and that he runs a gang that he's not going to testify.

Now, all those elements are elements to me that I'm going to close this guy as an informant. If you're an informant for the FBI and you're the head of the gang then the FBI is validating the gang. You're actually part of the gang, in the management process. So to me, he's the big problem. Close him. Get rid of him. And that's when I go back and tell my boss. From that point on, I get resistance. I'm more or less told, you shut up. You're not allowed to talk about this.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I was a very young reporter but I had covered this huge Mafia trial in Boston. It was the biggest ever. It was -- the FBI had planted a bug in the (inaudible) headquarters of a guy name Gennaro Angiulo. He was the underboss of the Mafia and ran everything in Boston. And he and his brothers the whole hierarchy went on trials, it was an eight-month trial.

And there was all these evidence of murders and corruption and they had tapes of Gennaro Angiulo bragging about murders, but they also had him talking about, I have a couple of guys that will do anything for us name Whitey, Steve, they'll kill anyone we ask them too. And so at the end of that trial, it was a huge victory for the FBI in Boston. They had just wiped out the New England family, decimated them.

JEREMIAH O'SULLIVAN, FEDERAL PROSECUTOR: Yesterday, a federal grand Jury sitting at Boston, returned a 20 counts indictment, charging seven individuals including Gennaro Angiulo.

MURPHY: The Boston FBI, they were heroes and John Connolly was at heart of that. He was the guy with the most informants, the most top Echelon informants. So as the Mafia is being decimated, stepping into the vacuum are Whitey Bulger, Steve Flemmi. And I'm asking the New England's Strike Force leader, Jeremiah O'Sullivan, why don't you go after Whitey and Steve? You've already done the Mafia repeatedly. What about these guys? And the answer is, "Oh, well, they're not the threat that, you know, the Mafia or is the Mafia is an international organization."

Whitey is just local hoodlum (inaudible) organized crimes (inaudible) Strike force, we go ask to the big guys. Well, Whitey was becoming a big fish.

CARNEY: Jim Bulger wants to explain that the Jury, why for 25 years you could be on top o the organized crime pyramid in Boston and never ones be charged with a crime. The chief of the organized crime strike, Jeremiah O'Sullivan promised him that he would not be prosecuted for any federal crime if in turn he did something that the government wanted. And that something was not being an informant. It was something else. We've never revealed that information but Jim will at the trial, Jim takes the stand.

BULGER: I have not secretly with a high official on a federal strike force, Jeremiah O'Sullivan, United States attorney. He was concern that someone was going to kill him. He's in trouble and he needs help. I feel bad for him,

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so I told him, I said look, I'll take care of this (inaudible) but I'm no spy. We don't meet. I'll take care of it in my own way. If you can accept that it'll be done.

CARNEY: What was O'Sullivan's promise to you?

BULGER: His promise to me was this, he says, Listen Whitey, this is -- I feel better. I'm under your umbrella or protection. You're under mine and he says any federal crimes or anything like that. Don't worry about it this. I'll always be on your corner from this point on. I'll protect if you protect me and that was the way it went.

BORRI: Bulger claims that he had save Jeremiah T. O'Sullivan from eminent danger presumably from Mafia retaliation for Jeremiah O'Sullivan's pursued of the Mafia and bringing him down. And that his deal with Jeremiah T. O'Sullivan was a personal one and he was going to protect O'Sullivan in return for being granted immunity for crimes past and future.

T.J. ENGLISH, AUTHOR/JOURNALIST: John Connolly said that O'Sullivan and Bulger pledged allegiance to each other.

That is a pretty significant event, an event, by the way, that was never mentioned or alluded to in this trial. The government didn't want it to be, because, then you would have this very ironic situation of the U.S. attorney's office in Boston, the very office that is currently prosecuting Whitey Bulger, had some kind of corrupt relationship with Whitey Bulger that they're not being forthcoming about.

ZACHARY HAFER, ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY: The notion that a federal prosecutor could tell an organized crime figure that he could kill at will men and women, rich and poor, Boston, Florida, Oklahoma, based on a personal promise to guarantee his safety, is so absurd, so ludicrous, we -- we have run out of word like ludicrous and synonyms to describe it.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Today, they called to the stand former number two in the FBI's Boston office, agent Bob Fitzpatrick.

BOB FITZPATRICK, FORMER FBI ASSISTANT SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE: Kind of upset over the fact that this whole case is predicated on a bunch of people I tried to put in jail.

And the true story is that the criminal justice system has basically been co-opted by Bulger, by Flemmi. Now, certain people are culpable in the FBI, but certain people are culpable in the Department of Justice. So I got to go there and present the truth.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Former FBI agent Robert Fitzpatrick started at the Boston office in 1981 and said the atmosphere was tense. As assistant special agent in charge, Fitzpatrick evaluated James Bulger's role as an informant.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Fitzpatrick said surprised Bulger surprised him by saying he was not an FBI informant, that he was never paid anything by the FBI to provide information.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Fitzpatrick recommended closing Bulger as an informant. But headquarters thought Bulger was too valuable in its quest to bring down the mafia. After several hours on the stand, prosecutors began a tough cross-examination of Fitzpatrick. First question?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You are a man who likes to make up stories, aren't you?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: No.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Didn't you gratuitously claim credit for arresting the mob boss Jerry Angiulo?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I did arrest him.

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UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: At one point, assistant U.S. attorney Brian Kelly said, "Are you on medication?" Fitzpatrick said, "Yes." Kelly said sarcastically, "Does it affect your memory?" "Not that I recall," replied Fitzpatrick. And several people in court laughed.

FITZPATRICK: Not good.

QUESTION: What do you mean?

FITZPATRICK: I thought the guy was very angry. And I don't know why. He used -- he should have been a lot more professional.

ENGLISH: Bob Fitzpatrick was one of the first to say there is something rotten here and try to call attention to it. He's drummed out of the FBI. Now here he is at this trial. And they really seek to destroy him. They seek to humiliate him. And it was very personal, because when he comes into trial to testify, he is a rebuke to the entire system and to everyone who stood back for 20 years that Bulger was in power and allowed it to happen.

And a lot of people were complicit in that.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

HANK BRENNAN, ATTORNEY FOR BULGER: We know that there was a relationship between the Department of Justice and the success of James Bulger. And nobody wants to tell that story. They protected him for their own reasons for decades. And they're still lying about it.

At this trial, the United States attorney's office has an exhibit. And it's a very important exhibit. It was a memorandum from the special agent in charge in the 1980s by the name of Lawrence Sarhatt. In this memorandum, Sarhatt says that he had a conversation with James Bulger when they met at a hotel. And the government pretends that this memorandum somehow shows James Bulger is an informant. So, during the trial, we learn information that there is a secret safe in the Boston SAC, special agent in charge's office in the C3 unit of the FBI, the criminal division.

And in that safe, supposedly documents would go into it and never come out again. We also learned that there was a secretary who had worked for decades in the Boston FBI. She is 82 years old and still working for the Boston FBI, so she is the person who knows whether or not a secret safe exists.

When we called the secretary as a witness, mysteriously, new documents appeared. While they told the jury and the public this is the truth at this trial, what we learned when we called the secretary is there were other documents that existed.

The same exact memo that the government introduced at this trial, from the same person, exact copy of it, we learned that the memo was not complete, because there is an observation section. Mr. Sarhatt says: "I am not certain that I am convinced the informant is telling the full story of his involvement. Consideration should be given to closing him and making him a target."

So what did they do with this information? Well, the government at this trial leaves that part out until we expose it. What else did they do with the information back in 1980? Well, we have learned from the secretary exactly what they did with that information. The actual memorandum that was given to her, she put in an envelope by direction of Mr. Sarhatt and put in the safe. And it says strictly eyes only. Nobody other than special agent in charge can see it.

And any time a new special agent in charge would come in and take the place of an old one who was resigning or moving on, she would tell them about this document in the safe. And it stayed in that safe for generations of special agents in charge when they took each other's spot.

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And one special agent in charge said, get rid of this or we will all get fired. What could be so terrible about this document that they would lose their job, that James Bulger was an informant? Would that be so terrible everybody would get fired, or that they knew he wasn't an informant, they knew that he should have been targeted and he was being protected?

BRIAN KELLY, ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY: The defense complaining about the Sarhatt memo is another desperate tactic, which is another version of let's pretend, because they're pretending they didn't have these documents, which they did.

There is nothing sinister about it. It was disclosed. They had it. And it didn't prove anything, other than the fact that there was the head of the FBI who was concerned about keeping Bulger open as an informant.

If anything, the Sarhatt memo proves Bulger was an informant. He sat with the head of the Boston FBI for four hours and gave him all sorts of information, most of which was useless. But in fact he was reporting it to the FBI. And that makes him an informant.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: The latest twist in the trial of James "Whitey" Bulger.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: On Tuesday, Stephen Rakes was dropped from the witness list.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Rakes had been set to testify, but prosecutors told him he was no longer needed to take the stand.

STEVE DAVIS, BROTHER OF VICTIM DEBRA DAVIS: Thirty years of torment, and now it is coming to an end.

Hello. No, I have in been able to get -- I am going by his house later, because I haven't been able to get ahold of him or anything. Yes. He is probably besides himself about it. They took him off the witness list. I tried calling him after court. And his phone right went to voice-mail. I call him all day yesterday, same -- after court. Same thing.

So, I am going to go over. I figure give him a little time to cool down. Yes. Yes. Where? I don't know. What was the body described like? That's him. That's him. I'm going by his house right now. Yes, I will call you right back.

He's dead?

MARYANN DAVIS, WIFE OF STEVE DAVIS: He's dead? What? What? What? What happened?

S. DAVIS: They found him on the side of the road in Lincoln.

M. DAVIS: In Lincoln, Massachusetts?

S. DAVIS: Yes.

M. DAVIS: Who is in Lincoln, Massachusetts?

S. DAVIS: I have to go by his house right now.

M. DAVIS: Oh, my God, no way.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Stephen Rakes is a courthouse regular coming each day to the Whitey Bulger trial, waiting for the day when he would testify, but Rakes would never get that chance.

S. DAVIS: See the corruption?

M. DAVIS: Well, wait. Let's not jump to conclusions. Let's say a prayer that he is OK.

S. DAVIS: He's not here.

M. DAVIS: Is his car here, Steven?

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S. DAVIS: No. M. DAVIS: Oh, my God. Can you go knock on the door and see?

S. DAVIS: I knew something was wrong, because I talk to him every day. We meet for coffee. You know, and that's got my stomach turned, thinking, is anyone else in danger?

Would his testimony -- I used to say to him, Steve, what do you have to say? I mean, what is it? Oh, you will see. You will see. Believe me, you will see how deep. And the people, you will see.

M. DAVIS: Key witness in the Whitey Bulger trial is dead.

M. DAVIS: A source tells CNN authorities call the death suspicious.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: We don't know what the cause was, no sign of trauma. Don't know if this was a suicide.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: It's a very suspicious death. The body is seven miles away from where his automobile was and he did not have any identification on him.

M. DAVIS: They will say cause of death was a heart attack, an aneurysm. You know, and is it? We will never really know.

Do you believe what they tell you, or did something really happen? Do you trust your people that are supposed to serve and protect, when you know what we are living through and what's happened in this family? What is the truth anymore and who do you believe?

(END VIDEOTAPE)

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Prosecutors put former hit man John Martorano on the stand to prove that Bulger's reign was murderous.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Martorano was perhaps the most feared member of Bulger's Winter Hill gang, testified he was James "Whitey" Bulger's chief execution.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Killing was routine. In all, Martorano murdered at least 20 people.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Martorano served just 12 years in prison as part of a deal with federal prosecutors.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: The confessed murderer was asked about a number of killings he committed, including the killing of Roger Wheeler, the president of World Jai Alai in Oklahoma.

BOERI: The Jai Alai murders are the heart of this, because they show how ugly and sordid everything became. This is shocking. He's killed in daylight, at a country club while kids at the swimming pool are watching. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: And who was Roger Wheeler?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: He was the owner of Jai Alai, World Jai Alai. It was a game.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Did that game involve gambling?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yes.

DAVID WHEELER, SON OF VICTIM ROGER WHEELER: I never did like him. But the Bank of Boston brought him this jai alai deal. And part of the deal, because I kept asking him about this, is he said -- he said that the FBI keeps it clean. It's run by retired FBI agents that specialized in investigating organized crime. And they keep the mob out.

BOERI: So, Wheeler buys this company, World Jai Alai. Unbeknownst to him, it is infiltrated by the mob already, connected to Winter Hill.

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KEVIN WEEKS, FORMER MEMBER, WINTER HILL GANG: World Jai Alai hired John Callahan, a friend of Johnny Martorano, as the president. And they had H. Paul Rico head of security. And Rico was a corrupt ex-FBI agent. And he had relations with Winter Hill.

Callahan is actually the architect who first brought the scheme forward with Rico off to kill Wheeler, and then go to his widow and buy it, buy the World Jai Alai. They would be the owners. And the money was going to be kicked back to Winter hill. Paul Rico reached back to the people back up here they was involved with before.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Callahan, he asked me to take out Roger Wheeler.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: What was your reaction to that?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I couldn't do that without everybody else on board.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: And when you said you had to get everybody else on board, who did you mean?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Whitey and Stevie. They said they were on board. Whatever they could do the help, they would help.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: In the end of it, Johnny Martorano shot Wheeler.

KEVIN CULLEN, "BOSTON GLOBE": There were honest FBI agents in Oklahoma who wanted to get to the bottom of the murder of Roger Wheeler. Whitey Bulger and Stevie Flemmi were implicated. And the FBI in Boston lied to the FBI in Oklahoma and said Bulger and Flemmi had nothing to do with it. They have alibis. We have checked it out. That was a lie. And murderers went free because of it.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Do you hold the FBI as responsible as Bulger for the death of your father?

WHEELER: More responsible. The FBI has protected him. They have supervised him. And without the FBI, my father would be alive today.

BOERI: Next person that emerges in this story is Brian Halloran. Halloran facing his own problems. Namely, he's charged with murdering a drug dealer.

He needs help and to make a deal. And so he comes forward, and he can give up Whitey Bulger and Stephen Flemmi, he says, because they were part of a plot to kill Roger Wheeler. So Halloran is a threat to Bulger and Flemmi. They eliminate Halloran. In the process of eliminating him, they kill Michael Donahue, somebody he knew from the neighborhood.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Of the 19 alleged murder victims, their loved ones have become fixtures at the trial. And, today, Patricia Donahue took the stand.

PATRICIA DONAHUE, WIFE OF VICTIM MICHAEL DONAHUE: All I want to do is clear my husband's name. I did not want him associated with the mafia, with Whitey Bulger, with Brian Halloran.

He wasn't into that. He didn't even know those people. He was innocent. He wasn't in trouble. He wasn't a mafia man. He wasn't a killer. Mike was 32 when he died. He actually would have been 33 in a week. Whitey pulled the trigger. I blame the FBI too.

They knew what was going off to happen. There goes Whitey. I'm serious.

(CROSSTALK)

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yes.

P. DONAHUE: We will see you in there, you lowlife.

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EDWARD T. HINCHEY, DONAHUE FAMILY ATTORNEY: Michael Donahue was murdered simply because he offered a neighbor, Brian Halloran, a ride home. Unbeknownst to Michael Donahue, Brian Halloran at the time was cooperating with the FBI and was about to reveal that James Bulger was involved in the murder of Roger Wheeler.

FITZPATRICK: After the Wheeler murder, Halloran comes in. And he wants to talk. We open him up as an informant. And he begins telling us that this was done by Bulger and Flemmi.

And so I opened up murder cases on Bulger and Flemmi. Now, you have to understand something here. Halloran is giving us the subject. He is telling us this guy is the killer of Wheeler. Bulger is the killer of Wheeler. That's a plus. That is a big plus. They should be very happy, they being Department of Justice and the strike force chief, Jerry O'Sullivan.

And yet they're not. O'Sullivan said, no, I'm not going to put Halloran in a witness protection program. Why not? So, I went over O'Sullivan's head. I went to the United States attorney, Bill Weld. And I said to Bill Weld, Bill, I said, we got a problem. I got an informant, Halloran, that is going to tell us who did this stuff. And O'Sullivan is feeling that he should not be in the witness protection program. I told Weld he is going to get whacked.

HINCHEY: At the same time, John Morris at the FBI told John Connolly that Brian Halloran was revealing Bulger's involvement, when Morris knew full well that John Connolly would convey that information to Whitey Bulger. And he did.

WEEKS: We had received word from the FBI that Brian Halloran was cooperating with the FBI about the Wheeler murder. So, Jim Bulger, and Steve Flemmi, myself and other people go out looking for him. And one day, we got word that Brian Halloran was down the waterfront.

HINCHEY: Michael Donahue happened to have gone down to the pier in South Boston to get fish to use as bait to take one of his sons on a fishing trip. And he stopped to have a beer on his way home. He ran into Brian Halloran, who was his neighbor. He offered to give him a ride home.

WEEKS: So we went down the waterfront. We got the hit car, and weapons, and everyone -- he was geared up and stuff. And I went down ahead. And I sat across the street and watched to make sure Brian Halloran was in fact there.

And when he started coming out, I told Jim Bulger. And Jim Bulger pulled up and he shot Brian Halloran and killed him.

Michael Donahue was an unintended victim. He wasn't supposed to be getting killed. It was Brian Halloran that we were going to kill. But he hung around with Halloran. You want to hang around with gangsters and wise guys, this is what happens.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Patricia Donahue has spent the last 32 years raising three sons without her husband, Michael. Today, she finally faced his alleged killer, James "Whitey" Bulger.

P. DONAHUE: It was Mother's day. And Tommy had just made his first communion. I was in the kitchen cooking. A news bulletin came on the TV about a gangland slaying. I didn't pay any attention to it, because I knew it didn't concern me.

And I just so happened to look up and see the car. And I said, I think that was his car, I swear. I mean, I was hyperventilating. I was like confused. I'm thinking, oh, my God, where is he? I need to be with him. I don't want him to die alone. I have so much stuff I want to say to him, you know?

And nobody came until 10:00 that night. So when they took me to the hospital, finally, he had already passed. Within days of the killing, FBI agents, they came to my house and harassed me, accused of having an affair with my husband's friend that was staying with us from out of town.

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I mean, I was like, what? For months, they used to sit outside my salon. You know, they would sit outside the house. And they would say, how you doing? Have you found out any more information on my husband? No, nothing yet. And the whole time, they knew. And I was devastated, because I did not think that the government was like that. And you think you know them, and you find out they're not who you think they are.

SHELLEY MURPHY, "BOSTON GLOBE": Plenty of suspects, now not only in the Wheeler murder, but in the Halloran and Donahue murders. And nothing happens.

The FBI decides to look for John Callahan. We need to question John Callahan. He is the other guy who was also implicated in the murder of Roger Wheeler. They're hunting for him to question him. And then he is murdered. Again, nothing happens. The FBI in Boston, who do they send out to question Bulger and Flemmi? John Connolly, their handler, because we know he is objective, right?

TOMMY DONAHUE, SON OF VICTIM MICHAEL DONAHUE: The FBI, they haven't been on our side since the day they killed my father. Took them four- and-a-half-hours to come to my house to tell my mother, my mother, whether my father was dead or alive. They covered up the murder of my father, helped pretty much set it up. It's shameful. It's shameful.

I think the FBI is worse than the mafia. They're the most organized crime family on the planet, who can do whatever they want, change the laws when they want. And they're not to be screwed with, to be honest for you. We have seen that firsthand.

QUESTION: Tell us what it was like to be on the stand today, look into Whitey Bulger's eyes.

P. DONAHUE: Well, I looked right at him. But, of course, he wouldn't look at me. So, as far as I'm concerned, he is a coward. He can kill people and not look the victims in the face. That's a coward. That's a coward.

QUESTION: You have been saying you're getting more answers from his defense team.

P. DONAHUE: I am. I am.

QUESTION: And then J. Carney comes up and he asks some questions that are really meant to benefit Whitey. Does that put you in a strange position?

T. DONAHUE: The questions that Carney was asking my mother, those are questions the government should be asking my mother.

Did you notice the government stood up and blocked everything, every question that he asked? They don't want us to know anything. It was blunt right there. Carney was asking questions to help us, and we were getting blocked by the prosecution.

Where do we go here, folks?

(END VIDEOTAPE)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: In the early '90s when Fred and I first started working on this case, it was strange to us, to say the least that Bulger had been allowed to run amok in the city of Boston for so long. We suspected Bulger had some relationship with the FBI that he was using to prevent prosecution of himself. It was in that atmosphere that we began the case and targeted him. And we worked with Tom Foley, also Tom Duffy from the state police.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: So what we decided to do was follow the money. And what we started targeting was a bottom-line bookmaker. With some of the informants that we had. We put up a bunch of wiretaps. We started climbing up these bookmakers' organizations until we actually had the highest level, where that bookmaker doing the handoff to Bulger and Flynn as far as payments go.



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UNIDENTIFIED MALE: It took Brian and I about four or five years to get there. By 1995, we had our first racketeering indictment.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Back then, Fred took a lot of hits over the years. And he had the courage to go up against the system. Brian Kelly, too. There was many, right inside the U.S. attorney's office that were in denial. Didn't want to see this come forward. And they said, "Well, we're going to wait. And we'll do a joint investigation with the FBI."

And I knew at that time, that this was, another stall tactic. And I told them that, I said, "OK. That's the way you want to go. But the state police's position publicly will be, you had the opportunity to indict them, and you didn't indict them."

So they went back and had another huddle with the U.S. attorney. And they came back. They said, "OK, the indictment. We will indict them." But they insisted that the FBI participate in the arrest.

So state police targeted Fleming. The FBI said they will take Bulger. And then one night on January 5th, we found Fleming. And we arrested him on the streets of Boston. And we notified the FBI, "OK, grab Bulger." And that was the end of that. They never had Bulger, didn't know where he was. And, it was 16 years later before we saw James "Whitey" Bulger again.

We expected that he was tipped off. And we found out later that that's what happened. One of the FBI agents in Boston told John Connolly that the indictments were coming down. And he passed the information along to Bulger.

After months of sitting in jail, Steven Fleming realized the FBI and John Connolly were not coming to his rescue. And he decided to out himself and Bulger's FBI informants.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Did you have any idea that Fleming was an informant until he revealed it in a court hearing in 1999?

BULGER (via phone): I didn't know that Stevie did that. I had no idea. And when I heard it I was shocked. I mean, Stevie was like my brother. I mean, I was so close to him. He fooled me. He fooled the mafia. He fooled Johnny, everybody. I mean, I was shocked. In the court, he's glaring at me. And I'm looking at him thinking, "Christ, Stevie, you're looking at me. I never said a word against you. I'm the (UNINTELLIGIBLE)."

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: It was a tense reunion, 18 years in the making. Finally, James "Whitey" Bulger and his partner, the Steven "The Rifleman" Fleming were reunited as Fleming took the stand against Bulger.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Steven Fleming is to be the most critical witness in this case.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: In rapid fire succession, Fleming described Bulger's alleged role in a string of killings during the 1970s when both men were leaders of the Winter Hill Gang.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Fleming is under pressure, they're talking about women. Bulger is charged with strangling Deborah Hussey and Debbie Davis. The defense is trying to suggest, in fact, it was Fleming.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Hank Brennan grilled the government witness on a sexual relationship with his then-girlfriend, teenage daughter, Deborah Hussey.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Fleming says Deborah Hussey turned into a drug user and an embarrassment, so they had to kill her.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: At Bulger's trial Friday, Fleming said Bulger murdered Fleming's girlfriend, Debra Davis, after the two men decided she knew too much.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Fleming claimed Bulger decided Davis had to be killed. "I couldn't do it," Fleming testified. He said Bulger said, "I'll take care of it. I'll do it." He grabbed her around the throat and strangled her.

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STEVE DAVIS, BROTHER OF DEBBIE DAVIS: My sister Debbie, she dated Steve Fleming for over nine years. She loved him. She did love him. But at one point she wanted to get married. She wanted kids. My sister wanted kids.

It was just, rocky road from then on.

She said, "I'm leaving. I'm leaving the state." And I think Whitey would have taken that as a threat. You know, her taking secrets or whatever with her.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Fleming became more and more defensive and more and more resistant to the questions as Hank Brennan just cut into him.

Fleming is a well-rehearsed witness now, because he's testified in three trials, three civil proceedings. In one court, he says that Bulger strangled her with a rope. In another proceeding, he said he strangled her with his hands. And then in the third proceeding, he said he thought that Bulger had her in a headlock. DAVID BOERT: So at the end of the day, the inconsistencies, yes, they're there. But do they stop Bulger from being convicted? It certainly does not look like that is significant enough to do that.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Two of the charges against you, Jim, are that you were involved in the murder of Deborah Hussey and Debbie Davis. Did you have any involvement in those two cases at all?

BULGER (via phone): No way. Those were Stevie's girlfriends. That's his problem. Had nothing to do with me. Nothing.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Do you feel he was fully capable of committing these by himself?

BULGER: Christ. Well, one of the guys asked him something about a murder. He says, well, he's been involved in so many murders he has to say to the guy, "Well, show me the list." He needed a list to show him what murder are you talking about? I mean, this guy here is -- I think he's insane myself, Stevie.

KEVIN CULLEN, COLUMNIST, "BOSTON GLOBE": Whitey Bulger cannot have people think he murdered those two women. And he cannot have people think he was an informant. This is not about getting acquitted. This is about changing the narrative back to the one he spent years cultivating.

And that narrative is he is a good "bad guy." He is a gangster with scruples. He is a criminal with standards. And gangsters with scruples do not murder women and bury them in shallow graves. And criminals with standards don't turn on their friends.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Today could end up being an extremely interesting day at the trial of James "Whitey" Bulger.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: The big question is whether or not Whitey himself will take the stand?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Will James "Whitey" Bulger take the stand? Everybody is waiting on bated breath to find out.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: My prediction is he will testify. He looks so bad if he doesn't.

HANK BRENNAN, BULGER'S LAWYER: Today is the big day. It's the end of a case. And I want to let him know that I will be with him. I'm behind him no matter what decision he makes. If he wants to testify, then we might have him step behind. If he doesn't, then I totally understand, as well.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: The defense was hoping to present a defensive immunity. That Bulger had been given immunity by the former U.S. attorney. But before the trial they got the answer from this judge. No, they couldn't. They were stripped of that defense. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: It's an interesting argument. But, it is somewhat

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convenient to make the argument because Jeremiah T. O'Sullivan is dead. And there is no written evidence that we've seen.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: In courtroom 11, a moment of high drama. Whitey's lawyer stood up and said the defense rests.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Carney (ph) says Bulger will not take the stand.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: When the judge asked if he made that choice voluntarily, but he stunned everyone.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: "I'm making the choice involuntarily," Bulger said.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: "I feel that I've been choked off from having an opportunity to give an adequate defense and explain about my conversation and agreement with Jeremiah O'Sullivan."

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: "For my protection of his life, in return he promised to give me immunity."

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: And as Judge Casper said, she already ruled Bulger's immunity claim was inadmissible, he said defiantly...

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: "As far as I'm concerned, I didn't get a fair trial. And this is a sham."

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: And do what youse want with me. That's it. That's my final word."

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: At that point, Patricia Donahue throws up her seat and yelled, "You're a coward."

PATRICIA DONAHUE: I yelled out, "You're a coward." Because that's what he is. This man first claims that he has immunity, which he thinks gives him the right to kill all these people. And now he blames an unfair trial on the Department of Justice.

Yet, he won't get on the stand and tell all. If you've think that the government has done wrong by you, then get up there and talk about it.

BRIAN KELLY, ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY: At the end of the day, Bulger's immunity claim was a ridiculous claim. When he was given the chance to present it, he didn't. His immunity claims were part of his game of let's pretend. "Let's pretend I'm going to testify. Let's pretend I have a license to kill. Let's pretend I'm not an informant."

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: So many people have the opinion that -- the idea of whether or not he was an informant or not is irrelevant. And yet, this is the central issue in this case.

BRENNAN: The truth is that James Bulger was not informing. And the reason why it's dangerous for the Department of Justice to recognize the fact that he wasn't an informant is that, if Mr. Bulger was just paying a dozen people on the FBI as he was and headquarters didn't do anything about it and the supervision wasn't there and they didn't do the yearly reports, they didn't do the yearly reviews, it then calls into question all the affidavits that he's on. It calls into question all convictions they had.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Think about the implications. Think about what happened in the 1980s. The crown jewel of the Department of Justice was to get the Italian mafia. They wanted to infiltrate the headquarters of the Angiulos on Prince Street in the North End. They needed affidavits. And what did they do? They used James Bulger's name, even though we now know he didn't give them any information. Their own witnesses will admit that. He was simply added onto search warrants and affidavits as a courtesy to John Connolly.

So what would happen when the federal government admits that he wasn't part of these search warrants? Every attorney who represented every mobster would sue the federal government. They'd lose all their convictions. They'd lose all the jail time, all the sentences. All these accolades that attorneys and lawyers and FBI agents earned, their reputations they earned, they would be gone. They're not going to give that up.

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And probably most importantly is the civil liability to the families. That's why you have this resounding unrest with the families. They've lost loved ones. And at some point there has to be closure. They are entitled to closure, as citizens. This government will give them no closure, because they have this pretense they have to keep for their own image that James Bulger is an informant, rather than saying, "We sanctioned this. Not just with James Bulger. We sanctioned organized crime figures to go out and kill. And we protected them. And we did it before. We did it here. We're going to do it again. And we have done it again." They can't admit that.

So these families suffer over and over and over again with never getting the answer. Are they going to overturn convictions and let everybody go? Are they going to be civilly liable for their lies? Are they going to prosecute themselves? It's never going to happen. So he has to be an informant.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Prosecutors and defense attorneys for Boston mobster James "Whitey" Bulger get their last chances today to try to persuade jurors in Bulger's murder and racketeering trial.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: WBOR's David Boeri joins us this morning. Good morning.

BOERI: Good morning, Deb.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: OK. Now both sides get three hours to sum up their cases. What are they going to do with all that time?

BOERI: An extraordinary amount of time. That's for sure. And as a matter of fact, the government said it needed more time.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: James Bulger is one of most vicious, violent, and calculating criminals ever to walk the streets of Boston. It doesn't matter whether or not Mr. Bulger was an FBI informant. It's about whether or not the defendant is guilty of the crimes charged in the indictment. He's the one on trial here, not the government. Not the FBI. James Bulger.

BRENNAN: We think about our government as an institution. This faceless organization. Our government is not them. Our government is us. At what point as citizens do we say, "You know what? There has to be accountability"? You tell them that.

BOERI: I've been on this story for so long. And I've never seen such depravity in a courtroom. We have a situation where an institution of the government decided that, in order to achieve a goal which was questionable at best, they decided who was going to live and they decided who was going to die. And they empowered those people that were carrying out terror. They empowered them. They gave them the run of the city. That was lawlessness by the government. That is what we can never forget. And that's why -- that's why I am proud to have done -- done this story.

You know, because it's just -- it's something you can't forget. And memory is really important. You know, memory is a political act. And I think as reporters you've got to keep the memory, even for the people, on it (ph).

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: The United States versus James J. Bulger is over.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: This trial has been going on two months. The jury has been deliberating the last five days.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: The jury has made a decision in this case. And we are waiting to see exactly what it is.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Whitey Bulger faces possible maximum life in prison. We say the caveat: this man is 83 years of age.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Bulger is standing right now in the courtroom as he hears the words, to count one for racketeering, conspiracy, guilty.

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UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: For count two, we're just waiting here for word out of the courtroom that it is guilty verdict, as well, on count two. Now within the second one, were all of these acts. That includes all of the acts of murder. Racketeering, act No. 1, that was not proven.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: For racketeering act No. 2, we're hearing that is not proved. Racketeering act No. 3, not proved.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: No. 4, not proved. Five, not proved.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Narcotics distribution conspiracy.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: That is proved.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: The extortion of Stephen "Stippo" Rakes and Julie Rakes. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: People, we're waiting on this. That is proved.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: The conspiracy to murder Roger Wheeler. Proved.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: The murder of John Callahan is also proved.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Next, the murder of Brian Halloran, proved.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Then we have the murder of Michael Donahue.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Proved.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Murder of Deborah Hussey.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Proved.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: The next one, very important for Steven Davis. The murder of Debra Davis, no finding.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Whitey Bulger was convicted on 31 out of 32 counts of racketeering, conspiracy, murder, extortion and other charges.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: But the jury found that the government only proved the murders of 11 of Bulger's 19 alleged victims.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: The jury convicted Bulger of -- it's 31. They acquitted him of one count.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: As theater, the trial delivered. But ultimately it was a disappointment to me. Those of us journalists, interested parties, who have been following the Bulger story for decades had kind of hoped this trial was going to be a final accounting of the Bulger era, of all the things that made Bulger possible. I think it fell far short in that regard.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: With the conviction of James Bulger, we hope that we stand here today to mark the end of an era that was very ugly in Boston's history.

BULGER: Jesus Christ almighty, this is baloney. And that's why I says this is a sham trial. I think the feds have the green light. Nobody ever checks on them. The media is not there. Like they would like the public to believe they are. These reporters are hand-fed stuff from the FBI agents. And then they write crime stories. They write books and everything else. They're hand in fist with them.

The one thing they all know is it works. It works. It gets convictions. There's no lessons learned. You can't get a fair trial. You can't get a fair hearing. This system here, it isn't going to change. It isn't going to change. It will never change.

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UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Whitey Bulger is a vicious, venal murderer. But he was enabled by the FBI and the FBI was enabled by the Justice Department. And to the day, the Justice Department, as far as I'm concerned, was engaged in a cover-up to minimize the extent of FBI corruption. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: To know that this is how you're treated as an American citizen. When FBI agents protect killers, and come and take your loved one's life. You could be sitting here, don't you want to know what really went on? Why they really did it?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: If everybody told the truth, everything would come together. But everybody fashions things to benefit themselves. Which is natural, I guess. But everybody is trying to twist the story a little bit. No one's really going to know the truth until everybody starts telling the truth. That's what it comes done to.

People are going to have to come to their own conclusions. You know, there's going to be people out there that believe that Jim Bulger was an informant. There's going to be people on the other side of this say he wasn't informant. People are going to say he didn't murder women. Other people say he did murder women. So the true story will never be known.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Today was a good day for a lot of families. But today also wasn't a good day for a lot of families. My heart goes out to them, and I would look to do a cheer for them. And we will not forget you. One person who should be here, how about we give a nice cheer for Stevie Rakes!

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yes, I hold the FBI responsible. Good God, they protected this man. Now, you know, years later we find out everything that he's been doing and getting away with it? Listen, it takes a -- it takes a village to raise a child. For all the destruction that this Bulger and Fleming have done, it would take a battalion to cover it up. So where are they all?

GRAPHIC: James "Whitey" Bulger was sentenced to two consecutive life terms plus five years. He is appealing his conviction.

Bulger's girlfriend Catherine Greig is serving an 8-year sentence after pleading guilty in 2012 to aiding and abetting a fugitive.

Authorities determined that the murder of Stephen Rakes was unrelated to the Bulger case. His coffee was poisoned with cyanide by a business associate.

The FBI declined to be interviewed for this film.

This film is dedicated to the families of: Arthur "Bucky" Barrett, John Callahan, Richard Castucci, Edward Connors, Debra Davis, Michael Donahue, Brian Halloran, Deborah Hussey, Thomas King, Francis "Buddy" Leonard, William O'Brien, James O'Toole, Al Plummer, James Sousa, Roger Wheeler, Paul McGonagle, John McIntyre, Michael Milano, Al Notorangeli.

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## *Whitey: United States Of America v. James J. Bulger*

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**Section:** NEWS; Domestic

**Length:** 13193 words

**Highlight:** The story of James A. "Whitey" Bulger.

### **Body**

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UNIDENTIFIED MALE: 30 years ago, my wife and I have purchase a local license and we had a little store up and running by Christmas. Before (inaudible) and sale on and then along the hall, I guess he knocked on my door one night, I'm at the house. My wife is down in the liquor store working and it was Kevin Weeks and Whitey Bulger at the door and I didn't know what the hell that they want.

He said you got a problem, I said, what problem?

He said listen, who hired to kill you? I'm like, what? He's -- you got to understand. Other liquor stores -- they hired us to kill you. I just couldn't believe it. I didn't know what to even think. I was dumbfounded, actually I froze. He's -- but -- well then, what we're going to do instead of that. We're going to be coming by (ph) and he said -- no you're not become my partners.

And then Bulger is right, I mean he's just staring at me and just grinding his teeth like, you don't understand. We're taking you're liquor store is like, it's not for sale, and he said, I'll kill you. I'll stab you and then I'll kill you. I'm like, Holly Jesus. And then they pulled out a gun. I was like, Oh.

They picked up my kid (inaudible). It would be terrible to this kid to grow up without a father, I was like -- and I melted. Nothing you can do.

Ever since that they -- never been the same. I couldn't protect my own children as a man that just took me away and I'm not over yet. I won't be over and maybe I'll never get over but I'll surely can't wait together in front of that court. I'm going to stand and testify against that. 30 years ago he scared me to death and he don't scare me to death no more.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: After 16 years the FBI finally has this man. Boston, my Boston (inaudible), James Whitey Bulger was captured in southern California.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Along with his long time girlfriend, Catherine Elizabeth Greig.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: The 83-year-old of accused of drug trafficking, extortion and murder all while working as an FBI informant. He was on the limb for 16 years.

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JAMES WHITEY BULGER, MURDERER: I never commit a crime on 16 years I (work for the cops men). My whole life changed when I was on the right (inaudible) and become very, very human and I guess you could say it and I love woman intensively. When I was captured I told them (inaudible) will (inaudible) to all plans, any plans (inaudible) innocent to guilty. They can execute me. You can give me life sentence. You can do whatever you just want but I want her to be free and I meant it, and I mean it today.

If they plea guilty and we'll let her go free and shot you're mouth I would do it.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: It's been a long time coming. After 16 years on the land and two years in custody the criminal trial of James Whitey Bulger began today at the John Jay Moakley courthouse in south Boston. Just blocks away from Whitey's former home turf.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: This is what it looks like here the courthouse early at this morning. The police are escorting several black SUVs roll up to federal court. Behind the tinted window is James Whitey Bulger who is back in Boston to face 19 charges of murder in the same city he's accused of terrorizing as a gang boss.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Some of the victim's family is also arriving today hoping to see justice done after waiting almost 30 years.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I'm happy that this is about start. It's been a long waited, really, really long wait in time. So I'll see just when I get home.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: How are you going feel being in there?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I don't know. I'm sick to my stomach now. I can only imagine when I get there.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: All right.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Prosecutors describe James Whitey Bulger as the center of mayhem and murder in Boston for 30 years, the boss of Boston's notorious Winter Hill Gang. A man so dangerous that he joined Osama bin Laden at the top of the FBI's Most Wanted List.

DAVID BORRI, SENIOR REPORTER: It was a gang that run amok. You have people who are being extorted, we talk of having shotgun barrels stock in their mouths, of machine guns pointed at their groin.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Body (inaudible) before Bulger and shakes him down.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: It was absolutely terror. Back then, 1780s, people will listen everyday, bang. If (ph) come home he's a dead man, they'll never going to find him. Bryan (ph) (inaudible) and Michael (ph), Don (ph), Nick (ph). Bodies were being -- left and right in this. They're all involved in this circle of -- in South Boston.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You have a fascination Whitey Bulger as a Robin Hood figure, he's illusive, Houdini like crime boss. Who -- his younger brother Bill Bulger who was Senate President, the most powerful politician in Massachusetts. All this stuff, there were sort of magical about them and that made him seem beyond the reach of law enforcement.

HANK BRENNAN, BULGAR DEFENSE ATTORNEY: They were over 25 years where James Bulger ruled the organized crime world. He was never charged with even a misdemeanor. The Department of Justice did nothing to prosecute him.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Whitey was the guy that got away. Whitey was the guy out in the wind, funning his nose, "ha, ha I won" for years. So today it's huge. I mean you think that, you know, there's so many people who never thought this day would ever happens.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: James Whitey Bulger fled Boston at late 1994 as federal agents were eventually arrest him in connection with 19 killings, racketeering, and other crimes that expand the early 1970s to mid 1980s.



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UNIDENTIFIED MALE: He fled after being tipped-off by an FBI agent. He was about to be indicted.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Bulger's role as an FBI informant is essential to this trial.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Now, he'll face justice in the same city. Many say he ran with an iron fist.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I'll be honestly with you. I have today's date, June 12th but lately I couldn't laugh in the past few days. I couldn't tell you what -- and it's a (inaudible) I couldn't tell you if it was Sunday, Monday, Friday. It's -- I was -- my head been so twisted overall and, you know, it's like surreal. You know, it's happened.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Why did he killed my sister. She was looked upon as a good person, she come into a room and she'd lighted up. Me, you know, everybody, you know, I mean it's -- he had no right to take her away. He took her teeth (ph) out and...

You know me. I want to introduce (inaudible).

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Look at it. I didn't know I was supposed to get all dressed up.

Today? I feel fantastic. Well, 30 years ago, they tormenting me and it's been 30 years since that tormented and now it's coming to an end. Thank God, he's behind bars. My father always told me that good will always triumph over evil even -- it takes a long time and that's just what I'm getting for.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You don't forget?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: No.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You know what I mean? UNIDENTIFIED MALE: The only time that -- comfort I get, you know, me and Steve (ph) meet every morning, just about every morning for coffee.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: This way Steve and I may have something common, psychotic individual. We're going to bring justice. It has to be done.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I include them. I was nervous as I am, exciting, the adrenaline is pumping. I just can't, I can't believe I'm finally here. I'm finding if we can just talk. I have my day and my time.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: What your thoughts are?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Well, they're active. They just come.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: What are you going to be thinking as you look at him, you know, today?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Well, you know, 30 years ago, I've never looked at him, now I can't wait to look at him right in the eyes.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: It's day one of one of the most to be anticipated trials in decades.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Cameras should have been allowed in the court room in federal courts they are not allowed.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: For the people of Boston this case is about justice and it's about redemption, it is about retribution, opening statement in the trial of James Whitey Bulger.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: The assistant U.S. attorney Brian Kelly telling juries.

BRIAN KELLY, ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY: He did a dirty work himself because he was a hands-on killer. He ran amok in the city of Boston for almost 30 years. Bulger was deeply involved in the distribution of drugs in the South Boston area. He was one of the biggest informants in Boston

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Bulger routinely met with FBI agent John Connolly and gave him the information to protect himself or get the competitive edge that he wanted.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: He then the jury pictures of each of the 19-people investigator say Bulger killed.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: They describe victims former friends associate its girlfriend all killed and varied in secret graves, some relative and court listening chocked up when they heard that.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: That government handing its opening statement by slowly dramatically reading off the name of the 19 alleged murder victim.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (Inaudible), Roger Wheeler, Brian Holliman, Michael Donahue, John Callahan, Devra Davis, and Deborah Housen.

BRIAN KELLY, ASST. U.S. ATTORNEY, BULGER PROSECUTOR: This is not a traditional murder case. It's a racketeering charge. And within the racketeering charge there are multiple predicate crimes that we have to prove. We have to prove at least two of them and Bulger is charge with 33 separate predicate crimes, 19 separate murders, multiple extortions, drug dealing, gambling, and all of those we have to prove at least two beyond the reasonable doubt.

We have to prove that Bulger was part of this criminal enterprise that was committing all these crimes of 30-years.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Defense attorney J. W. Carney stunned the court room admitting for the first time that Bulger was involved in drug trafficking.

CARNEY: James Bulger was involved in drug dealing. He was involved in bookmaking, loansharking. These crimes are what he did.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: But, he proposed in government witnesses.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Carney try to paint a picture of Bulger associates turned government witnesses John Martorano, Kevin Weeks, and Stephen Flemmi as the real murderers who just pinned their crime on his client.

DAVID BOERI, SENIOR REPORTER, WBUR: The defense said all the three witnesses' testimony was purchased. They were murderous thugs who's testimony was purchased by sparing them the dead penalty, cutting there prison sentence and offering them also sorts of incentives.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Given these three individuals, given their background, given their character, would you believe them beyond unreasonable doubt?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Carney denied that Bulger was informant.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: The evidence will show that he was never an informant for John Connolly and the FBI. You will learn that depth of corruption in federal law enforcement that existed during this period.

This was how James Bulger was able it never, ever be charged.

BOERI: What makes this trial extraordinary and really crazy the defense is defending him from an assertion. That he as informant even thought it's not a charge. And so, what seem crazy is that government has gotten sucked into this as well they're trying to prove that he is even though he's totally irrelevant to his guilt or innocence.

So, it's not about guilt in a sense in his trial. It's about his legacy of wanting to establish. He wasn't tout. A rat, a informant whatever you want to call it.

J.W. CARNEY JR, BULGER DEFENSE ATTORNEY: I was just surprise as anyone when James Whitey Bulger was captured. He's a government excited about having Bulger come back? Some people certainly are. But there are others, I think who have many sleepless nights about what James Bulger is going to testify too.

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I believe the reason that they are giving so much protection to Bulger. He transported from the jail to the court house. Because they're worried about someone with the sniper rifle taking him out on the way to court so that he can't testify.

That's how explosive his testimony will be.

KEVIN CULLEN, BOSTON GLOBE COLUMNIST: This is Whitey's world. If you from Squantum where he never (inaudible). It's basically six miles if you drive it up to Castle Island, over there that's South (ph) where he did most to his crime. He murdered people there. He buried people there. And he went to sleep there. So, that's his world.

I spend much of my childhood in South Boston and even as a kid, I knew Whitey Bulger run the show there. But, Whitey was very lucky, in the 1960s, there was an Irish canyon (ph) and over 60 people were killed. But Whitey was imprisoned? So, he missed all that. He would have a high, high chance of being the victim of that violence.

When he got out of prison, Whitey went to Howie Winter. He was the leader of the Winter Hill Gang, preeminent known Mafia gang in this region. And he said to Howie, we're going to stop the war in the South. Too many people are dying, we're losing money. Howie was very impress by Whitey.

And one of the things that impress in most was that Whitey had done time in Alcatraz. Now, you know, for you and me, you know, we'd like to hand in our resume (inaudible) Stanford, I got my MBA (ph) (inaudible).

For the not in the year, you're a wise guy he said, "Oh, you went to Alcatraz." And Howie said that -- Whitey came across, he's a guy that could be a leader. So Howie immediate end of the war with a rival gang at South Boston called the Mullen. It was the Mullens actually were about to prevail. And Mullen guy think, you know, they're about to get the lion's share of everything and Howie throw them for a loop.

When he announced that James Bulger he's going to front money for them, they can put money on the street, loan shark, they can do a gambling operation, but Whitey going to be in charge.

And the Mullen guys are, "Why do you kidding me? We were willing." And Tommy King who's a member of the Mullens said, "We should have killed Whitey when we had the chance, this is going to come back to bite us."

KEVIN WEEKS, FORMER MEMBER, WINTER HILL GANG: South was great growing up. Everybody knew everyone, everyone watched out for everybody. It was great. We didn't have a lot but we had a lot of fun with what we had. My brothers both went to college. He went to Harvard so I was (inaudible) at home. I knew how to flight and that kind to of handy so I started working in different bars bouncing and I ended up with triple O, it was the neighborhood bar, it was kind of rough bar.

And that's why I mention (inaudible) from me. I was 18 at that time. Jim (ph) is like an old brother, he's guide me through a mine field and stuff and teach me a lot so much.

When I first started working with him, I started a little small, you know, and just, you know, digging (ph) people up and little by little take babies to steps, you know, from gambling, loan sharking to, you know, to extortion and stuff, and doing extortion with Jim Bulger and stuff. And so I was making a lot of money.

But the moment that everything has changed from me -- the moment my life changed is when I was involved in the first murder, it was a double homicide. So then I knew there was, you know, I was in there was no getting out, so I just decide, well, if I'm going to. I would be the best out of that I can.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: It was tense in court Tuesday between James Whitey Bulger and the man who was once like a son to him. His former right hand man turned cooperating government witness, Kevin Weeks.

Weeks was one of the government's star eyewitnesses as Bulger's mob enforcer. Kevin Weeks says he buried the bodies, moved the guns and collected the cash which book makers and businessmen paid to stay in business.

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Weeks calmly and coldly testified he watched James Bulger brutally murdered Deborah Hussey, John McIntyre and Arthur "Bucky" Barrett.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: James Bulger (inaudible) with the machine gun to put in chairs high with chains as we walked down the stairs James Bulger shoot him on back of the head and strangled, he was gagging. Jim Bulger asked if you one on the head and kids said yes please and shot him on the head (inaudible), strangled him in the neck is (inaudible). You know, what (inaudible) the eyes from all that from head (inaudible) she's not dead. He wraps the (inaudible) and twist (inaudible).

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: As for defense begin cross examining the former Bulger protege we (inaudible) look annoyed.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: So when he told me a moment ago that you never lie to the investigators that was a lie.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I've been lying my whole life, I'm a criminal.

BOB LONG, FORMER DETECTIVE: This is where Whitey used to take us walks and would meet with people.

He stayed on this street for quite a while and that shouldn't happen. It's just -- it's crazy, it's crazy.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I worked organized crime most of my career. So, I saw Bulger going up to chain with the Winter Hill Gang. Bulger finally moved up into control.

And in 1980, a young trooper working for me was assigned to get out and check out this garage down in (inaudible) to see about a possible stolen care rent and (inaudible) he notice to what organize crime (inaudible). He called me. I went down there for myself and as when we started this investigation.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Garage was right up here just a little after the track here.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: We (inaudible) across the street and we monitored it about four months, everyday. And then we saw James Bulger and Stephen Flammey.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Anybody was anybody in organized crime in New England came here to this garage. People who would pay him rent protection money, people who are in it are safe.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: So they were meeting daily with the latest of (inaudible) Mafia to the (inaudible) crime family patriarchal family and it was unprecedented to see that. It was absolutely shocking to see that they were actually working together.

That was like striking gold.

Lots are surprised when I say, where is the Boston police? Where is the FBI? Why is anybody else doing this? They're right here. They're operating so openly. It just was shocking.

And we monitored that, documented and we got enough probable cause to go to judge and issue a warrant so that we can place listening devices inside. And plants (inaudible) it works great. I mean, it was fine next morning.'

One of the first conversations we've picked up was, what a big drove that state police in the (inaudible) do. So, we knew the gig is up, right there and then.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Somebody was protecting them.

We knew what we had and we just configure out how.

And one night Morris of the FBI, met a Boston detective at bachelor party. And he was in a drunken state and told to Boston detector because I know you guys are working on with the state (inaudible) across the street and the bad guys know about it.

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I couldn't believe it as anybody know outside of that group. It didn't make sense.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: James Whitey Bulger's relationship with the FBI will be the focus of testimony this morning. Former FBI Supervisor John Morris is expected to take stand. He was head of the FBI's organized crime squad during 70s and 80s overseeing former agent John Connolly.

Morris claims that he and John Connolly shielded James Bulger from prosecution. In addition to hearing Morris on the stand today, federal prosecutors plan to discuss James Bulger's alleged 700 page FBI informant file.

T.J. ENGLISH, JOURNALIST, DAILY BEST: To understand the Bulger's story, you really have to understand how the FBI Top Echelon Informant Program came into being to destroy the Italian Mafia.

It really begins before the program even existed when Joe Valachi testified before congressional committee in 1963.

Valachi came forward and he described hierarchy of the five families in New York.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: What is the name of this organization?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (Inaudible) in Italian.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (Inaudible) in Italian.

ENGLISH: For the first time, one of these Mafia guys was talking into a television camera and it was a big deal and it still Hoover stand there because Hoover had for decades now been denying that there was a Mafia.

Now Hoover had a problem. He needed to make up for the last time. And he needed to go out and get informants as dramatic and as explosive as Joe Valichi.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: we should all be concerned but one goal, the eradication of crime. The Federal Bureau of Investigation is just close to you as you as your nearest (inaudible). It seems to be your protector and all matters within jurisdictions.

It's belongs to you.

ENGLISH: The Top Echelon Informant Program also was what gave power to guys like John Connolly because how you're going to get guys like Valichi.

Well you're going to need FBI guys who walk the walk and talk the talk, who can go out into that underworld and sort of make deals with these guys.

The power and influence of this swaggering agent within the hierarchy went way up.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: General topic of our discussion today is informant handling. And with me today is John Connolly, a 15-year veteran of the FBI.

How do you go about developing individuals for recruitment or targeting as informant for the bureau?

JOHN CONNOLLY: In the case of organized crimes people would, you know, probably wouldn't want to tie to the boss first since you'd want someone perhaps close to the level of criminal activity but not necessarily involved.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: When John Connolly was a boy, he live in Southie in the same housing project with the Bulgers. And he was in awe of Whitey who was a teenage thug with a platinum striking hair and the amazing Hollywood good looks.

So John Connolly given his history as a son of Southie, his connection to the Bulger family. He succeeded in forging -- what is since been called an Unholy Alliance with Whitey Bulger.

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CONNOLLY: Remember these are our most important assets that we have, informants. I mean, the name of the game -- you going to get friendly with them and you don't like them but you never can forget who you work for.

J.W. CARNEY, BULGER DEFENSE ATTORNEY: Hello?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Hi, Mr. Bulger is on the phone?

CARNEY: All right, please put him through.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Sure.

CARNEY: Thanks for calling. There were couple of things I wanted to ask you about.

BULGER: Sure.

CARNEY: The first is that you told me since the very first day I met you that you've never been an informant.

BULGER: That's correct.

CARNEY: Does that mean you've never been an informant in your entire life?

BULGER: Never. As a teenager, I took many a beating in the police stations and I never cracked.

As a bank robber, I was captured. I plead guilty to free the girlfriend that I was with, and I got 20-year prison sentence, first offender.

In prison, I was part of an escape plot but the plot fell a part. One of the guys gave them my name. I told him I don't know what you're talking about. I spent months in the hole naked and the whole thing. I went through a lot there and after four months for punishment they sent me to Alcatraz. And that was it -- I never, never, never cracked.

And the Boston FBI? No way. Met John Connolly, who was a Southie guy, Irish Catholic like my self. You know, it's friendship, if I ever hear anything, I'll tip you off, give you a heads up. And then I told, all right, John, I'll see you, if you can let me know, I appreciate it and that's how it got started.

CARNEY: This is isn't really a typical criminal trial. James Bulger knows that by following the strategy he is directed us to do. He will be found guilty and he's going to die behind the walls of the prison.

But for Jim it doesn't matter. He's at the end of his life. He doesn't know if he will live until the end of the trial, never mind until the end of year. But for him it's like it's last opportunity to tell people that he was never an informant that our federal government is more corrupt in law enforcement in anyone ever imagined even to this day in this trial. It's corrupt and he wants people to know it.

HANK BRENNAN, BALGER DEFENCE TEAM: There's a lot of things that we knew to disembowel (ph), the fact that James wasn't an informant. I mean, the local thinking is that actually he was an informant.

Everybody talks about it -- folks have written about it. Until you actually go through everything and look at it to make your own independent assessment -- you can't have an opinion.

So getting involved in case, I had not committed. I don't think anybody in the public does is, I got to see the files that the government had to suggest that he was an informant.

I thought that there were some things about the file that was all suspicious that I wanted to look into in depth. And so I sat down with Daryl and I ask him if he comes up with an independent assessment (inaudible) there was any illegitimacy to the files.

DARYL ZULES, BALGER DEFENCE TEAM: Of course I was eager to the start the project (ph) and see what I could I find but I was also a bit skeptical. I mean, just looking at the file what it was handed to me I thought, how

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could that possibly be suspicious. Its 700 pages and it look very official. So it seems like it had to be solid but fully I've done (ph) strange repetition in the file.

What I've done is created tabs one every page where I found alternate sources for the information and we learned that John Connolly was pilfering through files and Connolly took specific information from these sources and placed it into Mr. Bulger's file. These alternate sources comes from wires taps, it, comes from phone calls, news articles, public information, FBI memorandums and the majority of the information come from other informant files.

A top echelon file is supposed to be filled with singular unique information that can lead to prosecution. And just based on the patterns that I found looking at other alternative sources is just not consistent with someone who's providing unique information.

Like this first page file for May 29, 1981, the tip reads that 1544 by that the Mafia whacked-out a guy several weeks ago. He's in a trunk of a car.

It doesn't tell who whacked-out the guy. It doesn't tell what guy was whacked-out. It doesn't tell where is the car is. There's no subtenant information in that and there's no follow-up in the entire file.

If you turn especially at last page Q&A (ph) of that same year the same of that tip shows up. 1544 (inaudible) source heard that the alpha people whacked-out a guy several weeks ago and that's the individual in the trunk. It's vague. There's no detail and it shows up twice in the trial.

FRED WYSHAK, U.S. ATTORNEY: This is not unusual to see reports in one informant's file that similar to reports in other informant's file.

If a crime occurs, a law enforcement agency surveys their informants. They get multiple reports from various informants about the same criminal activity. That's exactly what Connolly was doing with Bulger.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: The federal government is so desperate in this trial. To try to convince people that he's not an informant because James Bulger had such a strong and influential reputation. His name had value, as a commodity from the Department of Justice.

They needed search warrants to take down the Mafia. They needed to put something down to justify intrusions into people's civil liberties.

Nobody was going to look and see if the information was verified. No ones going to determine whether it was made up by a street agent, no one is going to determine whether it was true or not. It wasn't and not simply for magistracy to sign off on probable cause.

And there was example after example in this case and when they talk James Bulger name and use it as a commodity.

WYSHAK: That's a preposterous assertion that he was not an FBI informant.

In fact, he used the FBI. And they used him. What this is all quite frankly? Is -- he doesn't mind being called the murder. He doesn't mind being called the criminal. Obviously, he doesn't mind being called the drug dealing. But he doesn't want to be called an informant because where he came from in Southie.

That's the worst thing you can be. He can be a crock, you can be a murder, (inaudible) to be an informant. That's the way he's broad up and his sick mind, that's what he believes.

CARNEY: Remember the day when Hank (ph) and I were with you and showed you the so called informant file that John Connolly had been keeping.

BULGER: Yes.

CARNEY: Remember, your reaction seeing that?

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BULGER: I was shocked. I was angry. I couldn't believe that was -- I considered the worst betrayal that ever, ever happened to me in my life. I couldn't believe than anyone could dream such of thing. I never knew what existent.

CARNEY: Did you recognize the information that was contained in it? Has anything that you would ever talk to John Connolly about?

BULGER: No. I ask the questions. I got the answers. I was the guy who did the directing. They didn't direct me.

CARNEY: What are some of the things they would give you in terms of keeps?

BULGER: The thing that we needed most us. Number one was wire taps. And then like photos, surveillance, search warrants when they were common, indictments they were common -- guys could get a chance to make a run for it.

CARNEY: Well, if you weren't providing information to this people, why were they willing to give you all this information?

BULGER: For money. For money. Money is the common denominator. It's a way of doing business. It happens all the time, it will never stop.

CARNEY: I remember, you told me once that Christmas is for kids and cops.

BULGER: Correct.

CARNEY: How many people would you be paying off on a holiday period?

BULGER: Everybody I knew, I took care of in Christmas time. Put money in envelop for all of the different police I had contacts in the state police, the Boston police, the ATF and also in the FBI. There was more people in John Connolly, but I'm not going to say who they were, I would never see any about the name, you know. But, I took care everybody.

CARNEY: And was this in cash or?

BULGER: It is always cash.

CARNEY: (Inaudible).

BULGER: I never had anyone money. I had them an envelope. It makes it a little bit easier for them to accept it, you know, or I took the money maybe in a box. If it was that much money.

CARNEY: What was the most amount of money you ever paid in FBI person, FBI agent?

BULGER: At one time?

CARNEY: Yes.

BULGER: Maybe \$25,000, \$50,000.

WEEKS: Everybody could be corrupted. People have the opinion of the FBI. He's above reproach. Well, they're just regular people. They put it their pens on the morning just like everybody else.

They are regular people except they have a badge that says, you know, special agent. But there's nothing special about them, they are regular people. You can corrupt them.

Maybe they like money, maybe they wine, maybe they like jewelry, you know, trips whatever. There's always a way to corrupt somebody.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: During a rapid fire and sometimes intense cross examination disgraced Former FBI Supervisor John Morris admitted taking thousands in cash from Bulger.



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UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Mr. Morris, you were Mr. Bulger's paid FBI informant weren't you?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: That's not correct. He did give me money, but I was not his paid informant.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: He gave you money?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yes.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: He gave you gifts?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yes.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Is that in case in one, didn't you from Mr. Connolly and a basement of a Federal Office.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: That's correct.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Did you throw it away?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: No, I kept it.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You know, seeing a day like today were (inaudible), you see thoroughly, despicably corrupt FBI agency. John Morris a supervisor, you know, with just a moral -- I mean he was a moral coward and you see him, can you see Connolly taking advantage of it? And all his witness to bring him in to the group, you see that. And you see it was allowed?

And so, the real story here is that our government enable to killers to run free in this city, you know. Bulger is to wake up in South Boston. And for South Boston you can look across and he would say, "I owned that town." And he really did and he owned it because he was allowed to turn the Federal Bureau of Investigation into the Bulger of Bureau of Investigation. He, about his tentacles into the Bureau and he turned it exactly the worked for him and it was because there were all crazed about getting the Mafia, that they enabled the Irish Godfather to run the show here. And he was far more dangerous than Italians.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: So what we need to do is get inside a little bit and talk about how the FBI works. And what the rules in certain people were like Mr. Connolly and Mr. Morris.

And the more we can keep you understand from my perspective better because it hopefully it will go to really illustrate the efforts you made and so they see the good side of our enforcement. And recognize it was a problem we try to do something to save lives. And because they were pursuing whatever agenda they were, they check it out.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (Inaudible).

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Absolutely.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I think the whole thing was a con. I think at some point, they get in over the heads and this success was wrapped around (inaudible). To the point where he had to be validated, he had to be made into this informant that gave him all this information.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: That's the myth.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: That's the myth.

FITZPATRICK: (Inaudible) I work to organize crime. I work fugitives and so when the Boston problem was going on, I was told they needed somebody with this background to be send to Boston and my mission was to find out what is going on between the (inaudible) police, Boston Police, the local police and the FBI. How come they're not getting along together? They had territorial issues.

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The state police was blaming the FBI for cavorting with criminals because they had seen Connolly and Morris with Bulger and Flemmi. So, they formed the opinion that the agents were doing something bad. Well, as it turned out, they were. But they didn't know it then and I didn't know it then. So I go out and interview Bulger and assessed his assertibility if you will.

I arrived at Bulger's place and met at the door by Bulger. He's got a baseball cap on. He's got sunglasses. He got muscle shirt. I hold out my (inaudible) my hand and he doesn't take it. Well, gay (ph), you know, so I look at my empty hand and I follow him in. The place is dark and we walked in the back. I said, look, Bulger, I'm here to find out what you're doing for us. What are you doing for us? And he gets angry. And about that time, Connolly pops out. And remember this was supposed to be Mano a Mano, one on one, and I get very angry.

And I look over and he says, "Hi Fitzey (ph) how you doing?" And I'm saying to myself, "Oh, you know, this does not look good." But then, we have the conversation about him. I finally get the conversation back. And what he tells me that he's not an informant. That he has his own influence and he pays them, they don't pay him. And that, he's the head of a gang, and that he runs a gang that he's not going to testify.

Now, all those elements are elements to me that I'm going to close this guy as an informant. If you're an informant for the FBI and you're the head of the gang then the FBI is validating the gang. You're actually part of the gang, in the management process. So to me, he's the big problem. Close him. Get rid of him. And that's when I go back and tell my boss. From that point on, I get resistance. I'm more or less told, you shut up. You're not allowed to talk about this.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I was a very young reporter but I had covered this huge Mafia trial in Boston. It was the biggest ever. It was -- the FBI had planted a bug in the (inaudible) headquarters of a guy name Gennaro Angiulo. He was the underboss of the Mafia and ran everything in Boston. And he and his brothers the whole hierarchy went on trials, it was an eight-month trial.

And there was all these evidence of murders and corruption and they had tapes of Gennaro Angiulo bragging about murders, but they also had him talking about, I have a couple of guys that will do anything for us name Whitey, Steve, they'll kill anyone we ask them too. And so at the end of that trial, it was a huge victory for the FBI in Boston. They had just wiped out the New England family, decimated them.

JEREMIAH O'SULLIVAN, FEDERAL PROSECUTOR: Yesterday, a federal grand Jury sitting at Boston, returned a 20 counts indictment, charging seven individuals including Gennaro Angiulo.

MURPHY: The Boston FBI, they were heroes and John Connolly was at heart of that. He was the guy with the most informants, the most top Echelon informants. So as the Mafia is being decimated, stepping into the vacuum are Whitey Bulger, Steve Flemmi. And I'm asking the New England's Strike Force leader, Jeremiah O'Sullivan, why don't you go after Whitey and Steve? You've already done the Mafia repeatedly. What about these guys? And the answer is, "Oh, well, they're not the threat that, you know, the Mafia or is the Mafia is an international organization."

Whitey is just local hoodlum (inaudible) organized crimes (inaudible) Strike force, we go ask to the big guys. Well, Whitey was becoming a big fish.

CARNEY: Jim Bulger wants to explain that the Jury, why for 25 years you could be on top o the organized crime pyramid in Boston and never ones be charged with a crime. The chief of the organized crime strike, Jeremiah O'Sullivan promised him that he would not be prosecuted for any federal crime if in turn he did something that the government wanted. And that something was not being an informant. It was something else. We've never revealed that information but Jim will at the trial, Jim takes the stand.

BULGER: I have not secretly with a high official on a federal strike force, Jeremiah O'Sullivan, United States attorney. He was concern that someone was going to kill him. He's in trouble and he needs help. I feel bad for him,

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so I told him, I said look, I'll take care of this (inaudible) but I'm no spy. We don't meet. I'll take care of it in my own way. If you can accept that it'll be done.

CARNEY: What was O'Sullivan's promise to you?

BULGER: His promise to me was this, he says, Listen Whitey, this is -- I feel better. I'm under your umbrella or protection. You're under mine and he says any federal crimes or anything like that. Don't worry about it this. I'll always be on your corner from this point on. I'll protect if you protect me and that was the way it went.

BORRI: Bulger claims that he had save Jeremiah T. O'Sullivan from eminent danger presumably from Mafia retaliation for Jeremiah O'Sullivan's pursued of the Mafia and bringing him down. And that his deal with Jeremiah T. O'Sullivan was a personal one and he was going to protect O'Sullivan in return for being granted immunity for crimes past and future.

T.J. ENGLISH, AUTHOR/JOURNALIST: John Connolly said that O'Sullivan and Bulger pledged allegiance to each other.

That is a pretty significant event, an event, by the way, that was never mentioned or alluded to in this trial. The government didn't want it to be, because, then you would have this very ironic situation of the U.S. attorney's office in Boston, the very office that is currently prosecuting Whitey Bulger, had some kind of corrupt relationship with Whitey Bulger that they're not being forthcoming about.

ZACHARY HAFER, ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY: The notion that a federal prosecutor could tell an organized crime figure that he could kill at will men and women, rich and poor, Boston, Florida, Oklahoma, based on a personal promise to guarantee his safety, is so absurd, so ludicrous, we -- we have run out of word like ludicrous and synonyms to describe it.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Today, they called to the stand former number two in the FBI's Boston office, agent Bob Fitzpatrick.

BOB FITZPATRICK, FORMER FBI ASSISTANT SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE: Kind of upset over the fact that this whole case is predicated on a bunch of people I tried to put in jail.

And the true story is that the criminal justice system has basically been co-opted by Bulger, by Flemmi. Now, certain people are culpable in the FBI, but certain people are culpable in the Department of Justice. So I got to go there and present the truth.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Former FBI agent Robert Fitzpatrick started at the Boston office in 1981 and said the atmosphere was tense. As assistant special agent in charge, Fitzpatrick evaluated James Bulger's role as an informant.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Fitzpatrick said surprised Bulger surprised him by saying he was not an FBI informant, that he was never paid anything by the FBI to provide information.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Fitzpatrick recommended closing Bulger as an informant. But headquarters thought Bulger was too valuable in its quest to bring down the mafia. After several hours on the stand, prosecutors began a tough cross-examination of Fitzpatrick. First question?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You are a man who likes to make up stories, aren't you?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: No.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Didn't you gratuitously claim credit for arresting the mob boss Jerry Angiulo?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I did arrest him.

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UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: At one point, assistant U.S. attorney Brian Kelly said, "Are you on medication?" Fitzpatrick said, "Yes." Kelly said sarcastically, "Does it affect your memory?" "Not that I recall," replied Fitzpatrick. And several people in court laughed.

FITZPATRICK: Not good.

QUESTION: What do you mean?

FITZPATRICK: I thought the guy was very angry. And I don't know why. He used -- he should have been a lot more professional.

ENGLISH: Bob Fitzpatrick was one of the first to say there is something rotten here and try to call attention to it. He's drummed out of the FBI. Now here he is at this trial. And they really seek to destroy him. They seek to humiliate him. And it was very personal, because when he comes into trial to testify, he is a rebuke to the entire system and to everyone who stood back for 20 years that Bulger was in power and allowed it to happen.

And a lot of people were complicit in that.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

HANK BRENNAN, ATTORNEY FOR BULGER: We know that there was a relationship between the Department of Justice and the success of James Bulger. And nobody wants to tell that story. They protected him for their own reasons for decades. And they're still lying about it.

At this trial, the United States attorney's office has an exhibit. And it's a very important exhibit. It was a memorandum from the special agent in charge in the 1980s by the name of Lawrence Sarhatt. In this memorandum, Sarhatt says that he had a conversation with James Bulger when they met at a hotel. And the government pretends that this memorandum somehow shows James Bulger is an informant. So, during the trial, we learn information that there is a secret safe in the Boston SAC, special agent in charge's office in the C3 unit of the FBI, the criminal division.

And in that safe, supposedly documents would go into it and never come out again. We also learned that there was a secretary who had worked for decades in the Boston FBI. She is 82 years old and still working for the Boston FBI, so she is the person who knows whether or not a secret safe exists.

When we called the secretary as a witness, mysteriously, new documents appeared. While they told the jury and the public this is the truth at this trial, what we learned when we called the secretary is there were other documents that existed.

The same exact memo that the government introduced at this trial, from the same person, exact copy of it, we learned that the memo was not complete, because there is an observation section. Mr. Sarhatt says: "I am not certain that I am convinced the informant is telling the full story of his involvement. Consideration should be given to closing him and making him a target."

So what did they do with this information? Well, the government at this trial leaves that part out until we expose it. What else did they do with the information back in 1980? Well, we have learned from the secretary exactly what they did with that information. The actual memorandum that was given to her, she put in an envelope by direction of Mr. Sarhatt and put in the safe. And it says strictly eyes only. Nobody other than special agent in charge can see it.

And any time a new special agent in charge would come in and take the place of an old one who was resigning or moving on, she would tell them about this document in the safe. And it stayed in that safe for generations of special agents in charge when they took each other's spot.

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And one special agent in charge said, get rid of this or we will all get fired. What could be so terrible about this document that they would lose their job, that James Bulger was an informant? Would that be so terrible everybody would get fired, or that they knew he wasn't an informant, they knew that he should have been targeted and he was being protected?

BRIAN KELLY, ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY: The defense complaining about the Sarhatt memo is another desperate tactic, which is another version of let's pretend, because they're pretending they didn't have these documents, which they did.

There is nothing sinister about it. It was disclosed. They had it. And it didn't prove anything, other than the fact that there was the head of the FBI who was concerned about keeping Bulger open as an informant.

If anything, the Sarhatt memo proves Bulger was an informant. He sat with the head of the Boston FBI for four hours and gave him all sorts of information, most of which was useless. But in fact he was reporting it to the FBI. And that makes him an informant.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: The latest twist in the trial of James "Whitey" Bulger.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: On Tuesday, Stephen Rakes was dropped from the witness list.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Rakes had been set to testify, but prosecutors told him he was no longer needed to take the stand.

STEVE DAVIS, BROTHER OF VICTIM DEBRA DAVIS: Thirty years of torment, and now it is coming to an end.

Hello. No, I have in been able to get -- I am going by his house later, because I haven't been able to get ahold of him or anything. Yes. He is probably besides himself about it. They took him off the witness list. I tried calling him after court. And his phone right went to voice-mail. I call him all day yesterday, same -- after court. Same thing.

So, I am going to go over. I figure give him a little time to cool down. Yes. Yes. Where? I don't know. What was the body described like? That's him. That's him. I'm going by his house right now. Yes, I will call you right back.

He's dead?

MARYANN DAVIS, WIFE OF STEVE DAVIS: He's dead? What? What? What? What happened?

S. DAVIS: They found him on the side of the road in Lincoln.

M. DAVIS: In Lincoln, Massachusetts?

S. DAVIS: Yes.

M. DAVIS: Who is in Lincoln, Massachusetts?

S. DAVIS: I have to go by his house right now.

M. DAVIS: Oh, my God, no way.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Stephen Rakes is a courthouse regular coming each day to the Whitey Bulger trial, waiting for the day when he would testify, but Rakes would never get that chance.

S. DAVIS: See the corruption?

M. DAVIS: Well, wait. Let's not jump to conclusions. Let's say a prayer that he is OK.

S. DAVIS: He's not here.

M. DAVIS: Is his car here, Steven?

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S. DAVIS: No. M. DAVIS: Oh, my God. Can you go knock on the door and see?

S. DAVIS: I knew something was wrong, because I talk to him every day. We meet for coffee. You know, and that's got my stomach turned, thinking, is anyone else in danger?

Would his testimony -- I used to say to him, Steve, what do you have to say? I mean, what is it? Oh, you will see. You will see. Believe me, you will see how deep. And the people, you will see.

M. DAVIS: Key witness in the Whitey Bulger trial is dead.

M. DAVIS: A source tells CNN authorities call the death suspicious.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: We don't know what the cause was, no sign of trauma. Don't know if this was a suicide.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: It's a very suspicious death. The body is seven miles away from where his automobile was and he did not have any identification on him.

M. DAVIS: They will say cause of death was a heart attack, an aneurysm. You know, and is it? We will never really know.

Do you believe what they tell you, or did something really happen? Do you trust your people that are supposed to serve and protect, when you know what we are living through and what's happened in this family? What is the truth anymore and who do you believe?

(END VIDEOTAPE)

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Prosecutors put former hit man John Martorano on the stand to prove that Bulger's reign was murderous.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Martorano was perhaps the most feared member of Bulger's Winter Hill gang, testified he was James "Whitey" Bulger's chief execution.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Killing was routine. In all, Martorano murdered at least 20 people.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Martorano served just 12 years in prison as part of a deal with federal prosecutors.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: The confessed murderer was asked about a number of killings he committed, including the killing of Roger Wheeler, the president of World Jai Alai in Oklahoma.

BOERI: The Jai Alai murders are the heart of this, because they show how ugly and sordid everything became. This is shocking. He's killed in daylight, at a country club while kids at the swimming pool are watching. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: And who was Roger Wheeler?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: He was the owner of Jai Alai, World Jai Alai. It was a game.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Did that game involve gambling?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yes.

DAVID WHEELER, SON OF VICTIM ROGER WHEELER: I never did like him. But the Bank of Boston brought him this jai alai deal. And part of the deal, because I kept asking him about this, is he said -- he said that the FBI keeps it clean. It's run by retired FBI agents that specialized in investigating organized crime. And they keep the mob out.

BOERI: So, Wheeler buys this company, World Jai Alai. Unbeknownst to him, it is infiltrated by the mob already, connected to Winter Hill.

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KEVIN WEEKS, FORMER MEMBER, WINTER HILL GANG: World Jai Alai hired John Callahan, a friend of Johnny Martorano, as the president. And they had H. Paul Rico head of security. And Rico was a corrupt ex-FBI agent. And he had relations with Winter Hill.

Callahan is actually the architect who first brought the scheme forward with Rico off to kill Wheeler, and then go to his widow and buy it, buy the World Jai Alai. They would be the owners. And the money was going to be kicked back to Winter hill. Paul Rico reached back to the people back up here they was involved with before.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Callahan, he asked me to take out Roger Wheeler.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: What was your reaction to that?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I couldn't do that without everybody else on board.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: And when you said you had to get everybody else on board, who did you mean?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Whitey and Stevie. They said they were on board. Whatever they could do the help, they would help.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: In the end of it, Johnny Martorano shot Wheeler.

KEVIN CULLEN, "BOSTON GLOBE": There were honest FBI agents in Oklahoma who wanted to get to the bottom of the murder of Roger Wheeler. Whitey Bulger and Stevie Flemmi were implicated. And the FBI in Boston lied to the FBI in Oklahoma and said Bulger and Flemmi had nothing to do with it. They have alibis. We have checked it out. That was a lie. And murderers went free because of it.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Do you hold the FBI as responsible as Bulger for the death of your father?

WHEELER: More responsible. The FBI has protected him. They have supervised him. And without the FBI, my father would be alive today.

BOERI: Next person that emerges in this story is Brian Halloran. Halloran facing his own problems. Namely, he's charged with murdering a drug dealer.

He needs help and to make a deal. And so he comes forward, and he can give up Whitey Bulger and Stephen Flemmi, he says, because they were part of a plot to kill Roger Wheeler. So Halloran is a threat to Bulger and Flemmi. They eliminate Halloran. In the process of eliminating him, they kill Michael Donahue, somebody he knew from the neighborhood.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Of the 19 alleged murder victims, their loved ones have become fixtures at the trial. And, today, Patricia Donahue took the stand.

PATRICIA DONAHUE, WIFE OF VICTIM MICHAEL DONAHUE: All I want to do is clear my husband's name. I did not want him associated with the mafia, with Whitey Bulger, with Brian Halloran.

He wasn't into that. He didn't even know those people. He was innocent. He wasn't in trouble. He wasn't a mafia man. He wasn't a killer. Mike was 32 when he died. He actually would have been 33 in a week. Whitey pulled the trigger. I blame the FBI too.

They knew what was going off to happen. There goes Whitey. I'm serious.

(CROSSTALK)

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yes.

P. DONAHUE: We will see you in there, you lowlife.

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EDWARD T. HINCHEY, DONAHUE FAMILY ATTORNEY: Michael Donahue was murdered simply because he offered a neighbor, Brian Halloran, a ride home. Unbeknownst to Michael Donahue, Brian Halloran at the time was cooperating with the FBI and was about to reveal that James Bulger was involved in the murder of Roger Wheeler.

FITZPATRICK: After the Wheeler murder, Halloran comes in. And he wants to talk. We open him up as an informant. And he begins telling us that this was done by Bulger and Flemmi.

And so I opened up murder cases on Bulger and Flemmi. Now, you have to understand something here. Halloran is giving us the subject. He is telling us this guy is the killer of Wheeler. Bulger is the killer of Wheeler. That's a plus. That is a big plus. They should be very happy, they being Department of Justice and the strike force chief, Jerry O'Sullivan.

And yet they're not. O'Sullivan said, no, I'm not going to put Halloran in a witness protection program. Why not? So, I went over O'Sullivan's head. I went to the United States attorney, Bill Weld. And I said to Bill Weld, Bill, I said, we got a problem. I got an informant, Halloran, that is going to tell us who did this stuff. And O'Sullivan is feeling that he should not be in the witness protection program. I told Weld he is going to get whacked.

HINCHEY: At the same time, John Morris at the FBI told John Connolly that Brian Halloran was revealing Bulger's involvement, when Morris knew full well that John Connolly would convey that information to Whitey Bulger. And he did.

WEEKS: We had received word from the FBI that Brian Halloran was cooperating with the FBI about the Wheeler murder. So, Jim Bulger, and Steve Flemmi, myself and other people go out looking for him. And one day, we got word that Brian Halloran was down the waterfront.

HINCHEY: Michael Donahue happened to have gone down to the pier in South Boston to get fish to use as bait to take one of his sons on a fishing trip. And he stopped to have a beer on his way home. He ran into Brian Halloran, who was his neighbor. He offered to give him a ride home.

WEEKS: So we went down the waterfront. We got the hit car, and weapons, and everyone -- he was geared up and stuff. And I went down ahead. And I sat across the street and watched to make sure Brian Halloran was in fact there.

And when he started coming out, I told Jim Bulger. And Jim Bulger pulled up and he shot Brian Halloran and killed him.

Michael Donahue was an unintended victim. He wasn't supposed to be getting killed. It was Brian Halloran that we were going to kill. But he hung around with Halloran. You want to hang around with gangsters and wise guys, this is what happens.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Patricia Donahue has spent the last 32 years raising three sons without her husband, Michael. Today, she finally faced his alleged killer, James "Whitey" Bulger.

P. DONAHUE: It was Mother's day. And Tommy had just made his first communion. I was in the kitchen cooking. A news bulletin came on the TV about a gangland slaying. I didn't pay any attention to it, because I knew it didn't concern me.

And I just so happened to look up and see the car. And I said, I think that was his car, I swear. I mean, I was hyperventilating. I was like confused. I'm thinking, oh, my God, where is he? I need to be with him. I don't want him to die alone. I have so much stuff I want to say to him, you know?

And nobody came until 10:00 that night. So when they took me to the hospital, finally, he had already passed. Within days of the killing, FBI agents, they came to my house and harassed me, accused of having an affair with my husband's friend that was staying with us from out of town.



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I mean, I was like, what? For months, they used to sit outside my salon. You know, they would sit outside the house. And they would say, how you doing? Have you found out any more information on my husband? No, nothing yet. And the whole time, they knew. And I was devastated, because I did not think that the government was like that. And you think you know them, and you find out they're not who you think they are.

SHELLEY MURPHY, "BOSTON GLOBE": Plenty of suspects, now not only in the Wheeler murder, but in the Halloran and Donahue murders. And nothing happens.

The FBI decides to look for John Callahan. We need to question John Callahan. He is the other guy who was also implicated in the murder of Roger Wheeler. They're hunting for him to question him. And then he is murdered. Again, nothing happens. The FBI in Boston, who do they send out to question Bulger and Flemmi? John Connolly, their handler, because we know he is objective, right?

TOMMY DONAHUE, SON OF VICTIM MICHAEL DONAHUE: The FBI, they haven't been on our side since the day they killed my father. Took them four- and-a-half-hours to come to my house to tell my mother, my mother, whether my father was dead or alive. They covered up the murder of my father, helped pretty much set it up. It's shameful. It's shameful.

I think the FBI is worse than the mafia. They're the most organized crime family on the planet, who can do whatever they want, change the laws when they want. And they're not to be screwed with, to be honest for you. We have seen that firsthand.

QUESTION: Tell us what it was like to be on the stand today, look into Whitey Bulger's eyes.

P. DONAHUE: Well, I looked right at him. But, of course, he wouldn't look at me. So, as far as I'm concerned, he is a coward. He can kill people and not look the victims in the face. That's a coward. That's a coward.

QUESTION: You have been saying you're getting more answers from his defense team.

P. DONAHUE: I am. I am.

QUESTION: And then J. Carney comes up and he asks some questions that are really meant to benefit Whitey. Does that put you in a strange position?

T. DONAHUE: The questions that Carney was asking my mother, those are questions the government should be asking my mother.

Did you notice the government stood up and blocked everything, every question that he asked? They don't want us to know anything. It was blunt right there. Carney was asking questions to help us, and we were getting blocked by the prosecution.

Where do we go here, folks?

(END VIDEOTAPE)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: In the early '90s when Fred and I first started working on this case, it was strange to us, to say the least that Bulger had been allowed to run amok in the city of Boston for so long. We suspected Bulger had some relationship with the FBI that he was using to prevent prosecution of himself. It was in that atmosphere that we began the case and targeted him. And we worked with Tom Foley, also Tom Duffy from the state police.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: So what we decided to do was follow the money. And what we started targeting was a bottom-line bookmaker. With some of the informants that we had. We put up a bunch of wiretaps. We started climbing up these bookmakers' organizations until we actually had the highest level, where that bookmaker doing the handoff to Bulger and Flynn as far as payments go.

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UNIDENTIFIED MALE: It took Brian and I about four or five years to get there. By 1995, we had our first racketeering indictment.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Back then, Fred took a lot of hits over the years. And he had the courage to go up against the system. Brian Kelly, too. There was many, right inside the U.S. attorney's office that were in denial. Didn't want to see this come forward. And they said, "Well, we're going to wait. And we'll do a joint investigation with the FBI."

And I knew at that time, that this was, another stall tactic. And I told them that, I said, "OK. That's the way you want to go. But the state police's position publicly will be, you had the opportunity to indict them, and you didn't indict them."

So they went back and had another huddle with the U.S. attorney. And they came back. They said, "OK, the indictment. We will indict them." But they insisted that the FBI participate in the arrest.

So state police targeted Fleming. The FBI said they will take Bulger. And then one night on January 5th, we found Fleming. And we arrested him on the streets of Boston. And we notified the FBI, "OK, grab Bulger." And that was the end of that. They never had Bulger, didn't know where he was. And, it was 16 years later before we saw James "Whitey" Bulger again.

We expected that he was tipped off. And we found out later that that's what happened. One of the FBI agents in Boston told John Connolly that the indictments were coming down. And he passed the information along to Bulger.

After months of sitting in jail, Steven Fleming realized the FBI and John Connolly were not coming to his rescue. And he decided to out himself and Bulger's FBI informants.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Did you have any idea that Fleming was an informant until he revealed it in a court hearing in 1999?

BULGER (via phone): I didn't know that Stevie did that. I had no idea. And when I heard it I was shocked. I mean, Stevie was like my brother. I mean, I was so close to him. He fooled me. He fooled the mafia. He fooled Johnny, everybody. I mean, I was shocked. In the court, he's glaring at me. And I'm looking at him thinking, "Christ, Stevie, you're looking at me. I never said a word against you. I'm the (UNINTELLIGIBLE)."

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: It was a tense reunion, 18 years in the making. Finally, James "Whitey" Bulger and his partner, the Steven "The Rifleman" Fleming were reunited as Fleming took the stand against Bulger.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Steven Fleming is to be the most critical witness in this case.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: In rapid fire succession, Fleming described Bulger's alleged role in a string of killings during the 1970s when both men were leaders of the Winter Hill Gang.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Fleming is under pressure, they're talking about women. Bulger is charged with strangling Deborah Hussey and Debbie Davis. The defense is trying to suggest, in fact, it was Fleming.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Hank Brennan grilled the government witness on a sexual relationship with his then-girlfriend, teenage daughter, Deborah Hussey.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Fleming says Deborah Hussey turned into a drug user and an embarrassment, so they had to kill her.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: At Bulger's trial Friday, Fleming said Bulger murdered Fleming's girlfriend, Debra Davis, after the two men decided she knew too much.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Fleming claimed Bulger decided Davis had to be killed. "I couldn't do it," Fleming testified. He said Bulger said, "I'll take care of it. I'll do it." He grabbed her around the throat and strangled her.

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STEVE DAVIS, BROTHER OF DEBBIE DAVIS: My sister Debbie, she dated Steve Fleming for over nine years. She loved him. She did love him. But at one point she wanted to get married. She wanted kids. My sister wanted kids.

It was just, rocky road from then on.

She said, "I'm leaving. I'm leaving the state." And I think Whitey would have taken that as a threat. You know, her taking secrets or whatever with her.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Fleming became more and more defensive and more and more resistant to the questions as Hank Brennan just cut into him.

Fleming is a well-rehearsed witness now, because he's testified in three trials, three civil proceedings. In one court, he says that Bulger strangled her with a rope. In another proceeding, he said he strangled her with his hands. And then in the third proceeding, he said he thought that Bulger had her in a headlock. DAVID BOERT: So at the end of the day, the inconsistencies, yes, they're there. But do they stop Bulger from being convicted? It certainly does not look like that is significant enough to do that.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Two of the charges against you, Jim, are that you were involved in the murder of Deborah Hussey and Debbie Davis. Did you have any involvement in those two cases at all?

BULGER (via phone): No way. Those were Stevie's girlfriends. That's his problem. Had nothing to do with me. Nothing.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Do you feel he was fully capable of committing these by himself?

BULGER: Christ. Well, one of the guys asked him something about a murder. He says, well, he's been involved in so many murders he has to say to the guy, "Well, show me the list." He needed a list to show him what murder are you talking about? I mean, this guy here is -- I think he's insane myself, Stevie.

KEVIN CULLEN, COLUMNIST, "BOSTON GLOBE": Whitey Bulger cannot have people think he murdered those two women. And he cannot have people think he was an informant. This is not about getting acquitted. This is about changing the narrative back to the one he spent years cultivating.

And that narrative is he is a good "bad guy." He is a gangster with scruples. He is a criminal with standards. And gangsters with scruples do not murder women and bury them in shallow graves. And criminals with standards don't turn on their friends.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Today could end up being an extremely interesting day at the trial of James "Whitey" Bulger.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: The big question is whether or not Whitey himself will take the stand?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Will James "Whitey" Bulger take the stand? Everybody is waiting on bated breath to find out.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: My prediction is he will testify. He looks so bad if he doesn't.

HANK BRENNAN, BULGER'S LAWYER: Today is the big day. It's the end of a case. And I want to let him know that I will be with him. I'm behind him no matter what decision he makes. If he wants to testify, then we might have him step behind. If he doesn't, then I totally understand, as well.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: The defense was hoping to present a defensive immunity. That Bulger had been given immunity by the former U.S. attorney. But before the trial they got the answer from this judge. No, they couldn't. They were stripped of that defense. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: It's an interesting argument. But, it is somewhat

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convenient to make the argument because Jeremiah T. O'Sullivan is dead. And there is no written evidence that we've seen.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: In courtroom 11, a moment of high drama. Whitey's lawyer stood up and said the defense rests.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Carney (ph) says Bulger will not take the stand.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: When the judge asked if he made that choice voluntarily, but he stunned everyone.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: "I'm making the choice involuntarily," Bulger said.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: "I feel that I've been choked off from having an opportunity to give an adequate defense and explain about my conversation and agreement with Jeremiah O'Sullivan."

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: "For my protection of his life, in return he promised to give me immunity."

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: And as Judge Casper said, she already ruled Bulger's immunity claim was inadmissible, he said defiantly...

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: "As far as I'm concerned, I didn't get a fair trial. And this is a sham."

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: And do what youse want with me. That's it. That's my final word."

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: At that point, Patricia Donahue throws up her seat and yelled, "You're a coward."

PATRICIA DONAHUE: I yelled out, "You're a coward." Because that's what he is. This man first claims that he has immunity, which he thinks gives him the right to kill all these people. And now he blames an unfair trial on the Department of Justice.

Yet, he won't get on the stand and tell all. If you've think that the government has done wrong by you, then get up there and talk about it.

BRIAN KELLY, ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY: At the end of the day, Bulger's immunity claim was a ridiculous claim. When he was given the chance to present it, he didn't. His immunity claims were part of his game of let's pretend. "Let's pretend I'm going to testify. Let's pretend I have a license to kill. Let's pretend I'm not an informant."

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: So many people have the opinion that -- the idea of whether or not he was an informant or not is irrelevant. And yet, this is the central issue in this case.

BRENNAN: The truth is that James Bulger was not informing. And the reason why it's dangerous for the Department of Justice to recognize the fact that he wasn't an informant is that, if Mr. Bulger was just paying a dozen people on the FBI as he was and headquarters didn't do anything about it and the supervision wasn't there and they didn't do the yearly reports, they didn't do the yearly reviews, it then calls into question all the affidavits that he's on. It calls into question all convictions they had.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Think about the implications. Think about what happened in the 1980s. The crown jewel of the Department of Justice was to get the Italian mafia. They wanted to infiltrate the headquarters of the Angiulos on Prince Street in the North End. They needed affidavits. And what did they do? They used James Bulger's name, even though we now know he didn't give them any information. Their own witnesses will admit that. He was simply added onto search warrants and affidavits as a courtesy to John Connolly.

So what would happen when the federal government admits that he wasn't part of these search warrants? Every attorney who represented every mobster would sue the federal government. They'd lose all their convictions. They'd lose all the jail time, all the sentences. All these accolades that attorneys and lawyers and FBI agents earned, their reputations they earned, they would be gone. They're not going to give that up.

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And probably most importantly is the civil liability to the families. That's why you have this resounding unrest with the families. They've lost loved ones. And at some point there has to be closure. They are entitled to closure, as citizens. This government will give them no closure, because they have this pretense they have to keep for their own image that James Bulger is an informant, rather than saying, "We sanctioned this. Not just with James Bulger. We sanctioned organized crime figures to go out and kill. And we protected them. And we did it before. We did it here. We're going to do it again. And we have done it again." They can't admit that.

So these families suffer over and over and over again with never getting the answer. Are they going to overturn convictions and let everybody go? Are they going to be civilly liable for their lies? Are they going to prosecute themselves? It's never going to happen. So he has to be an informant.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Prosecutors and defense attorneys for Boston mobster James "Whitey" Bulger get their last chances today to try to persuade jurors in Bulger's murder and racketeering trial.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: WBOR's David Boeri joins us this morning. Good morning.

BOERI: Good morning, Deb.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: OK. Now both sides get three hours to sum up their cases. What are they going to do with all that time?

BOERI: An extraordinary amount of time. That's for sure. And as a matter of fact, the government said it needed more time.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: James Bulger is one of most vicious, violent, and calculating criminals ever to walk the streets of Boston. It doesn't matter whether or not Mr. Bulger was an FBI informant. It's about whether or not the defendant is guilty of the crimes charged in the indictment. He's the one on trial here, not the government. Not the FBI. James Bulger.

BRENNAN: We think about our government as an institution. This faceless organization. Our government is not them. Our government is us. At what point as citizens do we say, "You know what? There has to be accountability"? You tell them that.

BOERI: I've been on this story for so long. And I've never seen such depravity in a courtroom. We have a situation where an institution of the government decided that, in order to achieve a goal which was questionable at best, they decided who was going to live and they decided who was going to die. And they empowered those people that were carrying out terror. They empowered them. They gave them the run of the city. That was lawlessness by the government. That is what we can never forget. And that's why -- that's why I am proud to have done -- done this story.

You know, because it's just -- it's something you can't forget. And memory is really important. You know, memory is a political act. And I think as reporters you've got to keep the memory, even for the people, on it (ph).

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: The United States versus James J. Bulger is over.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: This trial has been going on two months. The jury has been deliberating the last five days.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: The jury has made a decision in this case. And we are waiting to see exactly what it is.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Whitey Bulger faces possible maximum life in prison. We say the caveat: this man is 83 years of age.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Bulger is standing right now in the courtroom as he hears the words, to count one for racketeering, conspiracy, guilty.

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UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: For count two, we're just waiting here for word out of the courtroom that it is guilty verdict, as well, on count two. Now within the second one, were all of these acts. That includes all of the acts of murder. Racketeering, act No. 1, that was not proven.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: For racketeering act No. 2, we're hearing that is not proved. Racketeering act No. 3, not proved.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: No. 4, not proved. Five, not proved.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Narcotics distribution conspiracy.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: That is proved.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: The extortion of Stephen "Stippo" Rakes and Julie Rakes. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: People, we're waiting on this. That is proved.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: The conspiracy to murder Roger Wheeler. Proved.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: The murder of John Callahan is also proved.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Next, the murder of Brian Halloran, proved.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Then we have the murder of Michael Donahue.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Proved.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Murder of Deborah Hussey.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Proved.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: The next one, very important for Steven Davis. The murder of Debra Davis, no finding.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Whitey Bulger was convicted on 31 out of 32 counts of racketeering, conspiracy, murder, extortion and other charges.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: But the jury found that the government only proved the murders of 11 of Bulger's 19 alleged victims.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: The jury convicted Bulger of -- it's 31. They acquitted him of one count.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: As theater, the trial delivered. But ultimately it was a disappointment to me. Those of us journalists, interested parties, who have been following the Bulger story for decades had kind of hoped this trial was going to be a final accounting of the Bulger era, of all the things that made Bulger possible. I think it fell far short in that regard.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: With the conviction of James Bulger, we hope that we stand here today to mark the end of an era that was very ugly in Boston's history.

BULGER: Jesus Christ almighty, this is baloney. And that's why I says this is a sham trial. I think the feds have the green light. Nobody ever checks on them. The media is not there. Like they would like the public to believe they are. These reporters are hand-fed stuff from the FBI agents. And then they write crime stories. They write books and everything else. They're hand in fist with them.

The one thing they all know is it works. It works. It gets convictions. There's no lessons learned. You can't get a fair trial. You can't get a fair hearing. This system here, it isn't going to change. It isn't going to change. It will never change.

## Whitey: United States Of America v. James J. Bulger

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Whitey Bulger is a vicious, venal murderer. But he was enabled by the FBI and the FBI was enabled by the Justice Department. And to the day, the Justice Department, as far as I'm concerned, was engaged in a cover-up to minimize the extent of FBI corruption. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: To know that this is how you're treated as an American citizen. When FBI agents protect killers, and come and take your loved one's life. You could be sitting here, don't you want to know what really went on? Why they really did it?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: If everybody told the truth, everything would come together. But everybody fashions things to benefit themselves. Which is natural, I guess. But everybody is trying to twist the story a little bit. No one's really going to know the truth until everybody starts telling the truth. That's what it comes done to.

People are going to have to come to their own conclusions. You know, there's going to be people out there that believe that Jim Bulger was an informant. There's going to be people on the other side of this say he wasn't informant. People are going to say he didn't murder women. Other people say he did murder women. So the true story will never be known.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Today was a good day for a lot of families. But today also wasn't a good day for a lot of families. My heart goes out to them, and I would look to do a cheer for them. And we will not forget you. One person who should be here, how about we give a nice cheer for Stevie Rakes!

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yes, I hold the FBI responsible. Good God, they protected this man. Now, you know, years later we find out everything that he's been doing and getting away with it? Listen, it takes a -- it takes a village to raise a child. For all the destruction that this Bulger and Fleming have done, it would take a battalion to cover it up. So where are they all?

GRAPHIC: James "Whitey" Bulger was sentenced to two consecutive life terms plus five years. He is appealing his conviction.

Bulger's girlfriend Catherine Greig is serving an 8-year sentence after pleading guilty in 2012 to aiding and abetting a fugitive.

Authorities determined that the murder of Stephen Rakes was unrelated to the Bulger case. His coffee was poisoned with cyanide by a business associate.

The FBI declined to be interviewed for this film.

This film is dedicated to the families of: Arthur "Bucky" Barrett, John Callahan, Richard Castucci, Edward Connors, Debra Davis, Michael Donahue, Brian Halloran, Deborah Hussey, Thomas King, Francis "Buddy" Leonard, William O'Brien, James O'Toole, Al Plummer, James Sousa, Roger Wheeler, Paul McGonagle, John McIntyre, Michael Milano, Al Notorangeli.

**Load-Date:** September 22, 2014



## *Wrongfully Imprisoned Man Blames FBI*

CNN CNN TONIGHT 22:00

May 3, 2001; Thursday

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**Section:** News; Domestic; PACKAGE

**Length:** 472 words

**Byline:** Bill Hemmer, Kelli Arena

**Highlight:** Joseph Salvati, convicted in 1968 for a murder he did not commit, was released after spending 30 years of his life behind bars. Salvati and his lawyers alleges that the FBI kept him in jail knowing he was innocent.

### **Body**

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THIS IS A RUSH TRANSCRIPT. THIS COPY MAY NOT BE IN ITS FINAL FORM AND MAY BE UPDATED.

BILL HEMMER, CNN ANCHOR: In Washington, an innocent man held behind bars for three decades, told a congressional committee today his emotional and sometimes disturbing story. Joseph Salvati pointed the finger, of all places, at an FBI cover-up. CNN's Kelli Arena now from Washington.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

KELLI ARENA, CNN CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): Joseph Salvati was convicted in 1968 for a murder he didn't commit, and spent 30 years of his life behind bars.

JOSEPH SALVATI, WRONGFULLY CONVICTED OF MURDER: I was framed by the FBI and a guy called Joe -- I call -- by the name of Joe Barboza. He substituted me in place of the real person that done it, because he didn't like me and I owed him money.

ARENA: Joseph "The Animal" Barboza was a notorious Boston mobster, but was of value to the FBI. In fact, the federal government created the witness protection program to keep him safe. Barboza was eventually murdered in 1976, but not before he tried to recant his testimony implicating Salvati. He turned to lawyer F. Lee Bailey.

F. LEE BAILEY, ATTORNEY FOR JOSEPH BARBOZA: He was afraid that he would go away for life for perjury in a capital case, because that...

ARENA: Bailey told authorities his client had changed his tune, but Salvati remained in prison.

SALVATI: I done the time, I didn't let the time do me. And I done it a day at a time.

ARENA: Recently uncovered evidence shows law enforcement officials knew Salvati was innocent, including then-FBI director J. Edgar Hoover.



Wrongfully Imprisoned Man Blames FBI

VICTOR GARO, ATTORNEY FOR JOSEPH SALVATI: The day of October 25, 1967 will go down in the annals of the FBI as their day of infamy, because it was on that date that J. Edgar Hoover crossed the line and became a criminal himself.

ARENA: One memo sent to Hoover in 1965 details the murder Salvati was accused of, and names four men responsible. Salvati was not one of them.

**H. PAUL RICO**, RETIRED FBI SPECIAL AGENT: I know that we had versions from informants and then we had Joe Barboza's version.

ARENA: Paul Rico was a retired FBI agent who worked on the case. Though his lawyer told him to plead the Fifth, he insists the FBI handled the case properly.

REP. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS (R), CONNECTICUT: You don't seem to care.

RICO: Would you like tears, or something, what?

ARENA (on camera): As for Joseph Salvati, he'll sue for compensation, but says despite his ordeal, he still believes in the U.S. criminal justice system.

SALVATI: It's great system. Can you name a better one? Can you?

ARENA (voice-over): Kelli Arena, CNN, Washington.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

HEMMER: Also, the Justice Department informs us the investigation into that case is still ongoing.

TO ORDER A VIDEO OF THIS TRANSCRIPT, PLEASE CALL 800-CNN-NEWS OR USE OUR SECURE ONLINE ORDER FORM LOCATED AT [www.fdch.com](http://www.fdch.com)

**Load-Date:** May 4, 2001



## [1st Circuit restores one lawsuit against the FBI, dismisses another](#)

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

May 10, 2004, Monday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 344 words

**Dateline:** BOSTON

### **Body**

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A federal appeals court ruled Monday that a lawsuit filed against the federal government by the family of an alleged victim of gangsters and FBI informants James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi can go forward.

The lawsuit, filed by the family of Quincy's John McIntyre, claims the FBI's corrupt relationship with Bulger and Flemmi led to his murder. It was dismissed last year by a federal judge who said the lawsuit was filed too late.

The 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned that decision Monday. Another lawsuit, filed by the family of Oklahoma businessman Roger Wheeler, was heard in conjunction with the McIntyre case, but the court affirmed its dismissal by U.S. District Judge Reginald Lindsay.

The lawsuit claims the FBI contributed to McIntyre's death by giving the two gangsters free rein to commit crimes because they were also federal informants who provided the FBI with information on the Mafia.

McIntyre disappeared in 1984 after giving some information about the Bulger gang's crimes to the FBI. His body was found in a shallow grave in Boston in 2000.

The McIntyres filed their claim in May 2000. The Federal Tort Claims Act requires that claims against the federal government must be filed within two years of the plaintiff's injury, or two years after they should have known they were injured.

Lawyers for the U.S. Department of Justice had argued before the appeals court that the family should have known by 1998 that FBI agents may have played a role in the killings because of widespread publicity at the time about the FBI's improper relationship with the gangsters.

But lawyers for the Wheeler and McIntyre families argued they had no proof because the FBI repeatedly denied any involvement.

Flemmi was sentenced to life in prison for the 1982 killing of a World Jai Alai executive, John Callahan, in Miami. Flemmi reached a plea deal after implicating his former FBI handler, **H. Paul Rico**, in the 1981 murder of Wheeler, another World Jai Alai figure. Rico died before he could be tried.

1st Circuit restores one lawsuit against the FBI, dismisses another

**Load-Date:** May 11, 2004

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## 2 FORMER FBI AGENTS SUBPOENAED BY PANEL QUESTIONS' FOCUS IS '65 SLAY PROBE

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The Boston Globe

April 27, 2001, Friday

,THIRD EDITION

Copyright 2001 Globe Newspaper Company

**Section:** METRO/REGION;

**Length:** 339 words

**Byline:** By Shelley Murphy, Globe Staff

### **Body**

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Two former FBI agents have been subpoenaed to testify Thursday in Washington before a congressional committee that is investigating the FBI's controversial relationship with gangsters James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen Flemmi.

**H. Paul Rico**, who cultivated Flemmi as an FBI informant in 1965, and Dennis Condon, a former state commissioner of public safety who retired from the FBI in 1977, will be questioned about their roles in an investigation that sent the wrong men to prison for a 1965 gangland slaying.

Last January, a judge concluded that newly released FBI reports written by Rico and Condon indicated that mob hitman-turned-government-witness Joseph "The Animal" Barboza had framed four men for the slaying of Edward "Teddy" Deegan in Chelsea.

The reports suggested that Barboza lied about the involvement of Flemmi's brother, Vincent, in the murder. Vincent Flemmi was also an FBI informant.

The judge tossed out murder convictions against Joseph Salvati and Peter Limone last January and chastised the FBI for failing to turn over the documents to defense lawyers during the 1968 trial. FBI officials have said they turned the documents over to Chelsea police. Two others who were believed to have been wrongly convicted died in prison.

Salvati, who spent 30 years in prison before Governor William F. Weld commuted his sentence in 1997, is slated to be the first witness at the hearings before the Committee on Government Reform, which is chaired by Representative Dan Burton, an Indiana Republican.

Also slated to testify are Salvati's wife, Marie; attorney Victor Garo, who spent 26 years fighting to prove Salvati's innocence; and attorneys Joseph J. Balliro and F. Lee Bailey.

2 FORMER FBI AGENTS SUBPOENAED BY PANEL QUESTIONS' FOCUS IS '65 SLAY PROBE

"This gives an opportunity for the country and Congress to finally understand the power that was exerted by the FBI over innocent people, who were sacrificed so the FBI could get information from informants," Garo said.

Mark Corallo, a spokesman for the Committee on Government Reform, said more hearings will be scheduled in the following months.

**Load-Date:** April 27, 2001

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2 held in kidnapping of senator's wife



## [2 held in kidnapping of senator's wife](#)

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

October 10, 2003 Friday 0 South Pinellas Edition

Copyright 2003 Times Publishing Company

**Section:** NATIONAL; Pg. 12A; DIGEST**Length:** 850 words**Dateline:** CARTERET, N.J.; GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL STATION, Cuba; AUSTIN, Texas

### **Body**

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Two men suspected of kidnapping a senator's wife in Virginia and forcing her to withdraw money at knifepoint were captured in New Jersey after they stumbled into an undercover drug-surveillance operation.

Police in Carteret spotted the suspects' stolen car in a known drug trafficking area late Wednesday after Virginia police put out an alert for the vehicle, Carteret police Chief John Pieczynski said.

"Obviously, the Virginia plate stood out, and they saw these guys leave their vehicle and walk around and around and around, acting suspiciously," Pieczynski said.

Kathleen Gregg, wife of Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., managed to escape unharmed after her ordeal Tuesday, and police said there was no indication the kidnapers knew she was a senator's wife. Some of her jewelry was found in the suspects' car, authorities said.

Compiled from Times Wires

An unmarked police car approached the stolen car late Wednesday, prompting one suspect to run off and the other to veer the car toward officers before speeding away, the chief said. The car smashed into a fence a short distance away and the driver suffered a broken leg.

Police identified the suspects as Michael Pierre, 26, and Christopher Forbes, 31.

Both were charged with aggravated assault on a police officer, possession of stolen property and other counts, and will be charged in Virginia with abduction, robbery and burglary.

Investigators look for Gitmo security breaches

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL STATION, Cuba - Two dozen investigators began searching for possible security breaches Thursday at the U.S. prison camp for terror suspects, where espionage charges have heightened tensions among soldiers.

## 2 held in kidnapping of senator's wife

On Wednesday, investigators from the Miami-based U.S. Southern Command reported to the island, following the arrival of five non-American-born Arabic interpreters contracted by the same company that employed an American translator accused of spying.

The Associated Press, citing sources it did not identify, said two more arrests may be imminent.

Investigators will try to establish how a translator already under investigation got secret clearance and was allowed onto the base, and how a second translator managed to leave with classified information. In addition, a Muslim chaplain is under investigation after allegedly leaving with diagrams of the prison layout.

Also, Christophe Girod, a senior official of the International Committee of the Red Cross, said the detention of more than 600 detainees here was unacceptable because they were being held for open-ended terms without proper legal process. He did not criticize any physical conditions at the camp, but said it was intolerable that the place was being used as "an investigation center, not a detention center."

## Texas lawmakers agree

to new congressional map

AUSTIN, Texas - State lawmakers reached an agreement 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 add as many as seven Republicans to Texas' congressional delegation, in which Democrats currently hold a 17-15 edge.

"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.

The announcement paved the way for a vote today and appeared to end months of squabbling over redistricting that included two walkouts by Democrats. Gov. Rick Perry is expected to sign the bill if it passes.

Elsewhere . . .

**MOB ARREST:** A former FBI agent who handled high-profile mob informants in Boston was arrested and charged with the 1981 mob-related murder of a Tulsa, Okla., businessman. ***H. Paul Rico***, who is in his 70s, is charged in Oklahoma with murder and conspiracy to commit murder in the death of Roger Wheeler, Rico's attorney, William Cagney III, said. Investigators have said Rico provided John Martorano, a hit man for the Boston-based Winter Hill Gang, with information on Wheeler's schedule so he could be killed.

**ARCHDIOCESE SELLS HOUSE:** The Boston archdiocese's seaside vacation residence in Bourne, Mass., once frequented by Cardinal Bernard Law has been sold for \$2.55-million. The proceeds will go to a clergy retirement and disability fund, the Rev. Christopher Coyne, a spokesman for the archdiocese, said Thursday. Law resigned as archbishop in December after criticism of his handling of the clergy abuse scandal.

**NEW JERSEY SHOOTING PLEA:** A retired police officer pleaded guilty to murder for a shooting spree in which he walked house to house, killing his granddaughter and three other people. John Mabie pleaded guilty to four counts of first-degree murder.

**SIKH SHOOTING SENTENCE:** An Arizona man was sentenced to death for killing an Indian immigrant during a shooting rampage four days after the Sept. 11 attacks. Frank Silva Roque was convicted of murder last week in the death of gas station owner Balbir Singh Sodhi. Prosecutors said Roque targeted Sodhi because he thought he was an Arab. Sodhi wore a turban and beard as part of his Sikh faith.

2 held in kidnapping of senator's wife

**Load-Date:** October 10, 2003

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## [2 reputed Boston mobsters charged in 1980s murders](#)

Providence Journal-Bulletin (Rhode Island)

March 15, 2001, Thursday,

All EDITIONS

Copyright 2001 The Providence Journal Company

**Section:** NEWS,

**Length:** 393 words

### **Body**

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James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi could face the death penalty.

\* \*

TULSA, Okla. (AP) - Two reputed Boston mobsters were charged yesterday with murdering businessmen in Florida and Oklahoma in the 1980s while serving as FBI informants, marking the first time they could face the death penalty.

Oklahoma prosecutors charged James "Whitey" Bulger, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi and John Martorano in the 1981 slaying of a Tulsa, Okla., executive. Prosecutors in Miami followed with an indictment accusing the three in the 1982 murder of a Boston businessman.

Martorano, who admitted pulling the trigger in both slayings, agreed to testify against his former bosses and will have his charge reduced to second-degree murder in return, said District Attorney Tim Harris, of Tulsa.

Harris said he will seek the death penalty against the two others.

Flemmi and Bulger are already under a federal racketeering indictment in Boston accusing them of involvement in the two murders and several others. The indictment, handed up last year, said Bulger personally participated in 18 slayings and Flemmi in 10.

Bulger and Flemmi do not face the death penalty if convicted of the federal charges because the federal death penalty statute was not in effect at the time of those murders, said Samantha Martin, spokeswoman for the U.S. attorney in Massachusetts.

Harris said the Oklahoma case will probably not come to trial until the federal charges are resolved.

Bulger, 71, fled in 1995 and has been a fugitive ever since. Investigators have charged that his FBI handler, John Connolly, tipped him off that he was about to be indicted.

Martorano and Flemmi are in custody. Their lawyers had no comment yesterday.

2 reputed Boston mobsters charged in 1980s murders

The Oklahoma case involves the slaying of businessman Roger Wheeler, who was shot in the head while sitting in his car after a round of golf. Investigators believe the killing was tied to Wheeler's ownership of World Jai Alai and his suspicion that money was being skimmed from it for the Boston mob allegedly run by Bulger and Flemmi.

The Miami case involves the slaying of World Jai Alai executive John B. Callahan. Investigator said he was killed to keep him from telling authorities about links between World Jai Alai and the mob.

Martorano has accused retired FBI agent **H. Paul Rico** of helping him kill Wheeler. Rico, 73, has denied any wrongdoing.

**Load-Date:** March 16, 2001

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## 3 CHARGED IN MURDERS OF JAI ALAI EXECS

**3 CHARGED IN MURDERS OF JAI ALAI EXECS**

South Florida Sun-Sentinel

March 18, 2001, Sunday,

Broward Metro EDITION

Copyright 2001 Sun-Sentinel Company

**Section:** LOCAL,**Length:** 549 words**Byline:** KELLY KURT ; The Associated Press**Body**

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Oklahoma and Florida grand juries have indicted two reputed Boston mobsters and an alleged triggerman with first-degree murder for the slayings of two executives of Miami-based World Jai Alai almost 20 years ago.

James "Whitey" Bulger, 71, Stephen Flemmi, 66, and John Martorano, 60, are charged in Miami-Dade County with the 1982 murder of John B. Callahan, a Boston accountant and former World Jai Alai president, whose body was found stuffed in the trunk of a Cadillac at Miami International Airport.

Authorities say Martorano has admitted shooting Callahan on Aug. 1, 1982, allegedly to keep him from telling authorities about links between World Jai Alai and Bulger's Winter Hill gang.

A spokesman for the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office said a Boston federal judge has issued a gag order prohibiting public comment on the indictment because of a pending racketeering trial there.

The three were also indicted Wednesday in Tulsa for the murder of Roger Wheeler, World Jai Alai's owner.

Wheeler, 55, the chairman of Tulsa-based Telex Corp., was sitting in his Cadillac after a round of golf at Southern Hills Country Club when he was shot in the head on May 27, 1981. Investigators have suspected that the killing was tied to Wheeler's ownership of World Jai Alai and his suspicion that organized crime was skimming money from it for the Winter Hill gang.

Tulsa District Attorney Tim Harris said he will seek the death penalty against Bulger, who remains at large, and Flemmi, who is in federal custody. Both are charged with first-degree murder.

Martorano, who also admitted shooting Wheeler, agreed to testify against his former mob bosses. He is in federal custody.

Flemmi's lawyer, Ken Fishman, and Martorano's attorney, Francis DiMento, declined to comment.

Bulger, whose brother, William Bulger, leads the University of Massachusetts, has been a fugitive since 1995 and is on the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted" list. There is a \$ 1 million reward for his arrest.

## 3 CHARGED IN MURDERS OF JAI ALAI EXECS

Wheeler's family had pushed for charges in the long-delayed case. His son, David, called the charges "great progress, although Martorano, as everyone knows, cut a deal."

"But it is good Bulger and Flemmi are charged with my father's murder," David Wheeler said.

Martorano has accused retired FBI agent H. Paul Rico of helping him murder Wheeler. Rico and John Connolly, another former FBI agent, served as handlers for Bulger and Flemmi, authorities say.

Harris said the investigation is continuing into the possible involvement of others in the Wheeler case, including the allegations against the former FBI agents.

Connolly has been indicted in Boston on racketeering and obstruction of justice charges for allegedly protecting Bulger and Flemmi and leaking them information about three people who were later murdered.

Martorano has said Rico, who was head of security for World Jai Alai, provided Wheeler's daily schedule so Martorano could kill him. Rico, 73, has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing, and he has not been charged.

"Rico has never been to Oklahoma," his lawyer, William Cagney III, said Wednesday. "I'm not too sure I understand what Rico's role could be because he's never been out there."

A Justice Department task force is investigating allegations of corruption within the FBI's Boston office involving the Winter Hill gang.

**Load-Date:** March 18, 2001

\$ 50M suit targets Whitey, eight agents



## [\\$ 50M suit targets Whitey, eight agents](#)

The Boston Herald

March 9, 2001 Friday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 561 words

**Byline:** By J.M. LAWRENCE

### **Body**

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The family of a man who blew the whistle on the Bulger gang and wound up dead filed a \$ 50 million lawsuit against eight FBI agents yesterday for allegedly tipping off the Mob to John McIntyre's cooperation with police.

"My anger is directed toward John Connolly," McIntyre's mother, Emily, said yesterday. "He has done harm not only to many families. He has done harm to America."

The now-retired FBI agent is under indictment on charges of protecting James "Whitey" Bulger to guard him as his informant against the Italian Mob.

"I just keep myself healthy because I want to see John Connolly in front of a courtroom," said Emily McIntyre, who keeps her son's ashes in her home.

John McIntyre was 32 when he disappeared 15 years ago, shortly after agreeing to tell federal authorities about the gang's drug deals and gun-running, including a shipment of arms bound for the IRA.

His remains were found just last year in Dorchester after Bulger gang lieutenant Kevin Weeks cut a deal with investigators and led them to the grave.

McIntyre had been tortured before his murder, said attorneys for the family.

Defendants named in the lawsuit include the FBI's former Special Agents in Charge James Ahearn and James Greenleaf, who ran the Boston bureau when McIntyre was murdered.

The FBI declined to comment on the suit.

The case has been assigned to federal judge Mark L. Wolf, whose previous hearings on the Bulger gang revealed the stunning link between the FBI and the informants.

Bulger, Weeks and fellow gangster Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi also are named in the 100-page lawsuit.

## \$ 50M suit targets Whitey, eight agents

"Whitey Bulger must be brought to justice. That's the bottom line," said John's brother, Chris McIntyre, yesterday. "He's killed too many people. He can't be allowed to fade off into the sunset as an old man. He's not an old man . . . He's a butcherer."

The McIntyre family's attorney, Jeffrey Denner, said he has collected "horrifying" evidence in the case that will show that the government caused McIntyre's death.

During a news conference held in his offices yesterday, he declined to name a single agent responsible for sharing information with Bulger, but said, "We feel we're going to be in a good position to prove who did it."

An attorney for former agent Robert Fitzpatrick, who also is named in the suit, argued yesterday that his client would make a more appropriate witness for the plaintiffs than the defendant.

"The McIntyre family had no way of knowing this, but my client lost his FBI career because he would not back down on investigating the McIntyre leak," said attorney Doug Matthews.

Fitzpatrick quit the FBI in 1986 soon after sending a letter to FBI officials in Washington contending that "the leak came from Greenleaf," according to Matthews.

Fitzpatrick is now suing for back pay and pension benefits.

Former FBI supervisors John Morris and James Ring as well as legendary agent **H. Paul Rico**, who first cultivated Flemmi as his informant in 1965, and agent Roderick Kennedy also are named in the lawsuit.

Photo Caption: MCINTYRE: Disappeared after tipping off authorities.

Photo Caption: SUING FEDS: Emily McIntyre, right, mother of slain John McIntyre, is joined by Lucy Kari, one of her attorneys, yesterday. The McIntyre family has named eight FBI agents in a \$ 50M suit over her son's death.  
STAFF PHOTO BY TARA BRICKING

**Load-Date:** March 9, 2001

## \$100 MILLION VINDICATION

**\$100 MILLION VINDICATION**

Hartford Courant (Connecticut)

July 27, 2007 Friday

5 NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT/SPORTS FINAL EDITION

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**Section:** MAIN; Pg. A1**Length:** 1518 words**Byline:** EDMUND H. MAHONY; Courant Staff Writer An Associated Press report is included in this story.**Body**

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A federal judge in Boston Thursday ordered the government to pay \$101.7 million to four innocent men who spent decades in prison after FBI agents, in a scheme to cultivate informants, permitted the fabrication of evidence that led to their wrongful convictions for a 1965 murder.

Lawyers involved in the case said they believe U.S. District Judge Nancy Gertner's judgment, which is withering in its criticism and places blame at the highest levels of the FBI, is the largest ever ordered in a wrongful imprisonment case.

"We understand that our system makes mistakes; we have appeals to address them," Gertner said in a forcefully worded, 224-page decision. "But this case goes beyond mistakes, beyond the unavoidable errors of a fallible system. This case is about intentional misconduct, subornation of perjury, conspiracy, the framing of innocent men."

The award to Joseph Salvati, Peter Limone Sr. and the estates of the two other men -- Henry Tameleo and Louis Greco Sr., who both died in prison of old age -- is based on what Gertner describes as egregious law enforcement behavior, but it is part of what has become a continuing series of sordid disclosures about FBI misconduct in Boston. In recent years, two agents linked directly or indirectly to the wrongful convictions have been charged with conspiracy to commit murder.

During the civil trial that led to the judgment, lawyers for Salvati, Limone and the others put into evidence hundreds of previously secret FBI memos showing that the innocence of the four men was widely known in the FBI and documented in written reports that repeatedly reached the office of then-Director J. Edgar Hoover.

The evidence also clarified why FBI agents set up the four wrongful convictions and why the bureau's Boston office covered up the misconduct in later years and conspired to thwart efforts by the four to win release: FBI agents were cultivating as informants two notorious Boston hoodlums -- James Flemmi and Joseph "The Animal" Barboza -- who the agents had reason to believe were the real killers of a nickel-and-dime thief named Edward "Teddy" Deegan.

## \$100 MILLION VINDICATION

Barboza and Flemmi were murderous partners who, according to the previously secret FBI records, repeatedly asked then-New England mob boss Raymond L.S. Patriarca for permission to kill Deegan over some perceived underworld slight. Agents learned of the visits to Patriarca through a microphone illegally hidden in Patriarca's Providence office.

After Deegan was gunned down in a Chelsea, Mass., alley, FBI agents allowed Barboza to implicate others in the shooting death on the condition that he become a cooperating witness in a series of late 1960s mob prosecutions.

Barboza agreed, with the condition that Flemmi was kept out of the Deegan case as well.

Gertner, in her decision, said two former FBI agents, Dennis Condon and H. Paul Rico, actively solicited the perjured testimony from Barboza that led directly to the convictions of the four plaintiffs in the wrongful imprisonment suit. But she also spread the blame over the FBI as an institution.

``The FBI agents `handling' Barboza ... and their superiors -- all the way up to the FBI Director -- knew that Barboza would perjure himself," Gertner wrote. ``They knew this because Barboza, a killer many times over, had told them so -- directly and indirectly. Barboza's testimony about the plaintiffs contradicted every shred of evidence in the FBI's possession at the time -- and the FBI had extraordinary information.

``And even though the FBI knew Barboza's story was false, they encouraged him to testify in the Deegan murder trial. They never bothered to tell the truth to the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office. Worse yet, they assured the District Attorney that Barboza's story `checked out.'

``The FBI knew Barboza's testimony was perjured because they suborned that perjury," Gertner wrote. ``And when he announced that he would accuse four men who had never been linked to this murder, they were undaunted. When Tameleo, Greco, and Limone were sentenced to death, Salvati to life imprisonment, the FBI did not stand silently; they congratulated the agents for a job well done."

The death sentences of Tameleo, Greco and Limone were commuted to life in prison when the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the death penalty in force at the time as unconstitutional.

During the trial leading to Thursday's award -- a trial before Gertner rather than a jury -- lawyers for the U.S. Department of Justice argued that the federal government was not responsible for the convictions because the four men were prosecuted in Massachusetts state court. What's more, the justice department lawyers said, the FBI had no obligation to share evidence of the men's innocence with state prosecutors.

However, materials presented to Gertner during the trial showed that although the four were prosecuted in state court, the only significant evidence against them was Barboza's perjured testimony.

And the state prosecutor testified that Barboza was delivered to him by the FBI.

Gertner rejected the Justice Department argument during the trial, which concluded in February, and again on Thursday.

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

A justice department spokesman declined comment Thursday.

'Do I Want The Money?'

There was a collective gasp in the courtroom early Thursday when Gertner revealed the size of the award. The tiny room was filled by Salvati, 74, Limone, 73, their extended families and relatives of Tameleo and Greco. The monetary award was structured to compensate the men or their estates for their combined 109 years in prison. The judge also directed more than \$1 million to the wives and children of the men to compensate them for years of being deprived of the company of husbands and fathers.



## \$100 MILLION VINDICATION

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

Said Limone: “It's been a long time coming. What I've been through -- I hope it never happens to anyone else.”

Of the four men whose lives were wasted in prison, Salvati's story may be the most poignant. He is the only one of the four who had no involvement in organized crime prior to his arrest in the Deegan murder in 1967. Knowledgeable sources have said that Barboza implicated him out of spite. Salvati borrowed \$400 from loan sharks working for Barboza. When the loan sharks threatened him over repayment, the strapping, 34-year-old father of four young children gave them a beating.

Salvati was convicted in July 1968 and spent the next 29 years in prison, serving 30 years in all. When his sentence was finally commuted by Gov. William Weld in March 1997, he was a gray-haired grandfather. His elderly mother, who had Alzheimer's disease, did not know who he was.

Tameleo died in prison at age 84 in 1985 after serving 18 years. Greco died in 1995 at age 78 after serving 28 years. Limone was released from prison after serving 33 years when evidence of his innocence, as well as that of the others, was uncovered in 2000 by two assistant federal prosecutors investigating law enforcement corruption.

Salvati's lawyers, Victor Garo of Medford, Mass., and Austin J. McGuigan of Hartford, said Thursday that their wrongful imprisonment suit might have failed were it not for the work of the federal prosecutors, Fred Wyshack of Boston and John Durham of New Haven.

“I am honored that I had the opportunity to represent Joe Salvati in what was almost a 40-year-long pursuit of justice,” McGuigan said. “But if it wasn't for the hard work and integrity of Fred Wyshack and John Durham, the allegations that we brought in our case would never have come to light.”

The conspiracy to frame the four men for the Deegan murder, according to evidence presented before Gertner and in related legal proceedings, appears to have set up what developed into a long and morally bankrupt relationship between certain FBI mob investigators in Boston and the gangsters they were supposed to have been pursuing.

Following the Deegan case, Barboza became the first person accepted into the federal witness protection program. He was relocated to California, where he was involved in at least one more murder.

In later years, at least three agents associated with the FBI's Boston organized crime effort actually went to work for a notorious Irish-Italian mob called the Winter Hill Gang, conspiring with the gangsters in their efforts to penetrate the jai alai industry. At the time, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Florida permitted parimutuel wagering on the fast-paced Basque game.

Rico, who Gertner said was one of the agents who arranged Barboza's false testimony, died in an Oklahoma jail in 2004. He was awaiting trial on charges related to the 1981 murder of former World Jai Alai owner Roger Wheeler.

Rico's replacement in the FBI's Boston office, John Connolly, is imprisoned in Miami. He is scheduled to be tried there in September in the 1982 killing of former World Jai Alai president John B. Callahan.

Contact Edmund H. Mahony at [emahony@courant.com](mailto:emahony@courant.com)

## Graphic

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PHOTO 1: (B&W), STEPHAN SAVOIA / AP PHOTO 2-5: (B&W) MUGS

## \$100 MILLION VINDICATION

PHOTO 1: JOSEPH SALVATI hugs his grandson Michael Salvati, 10, Thursday outside federal court in Boston after Salvati, Peter Limone Sr. and the families of two others were awarded \$101.7 million for wrongful convictions in a 1965 murder. Salvati and Limone spent three decades behind bars; the others died in prison. PHOTO 2: Louis Greco Sr. PHOTO 3: Peter Limone PHOTO 4: Joseph Salvati PHOTO 5: Enrico Tameleo

**Load-Date:** July 27, 2007

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End of Document

\$100M wrongful conviction ruling appealed by feds



## [\\$100M wrongful conviction ruling appealed by feds](#)

Lowell Sun (Massachusetts)

February 16, 2008 Saturday

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**Section:** TODAY'S HEADLINES

**Length:** 501 words

**Byline:** The Lowell Sun

### **Body**

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By Matt Pitta

Associated Press Writer

BOSTON -- The Justice Department decided yesterday 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 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 in case at a later date. He said he could not estimate when that would happen, and declined further comment.

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.

Garo said he would comment later.

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 in order to protect Vincent "Jimmy" Flemmi, a fellow FBI informant who was involved in the Deegan slaying.

\$100M wrongful conviction ruling appealed by feds

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.

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. Rice 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.

**Load-Date:** February 16, 2008

## \$101M WIN, BUT JUSTICE PRICELESS

**\$101M WIN, BUT JUSTICE PRICELESS**

The Boston Herald

July 27, 2007 Friday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 006**Length:** 603 words**Byline:** By PETER GELZINIS**Body**

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Yesterday was not the first time Joe Salvati and Peter Limone heard a judge apologize for all the years they lost, and treachery they suffered, at the hands of the FBI.

But not until U.S. District Court Judge Nancy Gertner addressed her packed courtroom yesterday has a judge dared to measure the damage in the only way we understand: Money.

But even before Gertner disclosed the sum of \$101,750,000, the largest ever awarded for malicious prosecution and wrongful imprisonment, Salvati took hold of his wife's hand as he quietly began to cry. At that moment, his tears had little to do with money, and everything to do with vindication.

Salvati was listening to a federal judge confirm all the things that once tore at his heart while he languished in prison. All the sins that once fell on deaf ears, all the sinister charges detailed in commutation petitions that went nowhere, were now being read into the record by a judge who was as outraged as she was ashamed.

The poetic justice of delivering such a historic moment of vindication, almost 39 years to the day of their framing for the murder of a low-level hood named Teddy Deegan, was not lost on Judge Gertner.

Not only did Gertner emphatically conclude the plaintiffs had proven all their accusations, she proceeded to excoriate the culture of the FBI and specifically a pair of rogue former G-Men, **H. Paul Rico** and Dennis Condon, for the actual gangsters they were.

At every turn, Gertner said, Rico and Condon not only orchestrated the framing of four men - Salvati, Limone, Louis Greco and Henry Tameleo - they knew were innocent, but for decades thereafter they worked to cement the lies, as they celebrated their treachery.

The feds had deliberately planned to sacrifice four men to protect killers such as Joe "The Animal" Barboza and Jimmy Flemmi, who were supposedly providing the likes of J. Edgar Hoover with invaluable information in his anemic war against the Mafia.

## \$101M WIN, BUT JUSTICE PRICELESS

The United States government, of course, will appeal. But it's not likely to change the fact that in a year or so, Salvati and his family will receive \$29 million, Limone, \$26 million. Some \$28 million will be paid to the estate of Louis Greco, a decorated hero of Bataan, who died in prison.

The money will not bring back the son who killed himself, nor dramatically improve the life of another son riddled with cancer.

And the estate of the late Enrico "Henry" Tameleo will receive \$13 million.

When it was over and we huddled around Joe Salvati, his was not the face of a man who realized he had come into a fortune.

"How do you define justice?" Salvati asked. "I cried, just listening to the judge speak, because I never thought I'd hear those words. I thought of Henry and I thought of Louis, who died a horrible death in jail, and never complained. They never got to hear the words I heard today.

"Yeah, the money will be nice for my kids and my grandkids. It will provide them with something that I was never able to give them. But I'll tell ya, the money doesn't give you back the years. That time is gone and I can never get it back. Never. I can only try to enjoy what we have left."

Juliane Balliro, who argued on behalf of the Limone and Tameleo families, took in the media scrum outside the Moakley Courthouse with a certain winsome detachment. Asked if the \$101,750,000 judgment against the government would teach the FBI a lesson, she laughed and shook her head.

"The way the federal government prosecutes cases, the way they cut deals for information, began with this case," she said. "What happened today, I'm afraid, won't change that."

STAFF PHOTOS BY MARK GARFINKEL

## Graphic

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EMOTIONAL DAY: Joe Salvati comforts his grandson outside Moakley Courthouse yesterday as his daughter Gail Orenberg look on.

KISS OF VICTORY: Joe Salvati, left, plants a kiss on Peter Limone after they won a judgment yesterday against the FBI over their wrongful conviction for the killing of Edward Deegan.

**Load-Date:** July 27, 2007

\$102 million awarded to men for wrongful convictions



## [\\$102 million awarded to men for wrongful convictions](#)

The Virginian-Pilot(Norfolk, VA.)

July 27, 2007 Friday

The Virginian-Pilot Edition

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**Section:** FRONT; Pg. A4

**Length:** 546 words

**Byline:** DENISE LAVOIE

### **Body**

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By Denise Lavoie

The Associated Press

BOSTON

In a stinging rebuke of the FBI, a federal judge 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 killing 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 slaying 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 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.

## \$102 million awarded to men for wrongful convictions

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 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.

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.

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.

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 killing 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.

### **the case**

FBI agents were trying to protect informants when they encouraged a witness to lie, then withheld evidence they knew could prove four men were not involved in the 1965 slaying of Edward "Teddy" Deegan, a small-time thug shot in an alley in Boston.

## **Graphic**

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Stephan Savoia | the associated press Joseph Salvati with his wife, Marie, after Salvati, Peter Limone and two other families were awarded a \$101.7 million settlement.

**Load-Date:** July 27, 2007



\$102 million judgment for 4 men FBI framed



## [\\$102 million judgment for 4 men FBI framed](#)

Chicago Tribune

July 27, 2007 Friday

Chicago Edition

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**Section:** NEWS ; ZONE C; Pg. 8**Length:** 405 words**Byline:** By 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.

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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.

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.

## \$102 million judgment for 4 men FBI framed

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

The government 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.

## Notes

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NATION

**Load-Date:** July 27, 2007

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End of Document



## [\\$ 375M lawsuit filed vs. FBI](#)

The Boston Herald

July 25, 2001 Wednesday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 386 words

**Byline:** By J.M. Lawrence

### **Body**

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Attorneys for three men sentenced to death for a 1965 murder they didn't commit filed a \$ 375 million suit against the FBI yesterday seeking restitution for families that were torn apart when agents concealed evidence in a battle to break the Mob.

"The FBI as an agency knew this, allowed this to happen and perhaps fostered it happening," said attorney William T. Koski, who represents Peter J. Limone and the estates of Henry Tameleo and Louis Greco.

The three men were convicted of killing Edward "Teddy" Deegan in a gangland case whose legacy spawned an apology from outgoing FBI director Louis Freeh earlier this year and an ongoing congressional investigation.

Limone, 66, who was released in January after 33 years in prison, yesterday lamented the years he was kept from parenting and providing for his children.

"They made my family suffer," he said, wondering how his children's lives might be different today had he been able to send them to college.

Far from scheming to kill Deegan - an amateur boxer whose bravado had drawn the ire of Mob hit men - Limone actually warned Deegan his life was in jeopardy, according to the claim letter his attorneys sent federal authorities yesterday.

FBI agents **H. Paul Rico** and Dennis Condon allegedly hid evidence in the case to protect Vincent Flemmi, who was their informant against the Mob and helped kill Deegan in a Chelsea alley. The Boston FBI has denied agents intentionally concealed evidence in the case.

In their claim, Limone's attorneys allege there was a federal conspiracy to keep the men in jail during the 1980s despite favorable votes by the parole board for commutations.

Limone's wife, Olympia, yesterday said: "I just was destroyed every time he got turned down."

"Eventually you just give up," she said, calling her husband's release "a miracle."

\$ 375M lawsuit filed vs. FBI

Tameleo, 84, died in prison in 1985 of pneumonia. Greco, 78, also died in prison in 1995 of natural causes.

Victor J. Garo, the attorney for a fourth man wrongly convicted in the case, has called for the government to spare Joseph Salvati and his family a civil trial and pay them restitution.

Photo Caption: BACK TOGETHER: Peter Limone sits with his wife, Olympia, yesterday as they discuss the \$ 375M suit filed over his wrongful conviction. Staff photo by Ted Fitzgerald

**Load-Date:** July 25, 2001

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End of Document



## *Accusation vs. FBI over Teamsters being eyed*

The Boston Herald

April 3, 2002 Wednesday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 691 words

**Byline:** By Jack Sullivan

### **Body**

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A congressional committee eyeing corruption in the FBI's Boston office is focusing on allegations that a disgraced agency informant tried to undermine the federal Teamsters racketeering probe by falsely accusing labor investigators of taking bribes, according to sources.

Sources said staffers in the House Committee on Government Reform have begun exploring evidence that Richard "The Fat Man" Chicofsky levied the bogus charges last year against two investigators after being fed the false information from other federal agents with connections to associates of indicted Local 25 president George W. Cashman.

Sources familiar with the Teamsters probe said officials in the Office of Labor Racketeering "fully cleared" the investigators in the smear attempt but not before taking the agents off the case for several months while the allegations were being reviewed.

"The (charges) are totally bizarre," said one source. "They were proven to be false. They were fabricated."

The FBI's public corruption unit has also launched a probe into Chicofsky's role, including the allegation that agents from the Drug Enforcement Agency and U.S. Customs may have been involved in the attempt to taint the Teamsters probe, according to sources.

U.S. Rep. Dan Burton (R-Ind.), who chairs the government reform committee, could not be reached yesterday and some members of the committee were unaware of the probe.

"It's exploratory at this point," said one source.

A spokesman for the labor racketeering office in Washington declined comment yesterday.

A grand jury seated in Worcester has been gathering evidence of alleged Teamster extortion, bribery, strong-arming and shakedowns of filmmakers, television producers and other companies doing business in the Bay State.

## Accusation vs. FBI over Teamsters being eyed

Earlier this year, Cashman and five others were indicted on 175 counts of attempting to defraud the Charlestown-based Local 25's health and pension funds by putting in bogus claims for ineligible members.

Cashman, who has maintained his innocence, was forced to step down as a member of the Massport board of directors.

Chicofsky levied the allegations against a labor racketeering investigator and a DEA agent attached to the investigation. The two investigators, who have been involved in a number of high-profile cases including the so-called Charlestown "Code of Silence" cases, were allowed to continue working but put on other probes while the allegations were sorted out.

Last fall, the charges were found to be baseless but the investigation turned up connections between Cashman associates and Chicofsky, sources said. The findings were turned over to the U.S. Attorney's office and then the FBI to see if charges will be brought for obstruction of justice.

Burton's committee has been holding hearings into allegations that agents in the FBI's Boston office covered up wrongdoing to protect favored informants and agents withheld evidence that could have cleared innocent men falsely convicted of murder.

Among those called to testify before Burton's committee is H. Paul Rico, retired head of the FBI Boston office and the one who recruited Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi as an informant. Rico, who invoked the Fifth Amendment, was also the agent who recruited Chicofsky as an informant nearly 40 years ago.

Chicofsky, a self-admitted con man, was cut loose by the FBI as an informant in February after he reported he had been stealing prescription drugs and giving them to one of his handlers at the Customs office. The Customs agent is one of the targets of the FBI investigation and has a working association with a private investigator with close ties to Cashman.

Chicofsky has also been named in several appeals to overturn convictions in cases where he was the FBI's informant who set up stings, including at least two cases where he claimed the defendant was involved in the famous art thefts from the Isabella Gardner Museum.

Chicofsky allegedly bilked several people out of more than \$ 2 million in a phony investment scheme and then set up at least one of those investors for a fall by claiming to the FBI he was a drug dealer and killer.

**Load-Date:** April 3, 2002



## [Accused FBI agent dies in Tulsa hospital](#)

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

January 17, 2004, Saturday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 776 words

**Byline:** By GREG SUKIENNIK, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** BOSTON

### **Body**

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For years, federal prosecutors alleged, former FBI agent [H. Paul Rico](#) had a corrupt relationship with some of the mobster informants he used to take down the Mafia in Boston.

But it was one of those same informants, Stephen "the Rifleman" Flemmi, whose cooperation with prosecutors sent Rico to Tulsa, Okla. to face murder charges in the 1981 shooting death of a business executive.

Rico died in a Tulsa hospital Friday, facing charges he helped his former mobster informants, Flemmi and James "Whitey" Bulger, plotted the murder of World Jai Alai owner Roger Wheeler.

Rico, 78 and weakened by poor health, died just a few hours after a Tulsa County judge put the murder case against him on hold pending a psychological evaluation. Police said he died of natural causes.

Rico had a storied career at the FBI, spending 24 years working on organized crime cases in Boston and, later, Miami. FBI agents who knew him said he cut a dashing figure in the 1960s and '70s, when he was a rising star in the FBI.

"(Rico) was one of the maestros of the informant system in Boston. He devised the system where you play informants off each other, and you protect one at the expense of the other," said Gerard O'Neill, co-author of "Black Mass," a book chronicling the Boston FBI's relationship with the leaders of the Irish mob, who were FBI informants on the Italian Mafia.

"He was not your typical agent," said Robert Fitzpatrick, the former second-in-command at the Boston FBI office. "He kind of hung with this special group - the organized crime (FBI) guys - and they were more or less set apart because they handled a lot of high-profile cases. He was a gentleman, but he was aloof."

But his reputation was tarnished when he was accused of allowing innocent men to spend decades in prison for a 1960s gangland slaying, rather than give up his mobster informants.

A defiant Rico denied his role before a Congressional committee investigating the FBI's use of criminal informants.

## Accused FBI agent dies in Tulsa hospital

After U.S. Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Conn., accused Rico of feeling no remorse for his role in the conviction of four innocent men in the killing of Edward "Teddy" Deegan, Rico replied, "What do you want, tears?"

Two of the men, Joseph Salvati and Peter Limone, were freed after the Justice Department turned over documents showing the FBI had information that could have cleared the men.

But it was Flemmi, whom Rico cultivated as an informant in the 1960s, who implicated Rico in connection with Wheeler's death and pleaded guilty to racketeering charges connecting him to 10 murders. The plea allowed Flemmi to avoid the death penalty for killings in Florida and Oklahoma.

Prosecutors in Oklahoma alleged that Rico helped set up the slaying of Wheeler, a Tulsa businessman who owned World Jai Alai and had discovered that Bulger and Flemmi were skimming money from his business.

Rico's arrest in Florida in October was another turn in a long-running scandal over the cozy relationship between the Boston FBI and its underworld informants. In 2002, former FBI Agent John Connolly Jr. was convicted of protecting gangsters, including Bulger, who is on the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted" list and is sought in connection with 21 murders.

Rico was extradited to Oklahoma and was flown by a private air ambulance from Miami to Tulsa on Jan. 8. He was in the David L. Moss Correctional Center for a little more than a week before his death.

Rico had been in the hospital since Wednesday evening and appeared in a wheelchair in court via a video feed earlier that day, occasionally moaning before the proceedings began. He did not attend Friday's hearing and was listed in critical condition at Hillcrest Medical Center.

His family said he had congestive heart failure and had lost 53 pounds since going to jail in October. Rico wore a pacemaker, had undergone three bypass surgeries and was on oxygen, his attorney Garvin Isaacs said.

Special Judge Carlos Chappelle had ordered a mental evaluation of Rico after Friday's hearing, finding sufficient doubts about Rico's ability to stand trial.

Messages left at Rico's home in Miami Beach, Florida were not returned Saturday, and attempts to reach Isaacs were unsuccessful.

Tulsa Police Sgt. Mike Huff, who investigated the murder of Wheeler from the start and arrested Rico at his Florida home on Oct. 9, extended condolences to the Rico family but said he was disappointed the case wouldn't go to court.

"It's unfortunate for people to not get to hear this story and come to their own decisions and conclusions about what happened," Huff said. "We did our job and we'd do it all over again."

## Graphic

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AP Photo OKTUL101

**Load-Date:** January 18, 2004





## [Accused FBI agent had storied career](#)

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

January 17, 2004, Saturday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 775 words

**Byline:** By GREG SUKIENNIK, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** BOSTON

### **Body**

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Rico's arrest in Florida in October was another turn in a long-running scandal over the cozy relationship between the Boston FBI and its underworld informants. In 2002, former FBI Agent John Connolly Jr. was convicted of protecting gangsters, including Bulger, who is on the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted" list and is sought in connection with 21 murders.

Rico was extradited to Oklahoma and was flown by a private air ambulance from Miami to Tulsa on Jan. 8. He was in the David L. Moss Correctional Center for a little more than a week before his death.

Rico had been in the hospital since Wednesday evening and appeared in a wheelchair in court via a video feed earlier that day, occasionally moaning before the proceedings began. He did not attend Friday's hearing and was listed in critical condition at Hillcrest Medical Center.

His family said he had congestive heart failure and had lost 53 pounds since going to jail in October. Rico wore a pacemaker, had undergone three bypass surgeries and was on oxygen, his attorney Garvin Isaacs said.

Special Judge Carlos Chappelle had ordered a mental evaluation of Rico after Friday's hearing, finding sufficient doubts about Rico's ability to stand trial.

Messages left at Rico's home in Miami Beach, Fla., were not returned Saturday, and attempts to reach Isaacs were unsuccessful.

Tulsa Police Sgt. Mike Huff, who investigated the murder of Wheeler from the start and arrested Rico at his Florida home on Oct. 9, extended condolences to the Rico family but said he was disappointed the case wouldn't go to court.

"It's unfortunate for people to not get to hear this story and come to their own decisions and conclusions about what happened," Huff said. "We did our job and we'd do it all over again."

## Graphic

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AP Photo OKTUL101

**Load-Date:** January 18, 2004

A CRIME GANG'S WEB IS UNRAVELING; MURDERER IS NAMING NAMES, INCLUDING RICO'S, AS PART OF DEAL TO AVOID DEATH PENALTY



**A CRIME GANG'S WEB IS UNRAVELING;  
MURDERER IS NAMING NAMES, INCLUDING RICO'S, AS PART OF DEAL TO  
AVOID DEATH PENALTY**

Hartford Courant (Connecticut)

October 11, 2003 Saturday, 6/7 SPORTS FINAL

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**Section:** MAIN; Pg. A1

**Length:** 1030 words

**Byline:** EDMUND H. MAHONY; Courant Staff Writer

## **Body**

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Boston's powerful Winter Hill gang had so many crooked law enforcement officers on the payroll that a gang member once boasted of maintaining a \$100,000 fund just to cover bribes.

It took the Christmas season to really drive home the extent of the gang's generosity to law enforcement, according to Kevin Weeks, a bulked-up former Winter Hill leg breaker who is now cooperating with federal investigators. Weeks said gang leader James "Whitey" Bulger had to take a week off from stealing money every December just to package bundles of cash and buy gifts for friends on the force.

"He said Christmas was for cops and kids," Weeks said.

Weeks' boast about how effectively Winter Hill gangsters co-opted New England law enforcement was made under oath. He was testifying a year ago at the racketeering trial of a former FBI agent accused, and ultimately convicted, of taking cash and gifts in exchange for leaking information gang members used to avoid arrest.

But Weeks' claim may pale compared to what is likely to follow disclosures this week by state and federal investigators.

The investigators confirmed they have negotiated a plea-bargain agreement with Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, a violent murderer who led the Winter Hill gang with Bulger. The deal appears already to have opened an extensive investigation of law enforcement corruption in Boston and elsewhere in New England.

In exchange for a promise that he will be spared a death sentence for dozens of murders around the country, Flemmi has agreed to identify law enforcement and other officials who helped him and Bulger escape prosecution while running a gang that dominated the Boston rackets from the 1970s to the 1990s.

"I really think this guy can be the Rosetta Stone," said Frank Libby, a Boston lawyer and former federal prosecutor who now represents the family of one Winter Hill victim. "This guy has answers to questions that go back 40 years."

A CRIME GANG'S WEB IS UNRAVELING; MURDERER IS NAMING NAMES, INCLUDING RICO'S, AS PART OF DEAL TO AVOID DEATH PENALTY

Cooperation by Flemmi, 69, already has produced results: **H. Paul Rico**, a legendary former FBI mob fighter from Boston. On Thursday, based on new information provided by Flemmi, police from Tulsa, Okla. surrounded Rico's house outside Miami and arrested him for setting up the 1981 murder by Winter Hill gangsters of Roger M. Wheeler, Sr., a millionaire Tulsa businessman who then owned World Jai Alai.

Rico, who went to work for World Jai Alai in the 1970s after retiring from the FBI, is accused of being a secret associate of the Winter Hill gang who helped to assassinate Wheeler to protect a multimillion-dollar skimming operation run by gang members who had penetrated the pari-mutuel company.

Flemmi's deal with police and prosecutors in Boston, Tulsa and Miami immediately generated intense interest in New England law enforcement circles. One source involved in the Flemmi case said the imprisoned gangster was prepared to provide information about a half-dozen former federal prosecutors and perhaps as many FBI agents. Officials involved in discussions with Flemmi refused to discuss them.

There is a body of public evidence suggesting that the uncanny ability Bulger and Flemmi had to avoid arrest is based on substantial assistance from law enforcement. The evidence has been collected through years of investigation in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Florida and Oklahoma and is augmented by testimony in court by mobsters -- including Flemmi.

During a hearing in federal court in Boston in the late 1990s, Flemmi testified that a friend in the FBI once warned him to flee the country to avoid a charge that he blew a leg off a defense attorney with a car bomb. Weeks testified that in 1994, an FBI agent warned Bulger that he was about to be indicted for racketeering. Bulger fled and remains a fugitive. Weeks said Flemmi got the same warning, but is now jailed and facing life in prison because he didn't run fast enough.

During many of the years the Winter Hill gang was consolidating its ruthless hold on Boston's rackets, Flemmi and Bulger were supposedly working as FBI informants. However, evidence provided by mob turncoats suggests the gang leaders were using the FBI for protection. Information the pair gave to their FBI handlers usually resulted in the arrest of members of other criminal gangs who were competing with Bulger and Flemmi for control of illegal gambling or other criminal enterprises.

Weeks and John Martorano, another Winter Hill member now cooperating with authorities, said information the gang received from former Boston FBI agent John Connolly after the Wheeler assassination was responsible for the murders of two more men related to the jai alai industry. Connolly told Bulger and Flemmi that authorities in Connecticut believed the two men could implicate the Winter Hill gang in the Wheeler murder, Weeks and Martorano said.

Connolly was convicted of racketeering last year and sent to prison for 10 years.

Flemmi struck his deal with investigators only days before he was to stand trial in federal court in Boston on charges that he participated in the killings of 10 people -- including Wheeler.

Under the terms of his deal, the U.S. Attorney's office in Boston said Flemmi will plead guilty Tuesday in federal court in Boston to the 10 murders. In addition, Flemmi has agreed to plead guilty to state charges in Tulsa and Miami related to the deaths of Wheeler and former World Jai Alai president and Winter Hill member John B. Callahan. In exchange for the guilty pleas, Flemmi will not face death sentences in Oklahoma and Florida. Instead, he will be sentenced to life in prison.

Flemmi's deal effectively shifts the possibility of a death sentence from him to Rico.

Rico, who is 78, recently underwent a triple-bypass operation and wears a pacemaker. He was being held without bail Friday night in the Miami-Dade County jail. He will appear at an extradition hearing Tuesday morning that will decide whether he should be sent to Tulsa to face charges of murder and conspiracy to commit murder in the Wheeler case.

A CRIME GANG'S WEB IS UNRAVELING;MURDERER IS NAMING NAMES, INCLUDING RICO'S, AS PART  
OF DEAL TO AVOID DEATH PENALTY

If he is extradited, officials in Tulsa said he probably will be jailed while awaiting trial. If convicted in Oklahoma, Rico faces execution.

## Graphic

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PHOTO: (B&W) mug; Rico

**Load-Date:** October 13, 2003

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End of Document



## *Across the Nation*

The Seattle Times  
October 10, 2003, Friday  
Fourth Edition

Copyright 2003 The Seattle Times Company

**Section:** ROP ZONE; News;; Across the Nation; Digest

**Length:** 553 words

### **Body**

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MRI pioneer takes out ad, wants share of Nobel Prize

NEW YORK Dr. Raymond Damadian thinks the Nobel Prize Committee members who gave out an award for medical imaging have an image problem of their own, and he let them know it yesterday in a very public way.

Damadian, a pioneer of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and chairman of a Long Island company that owns a key patent on MRI machines, took out a full-page ad in The Washington Post that denounced the panel for not giving him a share of the \$1.3 million prize for medicine, awarded Monday, and accused the panel of "attempting to rewrite history."

The ad, which shows an inverted Nobel prize medal, says the committee "did one thing it has no right to do: It ignored the truth." The ad says Damadian made the "breakthrough" that led to the MRI.

Additionally, the ad says the two scientists who won the prize Paul Lauterbur of the University of Illinois and British citizen Sir Peter Mansfield of the University of Nottingham "later made technological improvements" based on Damadian's discovery.

In the ad, Damadian asks the public to petition the committee to include him in the prize.

Animal experts take issue with Siegfried's tiger theory

LAS VEGAS Animal experts yesterday disputed a theory that a tiger accidentally mauled Roy Horn of the duo "Siegfried & Roy," saying the 600-pound animal was going for the jugular.

"The cat wasn't trying to protect him," said Jonathan Kraft, who runs the Arizona-based nonprofit Keepers of the Wild. "That was a typical killing bite."

"I admire the guys, I just think they are sending a wrong message," Kraft said. "The message needs to be: These are wild animals."

## Across the Nation

Horn's partner, Siegfried Fischbacher, said Wednesday in interviews on CNN and ABC that the animal had been trying to help Horn after the illusionist slipped during last Friday's performance.

Horne was in critical condition yesterday and could not speak.

Texas lawmakers finally pass redistricting that favors GOP

AUSTIN, Texas State 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 deal paved the way for a vote today in the House and Senate and appeared to end months of squabbling. Gov. Rick Perry is expected to sign the bill if it passes.

Illinois governor wants club to repay predecessor's grant

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. Federal authorities are investigating a \$750,000 grant that former Gov. George Ryan awarded to the owners of a shuttered racetrack before he left office, Gov. Rod Blagojevich's office confirmed yesterday.

Blagojevich is demanding repayment of the money given by Ryan to the National Jockey Club, a politically powerful organization and generous contributor to Ryan and other Illinois politicians.

Also ...

**H. Paul Rico**, 78, 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 Oklahoma businessman Roger Wheeler. ... The U.S. Supreme Court blocked the execution of David Larry Nelson less than three hours before it was to take place yesterday in Atmore, Ala., granting a stay until the court can review his murder appeal. ... Union garbage collectors in Chicago voted yesterday to end a strike.

**Load-Date:** October 11, 2003



## *Across the Nation*

The Seattle Times

October 15, 2003, Wednesday

Fourth Edition

Copyright 2003 The Seattle Times Company

**Section:** ROP ZONE; News;; Across the Nation; Digest

**Length:** 596 words

### **Body**

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Gangster cuts deal to avoid death penalty

BOSTON Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, a gangster at the center of a scandal over the cozy relationship between the Boston FBI and its mob informants, pleaded guilty yesterday to racketeering charges involving 10 murders.

In a plea deal allowing him to get life in prison instead of the death penalty, Flemmi accused his former FBI handler of helping to set up a murder.

Flemmi, 69, cut the deal with prosecutors earlier this month after claiming his former FBI handler, ***H. Paul Rico***, allegedly helped to set up the 1981 murder of Oklahoma businessman Roger Wheeler. Flemmi admitted to his role in the murder of Wheeler.

Rico, 78, who retired from the FBI in 1975, was arrested in Florida last week in Wheeler's killing. An extradition hearing for Rico to face the charges in Oklahoma is scheduled for Friday.

Court denies parents' plea to keep daughter on tube

PINELLAS PARK, Fla. An appeals court yesterday refused to block the removal of a severely brain-damaged woman's feeding tube, one of the last hopes her parents had for keeping her alive.

The state court in Lakeland rejected motions by an attorney for the parents of Terri Schiavo, who is scheduled to have the feeding tube removed today at her husband's request.

Schiavo, 39, is expected to die within two weeks after the tube is removed. She's been in a vegetative state since suffering a heart attack in 1990. Michael Schiavo says he is carrying out his wife's wishes that she not be kept alive artificially.

New Hampshire sets primary date for Jan. 27



## Across the Nation

CONCORD, N.H. New Hampshire made it official yesterday its presidential primary will take place Jan. 27, 2004.

For months, the date had been tentative as New Hampshire tried to ensure that its contest would come first. Under state law, the primary must come at least a week before any similar primary.

The District of Columbia holds a nonbinding primary Jan. 13, but the Democratic National Committee does not count that contest.

Robertson says nuclear comment was just a joke

WASHINGTON Pat Robertson says he didn't really mean it when he recently suggested that the State Department be blown up with a nuclear device.

Robertson, who heads the Christian Broadcasting Network, said in an on-air comment Monday night that he was merely trying to characterize in "laughing fashion" a book that casts the State Department in a negative light.

"I want to issue a correction to the State Department," Robertson said.

In his original comment, Robertson told author Joel Mowbray: "I read your book. When you get through, you say, 'If I could just get a nuclear device inside of Foggy Bottom, I think that's the answer.' "

Man pulls out gun, robs church of Sunday collections

BALTIMORE A man held a gun to the head of a church secretary and forced a Roman Catholic priest to hand over nearly \$8,000 in Sunday collections, police and the woman said.

The robber knocked on the door of the Shrine of the Little Flower around 9 a.m. Monday, saying he wanted to donate clothes, said Detective Donny Moses, a police spokesman. When the secretary opened the door, the man showed her a semiautomatic weapon and demanded money, Moses said.

The Rev. Michael Orchik opened the church safe after the robber threatened to shoot the secretary. Neither was injured.

Also ...

Democratic lawmakers in Texas filed a motion in federal court yesterday seeking to block a redistricting plan passed by the Republican-controlled legislature. ... The white tiger that nearly killed illusionist Roy Horn earlier this month has been released from quarantine in Nevada.

**Load-Date:** October 17, 2003

## ADVANCE BETTING OFF FOR SUPER SIX

**ADVANCE BETTING OFF FOR SUPER SIX**

The Miami Herald  
July 16, 1985 Tuesday  
FINAL EDITION

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**Section:** SPORTS; D; Pg. 5

**Length:** 260 words

**Byline:** DICK EVANS Herald Sports Writer

**Body**

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In an attempt to prevent big-money groups from covering every combination, Miami Jai-Alai officials Monday suspended advance wagering on the Super Six pool, which was frozen Saturday night at \$261,281.

Until it is hit, fans wishing to wager on the Super Six will be able to do so only between the fifth and six games at each program. With only 15 to 20 minutes between games, betting syndicates probably would not have time to cover all 262,144 combinations.

To collect the \$261,281 jackpot, a bettor must pick six straight winners in games six through 11. If a bettor only gets five right, he has to settle for the consolation jackpot derived from the pool during that session.

"We have received word that a group of bettors was coming to the fronton to bet every Super Six combination in order to hit the big jackpot," said General Manager ***H. Paul Rico***, a former FBI agent.

"Though completely legal for a bettor or group of bettors to do this, we feel it is unfair to the individual customer who contributed to this large jackpot."

Rico conceded that the decision probably will cost the fronton money since the Super Six attracts large regular wagers once it exceeds \$100,000. And he realizes that it will result in complaints from regular customers accustomed to betting the Super Six at early-bird windows.

But he believes the decision is in the best interest of the fronton's regular customers.

**MIAMI TEAM WINS**

The Miami Jai-Alai team of Michelena and Zarría earned \$10,000 by winning the 1985 Miami-Milford Championship Showdown. Michelena also won the singles title.

ADVANCE BETTING OFF FOR SUPER SIX

**Load-Date:** November 3, 2009

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## [A front row seat on Whitey Bulger trial](#)

The Villager (New York)

October 15, 2015

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**Section:** PEOPLE

**Length:** 449 words

### **Body**

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Distinguished crime journalist and Village resident T.J. English has written an authoritative and entertaining account of the rise and fall of Boston's notorious former crime in his new book, "Where the Bodies Were Buried: Whitey Bulger And the World That Made Him" (HarperCollins).

The year 2013 was a gut-wrenching one for Boston. There was a terrorist bombing near the finish line of the marathon in April. The trial of 16-year fugitive gangster James "Whitey" Bulger began June 12. The trial dredged up and exhumed the depraved parade of heinous crimes committed by Bulger and his associates.

But perhaps there was no greater offense committed against the people than that by the Department of Justice itself. Joe Salvati did 30 years in jail for a murder he and three other victims of the Confidential Informant Program did not commit. Salvati was convicted by the bogus testimony of Joe "The Animal" Barboza in September 1967. The ends-justify-the means approach was to dismantle the New England Mafia.

In fact, Bulger, like Barboza, was a top-echelon confidential informant.

"The prosecutors wanted it to appear as if what happened to Joe Salvati had nothing to do with Whitey Bulger," English writes. "Perhaps the entire criminal justice system was a grand illusion."

Teresa Bond, who was a young girl when her father, Bucky Barrett, was murdered, got to Bulger with forgiveness during an impact statement uttered with near kindness.

"I just want you to know that I don't hate you," she said. "I hate the choices our government has made in allowing you to rule the streets and perform horrific acts of evil."

Bulger — who, in fact, disliked being called Whitey — and his brother Billy dominated Boston politics and crime for more than 20 years. Billy became one of Massachusetts' most powerful politicians, serving from 1978-96 as state Senate president.

With his C.I. F.B.I status, his brother's influence and his control of the gang, Bulger seemingly hovered above the law. And he took full advantage.

## A front row seat on Whitey Bulger trial

English uses the trial as his format and diverges to provide historical and biographical background and penetrating insight. His writing is fair, balanced and authoritative. He also employs a wry sense of humor. He refers to Billy O'Shea, a trusted former Bulger business associate, as "Kermit the Frog's aging Irish Uncle."

Some agents, like handlers **H. Paul Rico** and John Connolly, come from the same social milieu as Bulger. They readily become thick as thieves. They also wind up in jail — Connolly, a seeming scapegoat to F.B.I damage control. But as English concludes, "The system protects itself." Which begs the question: What is needed to protect "We the People" from the system?

**Load-Date:** October 23, 2015

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## [Agent Says Lawyer Promised Reduced Sentence for Cash](#)

The Associated Press

January 20, 1983, Thursday, AM cycle

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**Section:** Domestic News

**Length:** 591 words

**Byline:** By ANNE S. CROWLEY, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** MIAMI

### **Body**

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A lawyer promised that U.S. District Judge Alcee Hastings would reduce the sentences of two convicted racketeers for \$150,000, a retired FBI agent testified Thursday.

**H. Paul Rico** said he posed as rackets defendant Frank Romano to set up the deal with Washington attorney William A. Borders Jr., who was later convicted of conspiring with Hastings to solicit bribes and was sentenced to five years in prison.

Rico, called from retirement for the assignment because of his physical resemblance to Romano, wore a concealed tape recorder to three meetings with Borders.

Prosecutor Reid Weingarten played tapes of the meetings in court Thursday at Hastings' trial on charges of bribery-conspiracy and obstruction of justice.

"My sentence and my brother's sentence were to be taken care of by Judge Alcee Hastings," Rico testified.

Hastings, 46, is Florida's first black U.S. district judge and is the first federal judge ever charged with committing crimes while on the bench.

Hastings had sentenced Romano and his brother Thomas, both of Hallandale, to three years in prison and ordered seizure of \$1.2 million in cash and property.

Borders met three times with Rico to negotiate the deal, to collect a \$25,000 downpayment and to get the remaining \$125,000, Rico testified.

At their first meeting at Miami International Airport Sept. 12, 1981, Rico complained that the sentence was causing hardships for Romano and his wife, who had cancer. The two men spoke in guarded terms and used gestures to complete their thoughts, Rico said.

"I think we can help you," Borders said.

Agent Says Lawyer Promised Reduced Sentence for Cash

A few minutes later, Rico testified, Borders wrote "\$150,000" on an envelope and said, "Within 10 days an order will be signed."

Rico: "Yeah, returning what?"

Borders: "Substantial amount ... then the other will follow after that ... once you file a motion for mitigation."

Rico hesitated, asking for some guarantee.

"I was asking how I would know that he can deliver Judge Hastings," the agent told the federal jury.

The two agreed that the sign of Hastings' compliance would be the judge's appearance for dinner the following Wednesday at the main dining room of the Fontainebleau-Hilton Hotel in Miami Beach.

If Hastings showed, Rico would pay \$25,000 and Hastings would return some of the money seized, the agent said.

Then, he said, the \$125,000 difference would be paid and Hastings would reduce the brothers' sentences.

"This is going to indicate to me that the rest is going to happen," Rico said to Borders.

"Right," Borders replied, adding the deal was "100 percent."

They parted after setting up a second meeting for Sept. 19, also at the airport.

Hastings appeared at the restaurant on Sept. 16.

The judge has indicted his attorneys will prove he knew nothing of Borders' actions and was at the hotel to meet Borders, who never appeared.

"Your man arrived and, in fact, he arrived a little early," Rico said to Borders at the second meeting. "You said you could do that and that's your end of the situation."

Rico said he reviewed terms of the deal with Borders, then left to pick up the \$25,000 from an airport locker.

"The last time we talked, my understanding was that some property was going to be released," Rico said.

Borders took the money and left after he and Rico agreed to an Oct. 3 meeting. Rico delayed the meeting because Hastings didn't release the cash until several days after Borders had promised.

Hastings ordered the \$845,000 cash returned to the brothers Oct. 6. Three days later, Rico and Borders met again, this time at a hotel in suburban Washington and Borders was arrested.



## *Alleged mob victim's family sues FBI over his murder*

The Boston Herald

September 13, 2002 Friday

ALL EDITIONS

Copyright 2002 Boston Herald Inc.

**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 189 words

**Byline:** By J.M. LAWRENCE

### **Body**

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The family of one of three Bennett brothers allegedly murdered 35 years ago by gangster Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi sued the FBI yesterday for \$ 50 million, claiming a special agent failed to warn the man and later covered for Flemmi.

Former FBI agent **H. Paul Rico** "assisted, condoned, participated and caused the death" of William Bennett two days before Christmas in 1967, charges the suit filed in U.S. District Court.

The lawsuit joins 13 other claims totaling \$ 1.9 billion against the government over the Boston FBI's handling of criminal informants dating back 40 years.

Bennett was shot and dumped in a snowbank in Mattapan. His brothers Walter Bennett and bookie Edward "Wimpy" Bennett disappeared earlier in 1967 and have never been found.

Attorneys for the Bennetts claim Rico protected Flemmi in exchange for information about the Mafia.

The agent even went to William Bennett's family after the other brothers were killed looking for "certain documentation" to help his informant, the suit states.

Attorney Peter Parker, who represents Rico, said he had not yet seen the lawsuit and could not comment.

**Load-Date:** September 13, 2002





## **ANALYSIS; Staggering judgment clear warning to law enforcement**

The Boston Herald

July 27, 2007 Friday

ALL EDITIONS

Copyright 2007 Boston Herald Inc.

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 006

**Length:** 436 words

**Byline:** By DAVE WEDGE and MIKE UNDERWOOD

### **Body**

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Stinging criticism of the FBI and the staggering sum awarded to four men wrongly jailed for murder should flash a warning that no one is above the law, experts believe.

U.S. District Judge Nancy Gertner yesterday awarded \$101.7 million after the men were jailed for a 1965 murder they did not commit, spending three decades behind bars because the FBI withheld crucial evidence of their innocence.

"I have concluded that the plaintiffs' accusations that the United States government violated the law are proved," Gertner seethed as she fired a broadside at the feds.

Peter Limone, 73, and Joseph Salvati, 75, and the families of the two other men who died in prison had sued the federal government for malicious prosecution.

They argued that Boston FBI agents ***H. Paul Rico*** and Dennis Condon knew mob hit man Joseph "The Animal" Barboza lied when he named the men as killers in the 1965 death of Edward "Teddy" Deegan.

They said Barboza was protecting a fellow FBI informant, Vincent "Jimmy" Flemmi, who was involved.

The government's argument that federal authorities could not be held responsible for a state prosecution was branded "absurd" by Gertner.

"While Salvati and Limone languished in jail for thirty-odd years and Greco and Tameleo died in prison, Barboza and his FBI handlers flourished," the judge blasted.

Experts say the settlement and Gertner's fierce criticism should have a ripple effect on the way law enforcement conducts business in future.

"The judgment has definitely sent a message and the message is law enforcement needs to play the game fairly and if they don't play it fairly there's going to be ramifications," said Boston College law Professor Robert Bloom.

ANALYSIS; Staggering judgment clear warning to law enforcement

``The fact that it's \$100 million, will be a loud and clear message."

Attorney Juliane Balliro, who represented the plaintiffs, said she believes the judgment will stand up to appeal because the judge adhered to long-standing guidelines.

Balliro said the \$101 million award was based on a baseline figure of \$1 million per year each of her wrongly jailed client's spent in prison.

``She tried to stay within the heartland of damages awards in these kinds of cases," Balliro said. ``She tried to come up with damage awards that would withstand the rigors of appeal."

She added: ``I think this will stand as is. It really is very defensible on its face. If anything, an argument could be made that the damages could be increased."

Balliro said it's difficult to handicap what the legal fallout from the award will be since the case was so unique.

``All we can do is hope that another one really doesn't come down the line," she said.

**Load-Date:** July 27, 2007

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End of Document



## *ANALYSIS; Weeks could sing swan song for Whitey*

The Boston Herald

January 15, 2000 Saturday

ALL EDITIONS

Copyright 2000 Boston Herald Inc.

**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 853 words

**Byline:** By JONATHAN WELLS

### **Body**

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Top Winter Hill Gang lieutenant Kevin Weeks demonstrated to law enforcement early yesterday morning that he knows - quite literally - where the Mob's bodies are buried.

And that valuable tip, which unearthed the decomposed remains of three likely murder victims, could be just the beginning.

Law enforcement sources have confirmed that Weeks, since being jailed on racketeering charges in November, has begun to tell state and federal investigators all about the life and crimes of the two men he worked for - legendary gangsters James J. "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi.

Weeks should know a lot. He has been Bulger and Flemmi's colleague and confidante since the 1980s and presumably has inside knowledge on matters ranging from murders to drug-dealing to money-laundering - as well as where authorities might look to find Bulger, who has been a federal fugitive since 1995.

And so far, no one can challenge the accuracy of the information Weeks is giving authorities. One source said yesterday that he brought investigators from the Drug Enforcement Administration and the state police right to the spot across from Florian Hall in Dorchester where the three bodies were buried.

And according to law enforcement sources, Weeks has also begun to shed light on other unsolved murders in which Bulger and Flemmi are suspects - including the 1982 gangland slaying of Winter Hill Gang enforcer-turned-informant Brian Halloran.

Halloran had gone to the FBI with information implicating Bulger and Flemmi in the 1981 murder of Oklahoma businessman Roger Wheeler and sought admission to the federal Witness Protection Program.

But the FBI inexplicably cut Halloran loose and a short time later he was gunned down in front of the Pier Restaurant on Northern Avenue.

Perhaps more significantly, Weeks' cooperation is also likely to cause more problems for two retired FBI agents who handled Bulger and Flemmi as FBI informants for parts of the past 30 years.

## ANALYSIS; Weeks could sing swan song for Whitey

One of those former agents, John Connolly, has already been indicted for racketeering and obstruction of justice - charges that essentially allege Connolly became a functional member of the Winter Hill Gang.

Sources say the other former agent, **H. Paul Rico**, is currently under investigation for similar activities, including possible involvement in the Wheeler murder.

Those sources said Weeks, who has already given DEA and state police credible information on Mob murders, could also prove to be a key witness for Assistant U.S. Attorney John Durham.

He is heading the ongoing grand jury investigation into corruption and criminal wrongdoing in the Boston office of the FBI that has snared Connolly and is reportedly also closing in on Rico.

Weeks, 43, is too young to have much firsthand knowledge of Rico's dealings with the Winter Hill Gang, which spanned the 1960s and early 1970s, but he is certainly familiar with Connolly.

Flemmi confirmed during last year's lengthy pre-trial hearings in federal court that Weeks has served as a liaison between Flemmi and the former federal agent.

Weeks was involved in virtually every aspect of Bulger and Flemmi's multi-faceted criminal operation, according to the indictment pending against him.

In 1991, he allegedly coerced South Boston bar owner Timothy Connolly into paying Bulger a mortgage and buying his liquor from the store operated by Bulger and Weeks, the South Boston Liquor Mart.

That same year, Weeks allegedly "influenced" grand jury testimony by Stephen Rakes, the Liquor Mart's original owner, who in 1984 was allegedly forced at gunpoint to turn over the store to Bulger, Flemmi and Weeks.

In 1988, Weeks and another alleged Winter Hill Gang member now under indictment, Kevin O'Neil, allegedly threatened South Boston insurance agent Raymond Slinger, who testified during court hearings that Bulger forced him at gunpoint to agree to pay \$ 50,000 in tribute.

Weeks also allegedly extorted payments from reputed bookmaker Kevin Hayes after he refused to pay tribute to Bulger's gang.

Weeks may also shed light on how Bulger and Flemmi handled and hid the untold millions of dollars they reaped from shakedowns, loan-sharking and illegal gambling.

For example, Weeks was at the center of a strange set of real estate transactions with Bulger in 1989 which authorities believe was a charade to create a phony record of legitimate income for Bulger.

A series of transactions involving the South Boston Liquor Mart property ended with Bulger buying the property for \$ 40,000 from Weeks and Flemmi and then, on the same day, selling it to O'Neil and another individual for \$ 400,000.

The breadth of Weeks' knowledge about both Winter Hill Gang operations and Bulger and Flemmi's remarkable relationship with the FBI could make him the most important government witness among the slew of former mobsters who have entered guilty pleas in federal court the past year.

That knowledge may also finally reveal the truth behind what is fast becoming one of the biggest scandals in law enforcement history.

Photo Caption: WEEKS: Jailed on racketeering charges.

**Load-Date:** January 15, 2000



## **AN APPEAL TO BEGIN IN SUITS ON INFORMANTS US ARGUES FAMILIES BROUGHT CLAIMS LATE**

The Boston Globe

February 29, 2004, Sunday

THIRD EDITION

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**Section:** METRO/REGION;

**Length:** 1333 words

**Byline:** By Shelley Murphy, Globe Staff

### **Body**

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For years the US Department of Justice claimed it didn't know that FBI informants James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi were getting away with murder while being protected by corrupt FBI agents.

It took the discovery of secret mob graves scattered from Dorchester to Quincy and deals with some of Boston's most prolific killers for prosecutors to finally gather enough evidence to charge Bulger and Flemmi with 19 murders between them and implicate two of their former handlers in some of the slayings.

Yet, now, that same Justice Department is urging a federal appeals court to dismiss lawsuits against the government filed by the families of two victims of Bulger and Flemmi, arguing that their claims were brought too late. Any "reasonable person," the Justice Department argues, should have known by the spring of 1998 - two years before anyone was charged with the murders - that FBI agents may have been involved in the slayings.

"It's a startling thing for the Justice Department to say," said Boston attorney Frank A. Libby Jr., who represents the family of Roger Wheeler, who was gunned down outside an Oklahoma country club in 1981 by a hit man working for Bulger and Flemmi. "This is an agency that for months had been denying wrongdoing and issuing reports clearing itself and now they're saying you should have known better."

The US Court of Appeals for the First Circuit is poised to hear arguments Tuesday on whether to uphold a federal judge's ruling last year that dismissed the \$860 million suit filed by Wheeler's family, as well as the \$50 million suit filed by the family of John McIntyre of Quincy, who vanished in November 1984 after talking to the FBI about Bulger's and Flemmi's criminal activities. His remains, along with those of two other victims, were found in an unmarked grave in Dorchester in January 2000.

The Wheeler and McIntyre cases are among 16 suits, totaling more than \$1.4 billion, that have been filed against the United States by families of people murdered by Bulger and Flemmi and others extorted by the gangsters while they were serving as FBI informants.

## AN APPEAL TO BEGIN IN SUITS ON INFORMANTS US ARGUES FAMILIES BROUGHT CLAIMS LATE

The US attorney's office in Massachusetts chose not to represent the government in the lawsuits since local prosecutors from that office have been working with the victims' families while building the cases against Bulger and Flemmi. Justice Department lawyers from Washington have argued in briefs filed with the court that widespread publicity about hearings in US District Court in Boston in 1998 that partly exposed the FBI's corrupt relationship with Bulger and Flemmi should have alerted the McIntyre and Wheeler families back then that they had a legal claim against the government.

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

Last March, US District Judge Reginald C. Lindsay sided with the government, ruling that the McIntyres, who filed their claim against the FBI in May 2000, were a month too late. The Wheelers, who filed their claim in May 2001, were a year too late, Lindsay said.

But New Hampshire attorney William E. Christie, who represents McIntyre's mother, Emily, and brother, Christopher, argued in his brief to the appeals court that the family was faced with a "barrage of rumors" about McIntyre's fate until his remains were recovered in January 2000 but couldn't file a suit based on "hunch, hint, suspicion or rumor."

McIntyre vanished on Nov. 30, 1984, six weeks after telling the FBI that Bulger and Flemmi were involved in an unsuccessful plot to ship guns to the Irish Republican Army aboard the Valhalla, a Gloucester fishing trawler.

The government, which long maintained that McIntyre was a fugitive, indicted him and some Bulger associates on federal gun running and drug charges in 1986. It wasn't until January 2000, when a Bulger deputy led investigators from the Massachusetts State Police and the US Drug Enforcement Administration to a Dorchester grave containing the remains of McIntyre and two other victims of Bulger and Flemmi, that the government acknowledged that he was dead and dismissed the case that had been pending against him for 14 years.

"Not once did any government agent ever inform the McIntyre family prior to April 1998 that there were 'suspicions' that the FBI was involved in McIntyre's death," Christie wrote in his brief to the appeals court. "Indeed, the FBI fought mightily to prevent these disclosures from becoming public."

After Bulger and Flemmi were indicted on federal racketeering charges in January 1995 and Bulger fled, Flemmi publicly revealed that the pair were informants and claimed that the FBI had promised them immunity for their crimes - short of murder - in exchange for information on the Mafia. He also said they were protected by corrupt FBI agents.

The FBI conducted an internal investigation into Flemmi's allegations and in 1997 found no evidence to support a prosecution of any agents. But hearings held by US District Judge Mark L. Wolf throughout 1998 indicated otherwise. In September 1999, Wolf refused to dismiss the case against Flemmi, but also issued a scathing indictment of the FBI.

In his ruling, Wolf said questions remained about whether the FBI played any role in the murders of McIntyre and Wheeler, partly because the FBI delayed turning over documents until after relevant witnesses had testified.

After gaining the cooperation of former Bulger cohorts and discovering two more unmarked graves in Dorchester and Quincy in the fall of 2000, local federal prosecutors brought an avalanche of new charges against Bulger and Flemmi, who were indicted in September 2000 for killing 19 and 10 people, respectively, including McIntyre and Wheeler. Flemmi pleaded guilty to the charges and was sentenced last month to life in prison. Bulger has been a fugitive since January 1995.

It wasn't until last October, after Flemmi began cooperating with authorities, that retired FBI agent ***H. Paul Rico*** was charged in Oklahoma with helping Bulger and Flemmi orchestrate Wheeler's murder. Rico died in January after pleading not guilty to the charge.

## AN APPEAL TO BEGIN IN SUITS ON INFORMANTS US ARGUES FAMILIES BROUGHT CLAIMS LATE

Flemmi admitted that Wheeler, the millionaire chairman of Telex Corp. and owner of World Jai Alai, was gunned down on May 27, 1981 because he suspected that Bulger's gang was skimming profits from his company. Rico had retired from the FBI in 1975 and was working as head of security for World Jai Alai at the time of the slaying.

Wheeler's son, Lawrence, said he has "a general feeling of disgust" about the government's legal strategy in the civil case because the FBI had frustrated efforts by Tulsa police to solve his father's murder by withholding evidence for decades that its prized informants were suspects in the killing.

At one point, Lawrence Wheeler said, an FBI agent suggested to him that his mother might have been involved in his father's murder.

"I think the government's purpose is nothing more than to keep us in the dark so that we don't know the truth," Wheeler said in a telephone interview. "There's a lot that we should have known that we didn't know. But, here I am supposed to have known that the FBI was covering things up."

US Representative William D. Delahunt, a Quincy Democrat who participated in Congressional hearings investigating the FBI's relationship with Bulger and Flemmi, said the government's posture is ludicrous and offensive and is "shifting responsibility on the victim." Delahunt said the failure wasn't on the part of the families, but rather on the Justice Department and the FBI, which should have cooperated with local and state law enforcement authorities decades ago to solve the murders of McIntyre and Wheeler.

"If a reasonable person should have known, then where were the FBI supervisors and the attorney general?" Delahunt said. "And where's the apology for the pain and suffering these families have endured? It's outrageous."

## Graphic

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PHOTO, JAMES 'WHITEY' BULGER Charged in 19 murders

**Load-Date:** March 1, 2004



## *Animal, Bear lucky to have FBI as keepers*

The Boston Herald

January 3, 2001 Wednesday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 679 words

**Byline:** By Howie Carr

### **Body**

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If revenge is a dish best served cold, then Joe Barboza must have been one of the great chefs of all time.

Sure, J.R. Russo took The Animal off the board with his carbine in San Francisco back in 1976, but Barboza took four of them with him, almost a decade earlier.

And now, it appears, the FBI helped him frame his Mob enemies and dispose of them, permanently. Stop me if you've heard this story before.

This ancient Teddy Deegan hit is turning into "Whitey and Stevie, the Prequel." In the role of FBI agent John Connolly, **H. Paul Rico**. In the roles of serial killers Whitey Bulger and Stevie Flemmi, the prequel offers Joe Barboza and, in an ironic twist, Stevie's beloved brother, Jimmy the Bear.

In this tale, it's four guys named Tameleo, Limone, Salvati and Greco who are set up and sent to prison. (Two died, one's out, and one is still behind bars, although it's now clear none of them whacked Gerry Indelicato's uncle in that Chelsea alley back in 1965.)

This guy Joe Barboza was trouble from Day One. His keepers in Providence knew they'd have to hit him eventually, because he wanted to be a made man. And he was Portuguese, which meant that The Man, Raymond Patriarca, dismissed him behind his back with Mark Fuhrman's favorite n-word.

Still, Barboza took to his work. One time, according to Mob lore, he got a contract to clip a guy, but the mark knew he was on the spot so he never left his house.

"No problem," the Animal said. "I set fire to his house and when he runs out, I shoot him."

Time out, somebody said. His mother lives in the house, too.

"No problem," Barboza replied. "When she runs out, I shoot her too."



## Animal, Bear lucky to have FBI as keepers

This is the guy the FBI groomed to rat these four guys into the can, knowing his story was false. The really unfortunate one was Joe "the Horse" Salvati. Joe's only crime, it now appears, was that unfortunate moniker, the Horse. He sounded dirty, so he spent close to 30 years in stir because the Animal decided to send the Horse to the glue factory to protect the Bear.

Barboza just needed to put another guy in the getaway car, so Salvati took the fall to make the play work. Sorry Horse, nothing personal. No hard feelings.

Then there was Jimmy the Bear. People forget now, but he was the white Willie Horton. He got out on a furlough in '76, and first he goes to his girlfriend's house. She's gone, so he strangles . . . her cat. (What is it about the Flemmis and strangling women or their pets?)

Then, Willie Horton-like, the Bear screws to Baltimore, where he's apprehended two years later and charged, again Willie Horton-like, with committing a perverted sex act and assault on a female.

Maryland sent him back to MCI-Norfolk, where he died of a drug overdose in 1979.

So you can understand why the FBI wanted to frame four guys to protect these two sweethearts. Isn't the rule supposed to be that if you don't do the crime, you don't do the time?

And all to protect . . . Steve Flemmi's little brother. According to one of the just-declassified FBI reports, it once had to be explained to Flemmi that he "did not use sufficient sense when it came to killing people . . . he should not kill people (just) because he had an argument with them. . . ."

Sound advice. Not that Flemmi and Barboza ever took it. One time in 1964, a just-released con got his head chopped off in a bar in Uphams Corner. An FBI informant picks up the story:

"Barboza told him that he heard that JIMMY FLEMMI had killed (the con) and cut off his head. When speaking to FLEMMI, Barboza confronted FLEMMI with this information and FLEMMI's only reply was that he had heard the same thing about Barboza."

Oh, those wacky guys. The question is, why would the FBI get in bed with them? It's one thing for defense lawyers not to spill the beans on their clients, but when did the FBI start framing people to protect Boston's "No. 1 hit man," not to mention, No. 1-A?

Shouldn't somebody pay for this? There's a joke going around now that sums it all up.

Q: What do you call an FBI agent in a three-piece suit?

A: The defendant.

**Load-Date:** January 3, 2001



## *Another day in court; DA to seek new trials for convicts in Mob hit*

The Boston Herald

January 4, 2001 Thursday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 802 words

**Byline:** By JONATHAN WELLS

### **Body**

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In a major reversal, Suffolk County District Attorney Ralph C. Martin II is preparing to seek new trials for two apparently innocent men convicted of a Mob murder 32 years ago, sources familiar with the case confirmed yesterday.

And if a judge grants those new trials for Joseph Salvati and Peter Limone - who together served more than 60 years in prison - Martin is expected to decline to prosecute and drop the charges.

Until now, prosecutors in Martin's office have steadfastly defended the integrity of the prosecution and conviction of Salvati, Limone and four other men in the March 12, 1965, slaying of gangster Edward "Teddy" Deegan.

But tomorrow morning in Middlesex Superior Court, Martin's prosecutor, Mark Lee, is expected to reverse field and support Limone's motion to stay the execution of his life sentence, sources said.

If that motion is granted by Superior Court Judge Margaret R. Hinkle, Limone, a reputed gangster, could be released from prison immediately.

Martin's apparent about-face comes amid an avalanche of new evidence supporting what Salvati and Limone have been saying since they were convicted in 1968: They were framed by the government's star witness, notorious Mob hit man Joseph "The Animal" Barboza.

The latest evidence that Barboza falsely implicated Salvati, Limone and two other men convicted in the Deegan case, Henry Tameleo and Louis Greco, came yesterday with the release of an affidavit written by veteran defense attorney Joseph J. Balliro Sr.

According to Balliro, in the summer of 1967, one of his clients, gangster Vincent "Jimmy the Bear" Flemmi, told him that "Barboza planned the (Deegan) killing and that he, Flemmi, had participated."

Balliro said Flemmi told him that Salvati, Limone, Tameleo and Greco had no part in the crime, but Barboza fingered them because they had each "disrespected him" in some fashion.

Another day in court; DA to seek new trials for convicts in Mob hit

"Flemmi told me that when Barboza gave his account to the authorities, he substituted Joseph Salvati for Flemmi because Salvati had disrespected him," Balliro stated.

Salvati, who had no record of involvement with organized crime, was released from prison in 1997 after his sentence was commuted. Tameleo and Greco died in prison.

Balliro's affidavit emerged just one day after another longtime defense lawyer, Ronald J. Chisolm, told the Herald that in 1967 his client, Ronald Cassesso, who admitted his own role in the Deegan killing, told him Salvati, Limone, Tameleo and Greco were innocent.

Chisolm also revealed that Cassesso was approached by the FBI agent handling Barboza, **H. Paul Rico**, and offered no jail time on the Deegan murder if he backed up Barboza's testimony at trial. Cassesso declined the deal, Chisolm said, saying he would not implicate innocent men.

The biggest bombshell was dropped Dec. 19 when a special U.S. Department of Justice task force released long-hidden FBI reports showing top bureau officials - including then-director J. Edgar Hoover - suppressed credible evidence that the four men were innocent.

Those informant reports not only identified the real killers just days after Deegan was murdered, but also revealed that Rico and other top FBI officials knew of the Deegan murder plot at least two days before it happened.

The head of the Justice Task Force, federal prosecutor John Durham, and U.S. Attorney Donald Stern attached a cover letter to the damaging FBI documents stating they were being released "with the concurrence and encouragement of the Boston FBI and FBI Headquarters."

Sources familiar with the Deegan case said the onslaught of new evidence forced Martin to rethink his longstanding defense of the Deegan murder prosecution.

James Borghesani, the spokesman for the DA's office, declined comment yesterday.

The sources said Martin's office has yet to interview Chisolm and Balliro.

In 1995, Martin's office opposed Salvati's motion for a new trial, which was then denied by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. For the last several months, Martin has fought against Limone's motion for a new trial.

Rico, the FBI agent who allegedly helped Barboza fashion his perjured testimony, has declined comment.

Barboza was murdered by a Mafia hit man in San Francisco in 1967.

Photo Caption: OFF THE HOOK? Reputed mobster Edward 'Teddy' Deegan, left, was slain 35 years ago. Joseph Salvati, right, who was convicted along with five other men in the murder plot, will get a new trial. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE REVERE INDEPENDENT

Photo Caption: If a judge grants a new trial for Salvati, the district attorney is expected to drop charges. STAFF FILE PHOTO BY MATTHEW WEST

Photo Caption: MAY BE FREED: If a motion is granted tomorrow by a Middlesex Superior Court judge, it would free Peter Limone, above, from prison. He was convicted in 1968. HERALD FILE PHOTO

**Load-Date:** January 4, 2001



## *Answers for energy crisis*

The Post and Courier (Charleston, SC)

May 7, 2001, Monday,

POST AND COURIER EDITION

Copyright 2001 The Post and Courier (Charleston, SC)

**Section:** A,

**Length:** 1145 words

### **Body**

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Energy conservation by federal agencies, ordered Thursday by President Bush, will not, by itself, go a long way toward preventing electricity shortages in California and the Northeast this summer. Nor will it meet the nation's long-term energy and environmental challenges. But it sets a good example.

As Mr. Bush said, "such conservation would save public money, protect the environment, and help to minimize shortages."

Particularly important is the president's directive that federal agencies in California be among the first energy users in the state to participate in "emergency load reductions," undertaken to reduce peak demand at critical times in order to avert blackouts.

The administration's conservation order follows the lead of California state and local governments, which cut power demand by up to 20 percent this winter. The New York Times reports California consumers are also cutting back, now that the higher price of energy has caught their attention.

But these short-term conservation measures may not be enough to get California through the summer without serious energy disruption. The administration is also considering some startling proposals to help meet peak demand in California this summer, according to the Times, including the supply of electrical power generated by one or more nuclear submarines.

Nuclear power is also likely to receive increased emphasis in the administration's long-term energy policy when it is unveiled later this year. However, experts have said the need is for small and medium size, efficient nuclear power generators that can compete economically with gas-fired generating plants, rather than the massive nuclear power plants built in past decades. It will take time to develop new technology. And it will take time to work through the difficult problem of disposing of nuclear waste.

The administration argues that in the long run the nation must solve the following multi-sided dilemma:

The growth in energy demand has begun to outstrip supply, with consequent rising prices. Conservation measures, including more energy-efficient cars, appliances and manufacturing methods, will fill only a part of the projected energy gap. Eliminating the remaining shortfall will require more energy supplies. But increasing the supply of

## Answers for energy crisis

traditional hydrocarbon energy sources will lead to an undesirable - and potentially dangerous - rising output of greenhouse gasses.

Finding a way out of this maze will not be easy. It will require short-term conservation and an environmentally responsible long-term supply strategy. Adjusting thermostats is a good place to begin.

## FBI credibility at stake

The FBI's role in the wrongful 30-year incarceration of a man for a murder he didn't commit was bad enough. A retired FBI agent's flippant attitude about this egregious miscarriage of justice was downright appalling. If the FBI is to overcome the damage to its reputation from a series of recent scandals, it must recommit itself to accountability - and fairness.

As The Boston Globe reported, some members of the House Committee on Government Reform apologized to Joseph Salvati Thursday after hearing conclusive testimony that he unfairly served three decades in prison because the FBI failed to present documented evidence, in its possession, that would have helped to exonerate him.

Yet **H. Paul Rico**, the former agent who wrote those reports but didn't turn them over to Mr. Salvati's attorneys, was unapologetic - even as he admitted he now is convinced that Mr. Salvati is, indeed, innocent of the organized-crime killing for which he was convicted and imprisoned. "What do you want, tears?" Mr. Rico asked the committee members.

When confronted with the fact that Mr. Salvati's wife, Marie, had to raise their four children alone, Mr. Rico responded: "It would probably be a nice movie or something, but I don't know."

No, this would not make a nice movie. Nor does it reflect nicely on the FBI. Departing FBI Director Louis J. Freeh acknowledged the need for further review in a written statement to the House committee: "These allegations that law enforcement personnel, including the FBI, 'turned a blind eye' to exculpatory information and allowed an innocent man to serve 30 years of a life sentence, are alarming and warrant thorough investigation."

The FBI also must answer for its lengthy failure to come forward with evidence in the 1963 Birmingham, Ala., church bombing that killed four little girls. That case finally produced a guilty verdict this week, but not without renewed doubts about the FBI's credibility, already reeling from an ongoing spy scandal.

The next FBI director must make a fresh start to restore the agency's credibility. The FBI's effectiveness as a law-enforcement organization depends upon it. Animal shelter in good hands

The Berkeley County animal shelter is under new management. It is now the Berkeley County SPCA, a transfer of the home for un-wanted animals from a government-run to a nonprofit operation. The move, as in Dorchester and Charleston counties, should be mutually beneficial.

The name recognition of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals should help bring in volunteers and donations in a way that was impossible for county government. The county will do its part by continuing to pay \$ 15,000 a month to run the shelter.

The SPCA staff will have a more direct hand in saving animals and controlling the population. The SPCA's mission dovetails with other nonprofit efforts, local rescue groups and the SPCA Adoption Center in Goose Creek.

The shelter will still be the depository for Berkeley County Animal Control, but euthanization is expected to decrease because the Berkeley County SPCA won't have to operate under the same restrictions as county government. The Moncks Corner shelter will now have expanded hours and services. Most important, the SPCA will have more flexibility in the number of days animals can be held, increasing the chances for adoption.

Though fees for animal adoption will go up, as reported by our Tyees Douglas, to between \$ 55 and \$ 75, that will presumably help save more animals in the long run. With county funding and nonprofit fund raising combined, the operation will have a better chance at expansion and effectively controlling animal births.

## Answers for energy crisis

Animal overpopulation remains a Lowcountry problem. Animal welfare groups and shelters struggle to get the message out that spaying and neutering is the responsible course. Lack of education and responsibility leads to crowded shelters and low adoption rates. In Berkeley County, only 20 percent of the thousands of animals abandoned or given up each year are adopted. The rest are euthanized.

The system, as it stands, simply cannot sustain the exponential increase in unclaimed animals. But through perseverance and SPCA management, the tri-county can more effectively deal with this problem.

**Load-Date:** May 8, 2001

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End of Document



## AOURND MIAMI-DADE

The Miami Herald

January 10, 2004 Saturday FINAL EDITION

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**Section:** METRO & STATE; Pg. 3B

**Length:** 464 words

**Byline:** From Herald Staff and Wire Services

### **Body**

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Former guest sues hotel over loss of rare pearls

A paleontologist credited with discovering the most complete Tyrannosaurus rex fossil ever found is suing a Miami hotel over a lost shipment of rare conch pearls, The Associated Press reported.

The suit said Susan Hendrickson, who discovered the dinosaur in South Dakota in 1990, never received the package of pearls shipped to her while she stayed at the Baymont Inn and Suites near Miami International Airport in July 2002.

Her attorney, Jonathan Cohen, said she usually sold the pearls, produced by the saltwater mollusk, to upscale jewelers. She had paid \$97,400 for the pearls in the Dominican Republic, and expected to make \$633,100, Cohen said.

According to the suit, the hotel received the package two days before her arrival. The suit said the hotel never told her about the package and told her it was gone when she demanded its return after she checked out.

The hotel filed a claim with its insurance company when Hendrickson demanded \$633,100, but Cohen said in March 2003, Gallagher Bassett Services denied the claim.

The hotel, its parent company, Baymont Inn and Suites, and the insurance company could not be reached for comment Friday night.

BROWNSVILLE

GUN VICTIM, 10,

TO BE BURIED TODAY

Jarobe Brooks, the 10-year-old boy who was killed by a stray bullet Jan. 3, will be buried today.

## AOURND MIAMI-DADE

The funeral is scheduled for 1 p.m. at Peaceful Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 2400 NW 68th St. Burial will follow at Dade Memorial Park, 1301 Opa-locka Blvd.

Jarobe was killed during a gunfight. Police are still looking for those involved.

HIALEAH

WOMAN SHOOTS MAN,

KILLS SELF, POLICE SAY

Police said a woman shot her live-in boyfriend, then killed herself Friday.

Roberto Cespede of 5322 W. 24th Ave. went to a neighbor's house at 8:24 a.m., bleeding and seeking help, police spokesman Jose Caragol said. Police found Clara Martinez, 63, dead. Cespede, 30, was in critical condition at Jackson Memorial Hospital Friday night.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

MURDER SUSPECT

FLOWN TO OKLAHOMA

A former FBI agent from Miami Shores accused in the 1981 mob-style killing of a Tulsa businessman is confined to a bed with heart problems and is "helpless" without assistance, his attorney said Friday.

**H. Paul Rico**, 78, wears a pacemaker, has had three bypass surgeries and takes nine medications each day to maintain his health, attorney Garvin Isaacs said.

Rico was taken Thursday to the Tulsa County Jail by private air ambulance from the Miami-Dade County Jail to answer charges of first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder in connection with the shooting in Tulsa of Roger Wheeler, owner of Miami's World Jai Alai.

Rico, who was World Jai Alai's security chief, is accused of supplying information on Wheeler to the hit man, who is serving a 15-year prison term.

**Load-Date:** August 21, 2005





## *AP Massachusetts News in Brief*

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

October 14, 2003, Tuesday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 1440 words

### **Body**

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Notorious gangster pleads guilty to racketeering charges tied to 10 murders

BOSTON (AP) - FBI mob informant Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi pleaded guilty to racketeering charges Tuesday as relatives of his victims listened to graphic details of 10 murders carried out by he and other members of the notorious Winter Hill Gang.

In a plea deal allowing him to avoid the death penalty for killings in Florida and Oklahoma, Flemmi will serve life in prison.

A leader in the gang that ran loan-sharking, drug and gambling rackets in the Boston area, Flemmi listened impassively as a federal prosecutor described the grisly killings.

Relatives of the victims who packed the courtroom in U.S. District Court were visibly shaken by the details. Some sobbed as they heard how their loved ones were strangled or shot in the head, then dumped into shallow graves by members of the gang, including Flemmi, gang leader James "Whitey" Bulger and hit man John Martorano.

After pleading guilty to 17 separate charges, Flemmi apologized.

"I'd like to extend my deepest apologies to the families, the victims, my family, the public at large and the court," he said. "I truly am sorry. I hope they forgive me."

Flemmi's sentencing is scheduled to be sentenced Jan. 27.

He struck a plea deal with prosecutors earlier this month after fingering his former FBI handler, **H. Paul Rico**, for allegedly helping to set up the 1981 mob murder of Oklahoma businessman Roger Wheeler.

Rico, 78, who retired from the FBI in 1975, was arrested in Florida last week in Wheeler's killing.

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Escaped sex offender apprehended

## AP Massachusetts News in Brief

BRIDGEWATER, Mass. (AP) - The attorney for a 40-year-old escapee from a sex offender treatment center said he escaped because he grew convinced legitimate attempts to prove he had been rehabilitated would never win him his freedom.

Bridgewater police arrested John McIntyre, who fled on Sunday night, after a brief foot chase ended in a back yard at about 7:30 a.m., Tuesday, police said.

"He was despairing. He was thinking he was never going to get out," Swomley said of McIntyre's state of mind.

Correction Commissioner Michael Maloney said McIntyre's escape was made possible when an officer on duty failed to react properly when an alarm sounded.

"The investigators have determined that the tower officer failed to follow procedure to notify the control room, the perimeter patrol officer, and to log the alarm," Maloney said at a press conference.

One guard at the Bridgewater facility has been removed from duty with pay pending a disciplinary hearing into the matter, prisons spokesman Justin Latini said. He did not give the guard's name and did not say when the hearing would be held.

McIntyre was arraigned Tuesday morning at Brockton District Court, where he pleaded innocent to escaping from a penal institution. Judge Richard Savignano ordered him held on \$1 million bail.

Bridgewater Detective Sgt. Christopher Delmonte said a town water department worker spotted McIntyre and called police.

Delmonte said McIntyre, who was disoriented as to his whereabouts, appeared to have been outside for an extended period of time.

McIntyre was civilly committed to the Massachusetts Treatment Center in 1984, at age 21, after he was charged with indecent assault and battery on a child under 14, rape and abuse of a child under 16, kidnapping and larceny.

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Body of one of two missing kayakers found off Cape Cod coast

CHATHAM, Mass. (AP) - As the Coast Guard and police searched for a kayaker missing for more than two days, the family of her companion came to grips with the discovery of their daughter's body off the coast of a lonely island near Cape Cod.

The Coast Guard found one kayaker's body at 11:50 a.m. Tuesday, four miles south of Monomoy Island, a federally protected bird refuge. State Police Sgt. James Plath said Chatham and state police tentatively identified it as the body of Mary Jagoda, 20, of Huntington, N.Y., based on physical characteristics including clothing and a tattoo.

Jagoda, a junior at Brandeis University, was the sole remaining child of Louis and Anna May Jagoda. Her brother, Jake, 24, an employee of Cantor Fitzgerald, was killed in the Sept. 11, 2001, attack on the World Trade Center. Another child died in infancy 20 years ago.

"We looked forward with excitement to what she was going to do in the future," Anna May Jagoda said of her daughter.

She praised local authorities for the effort that went into the search, despite its "devastating and horrible" end.

The Coast Guard and area police were still searching for another missing kayaker, Sarah Aranoff, 19, of Bethesda, Md., a student at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pa.

Coast Guard Petty Officer Jaimie Knife said the search was concentrated in the area where Jagoda was found.

## AP Massachusetts News in Brief

The two women started at a boat launch in Harwichport, paddling a pair of 8-foot plastic kayaks into foggy conditions on Sunday afternoon. A friend reported them missing later that day.

The Coast Guard found their capsized kayaks on Monday.

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## EMC buying Documentum in \$1.7 billion deal

BOSTON (AP) - EMC Corp. agreed to acquire management software company Documentum Inc. in a stock swap initially valued at \$1.7 billion, a bid to secure a top spot in the market for helping companies keep track of disparate information ranging from Web pages to X-rays.

Documentum shares surged \$4.12, or nearly 18 percent, to \$28.54 on the Nasdaq Stock Market, and EMC's shares fell \$1.11, or nearly 8 percent, to \$13.34 on the New York Stock Exchange. The drop in EMC stock reduced the value of the proposed acquisition to \$1.45 billion.

EMC stock has more than tripled in the past year.

"I think EMC's finance people knew it (EMC's stock) was overvalued and they went on a shopping spree and essentially got it (Documentum) for free," said Steve DuPlessie, senior analyst at Enterprise Storage Group, a research firm.

But EMC said Pleasanton, Calif.-based Documentum was a perfect fit for EMC's strategy of looking for growth on its software side - rather than from the big data-storage hardware devices it also sells. EMC purchased software company Legato Systems in July in a deal valued at \$1.2 billion, its first major purchase in years following a period of retrenchment, and said at the time another similarly sized deal was on the horizon.

Executives from the two companies touted their synergies in "information life cycle management" - industry buzzwords referring to companies' struggles to track the ever-expanding data that piles up in their systems in a variety of forms, from spreadsheets to medical records to audio files. The business is being fueled by government record-keeping mandates like the Sarbanes-Oxley law on corporate governance and the "HIPAA" medical privacy act.

In Documentum, EMC gets a market-leader that had \$227 million in sales last year, up 22 percent in a tough market. The company's software manages information from "cradle to grave," monitoring changes and keeping a kind of electronic paper trail.

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## Day game forces Red Sox to relocate fans

BOSTON (AP) - More than 400 fans who bought tickets to the rained-out fourth game of the American League Championship Series arrived at Fenway Park for the makeup Tuesday to find their seats covered by a tarp. They were given standing room spots instead.

During day games, the Red Sox cover two sections of the center field bleachers to improve the background for batters trying to see the ball as it comes out of the pitcher's hand. Tuesday's game was originally scheduled for Sunday night, so the 416 tickets were already sold when the game was postponed by rain.

Because the makeup started at 4 p.m., the Red Sox consulted with Major League Baseball and decided to cover the seats.

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"I think the Yankees felt strongly that, given the magnitude of the game, the seats should be covered," said Mike Dee, the Red Sox executive vice president of business affairs. "We reserved the right with Major League Baseball to remove the tarps in the 6:15 range."

That meant finding room at least temporarily for the fans in an already sold-out ballpark that is the smallest in the majors.

Carl Tousignant came from Manchester, N.H., and originally had fifth-row seats. He was relocated along with dozens of others to the right-field roof boxes and given a \$10 merchandise credit.

"They're great seats, and I'm stuck up here," he said. "It's the only option I had, or not come to the game."

**Load-Date:** October 15, 2003

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## *AP Massachusetts News in Brief*

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

October 9, 2003, Thursday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 1385 words

### **Body**

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Former Boston FBI agent arrested in connection with 1981 murder

BOSTON (AP) - A former FBI agent who handled high-profile mob informants in Boston was arrested Thursday and charged in the 1981 mob-related murder of a Tulsa, Okla., businessman, his lawyer said.

**H. Paul Rico**, 78, was arrested at his home near Miami and charged with murder and conspiracy to commit murder in the death of Roger Wheeler, the 55-year-old chairman of Tulsa-based Telex Corp., who was shot in the head after playing a round of golf at Southern Hills Country Club on May 27, 1981.

Investigators have said Rico provided John Martorano, a hit man for the Boston-based Winter Hill Gang, with information on Wheeler's schedule so he could be killed.

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. At the time of Wheeler's killing, Rico had retired from the FBI and was working as the head of security for World Jai Alai.

"He flat out categorically denies this," his Florida attorney, William Cagney III told The Associated Press. "He never assisted the Winter Hill Gang in trying to get inside information so they could ... do away with people."

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Prosecutors used unreliable witnesses, lawyers argue in former mayor's appeal

BOSTON (AP) - Prosecutors made up for a lack of direct evidence by using unreliable witnesses to convict former Providence, R.I., Mayor Vincent "Buddy" Cianci Jr. of corruption, his attorney argued Thursday before a federal appeals court.

The defense and prosecution each argued for 45 minutes before a three-judge panel of the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which took the case under advisement.

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Defense attorney John MacFadyen said former city tax official Joseph Pannone, who didn't testify but whose videotaped conversations with an FBI informant were played for the jury, was a "liar."

"They knew that he was an unreliable person and they didn't want to wrap their colors around that particular mast," MacFadyen said, charging that prosecutors kept Pannone off the witness stand to prevent the defense from cross-examining him.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Donald C. Lockhart countered that Pannone had refused to cooperate in an earlier corruption investigation and that's why prosecutors didn't press him to testify in Cianci's case.

The longest serving mayor in Providence's history, Cianci, 62, is 10 months into a five-year, four-month sentence at a federal prison at Fort Dix, N.J.

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#### Alleged hacker charged in scheme to unload options

BOSTON (AP) - In an alleged scheme a federal official described as a uniquely sophisticated combination of hacking, identity theft and securities fraud, a Pennsylvania teenager was accused Thursday of breaking into an online brokerage account and using it as a dumping ground for worthless stock options.

Federal prosecutors in Boston filed a criminal complaint against Van Dinh, a 19-year-old student from Phoenixville, Pa., alleging he committed securities fraud, mail and wire fraud and other computer and securities-related offenses. The Securities and Exchange Commission also filed a civil fraud lawsuit.

John Reed Stark, chief of the SEC's Office of Internet Enforcement, said most SEC Internet-related fraud investigations concern attempts to spread false information or, occasionally, insider trading. He described this case as an unusually complex attempt to create a market that did not otherwise exist.

Dinh made an initial appearance Thursday in U.S. District Court in Philadelphia and was released on his own recognizance pending a probable cause hearing set for Wednesday before a U.S. magistrate in Philadelphia. A phone message left at Dinh's home was not immediately returned.

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#### New England universities taking steps to head off baseball fan violence

AMHERST, Mass. (AP) - University of Massachusetts officials are blaming a small group of students for inciting rowdy crowds after Red Sox victories, and campus police there and at other New England schools say they're taking steps to prevent more outbursts.

Three students were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and rioting after the Red Sox beat the Yankees in the first game of the American League Championship Series on Wednesday. Another three students were arrested in connection with damage done on campus after Boston beat Oakland on Saturday.

"The primary agitators are a group of about 100 people who have a mob mentality," UMass police Chief Barbara O'Connor said Thursday. "It's become a game to them."

O'Connor said security patrols will be increased on campus for Thursday night's game. She estimated her department will spend about \$30,000 in overtime to step up security during the series.

In New Hampshire, two Plymouth State University students were arrested and charged with criminal mischief and fueling a bonfire following Monday night's Red Sox victory celebrations. Crowds also gathered at the University of New Hampshire, where one student was arrested on a disorderly conduct charge. At Keene State College in Keene, N.H., 150 Red Sox fans took to the streets after Wednesday night's win over the Yankees. College officials

## AP Massachusetts News in Brief

said police will have additional officers patrolling Thursday. At the University of Rhode Island, officials are threatening disciplinary action following a raucous, student-led celebration Wednesday night that left three classmates injured and four students under arrest.

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Reports: two priests questioned as friends of slaying suspect

FALMOUTH, Mass. (AP) - Investigators in the killing of a Falmouth man are examining the relationships two priests had with the convicted sex offender accused in the murder, according to published reports.

Paul Nolin, 39, a convicted child rapist, is charged in the Sept. 20 slaying of Jonathan Wessner, 20, an aspiring golf pro from Falmouth.

Earlier this week, the Fall River Diocese suspended the Rev. Bernard Kelly, a priest who gave Nolin a job as a handyman at St. Joseph's Church.

John Kearns, a spokesman for the diocese, said Kelly was suspended after the district attorney's office sought to question him.

The Cape Cod Times reported last week that another priest, the Rev. Donald Turlick, of the Bridgeport, Conn., diocese, was also being questioned. Turlick, a clinical psychologist, treated Nolin at the state's treatment center for the sexually dangerous in Bridgewater and later rented an apartment in his home in Mashpee to Nolin. Turlick told the newspaper that he agreed to be Nolin's mentor when he left prison.

Nolin's attorney, Robert Nolan, said prosecutors have pressured Kelly to answer questions about Nolin, possibly in violation of priest privilege.

Nolan said Turlick and Kelly were both friends of Nolin.

Neither Turlick nor Kelly could be reached for comment on Thursday. Turlick has a nonpublished telephone number. Kelly is no longer living at St. Joseph's rectory and his new address could not be determined.

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Cardinal's summer residence sold for \$2.55 million

BOURNE, Mass. (AP) - The Boston archdiocese's waterfront residence once frequented by Cardinal Bernard Law has been sold for \$2.55 million to a blind trust.

The Buzzards Bay property was sold Aug. 29, before a tentative \$85 million settlement with 550 clergy sex abuse victims was reached, and the proceeds will not be used for the settlement, a spokesman for the archdiocese told The Associated Press Thursday.

The Rev. Christopher Coyne said the proceeds will go to the Boston Clergy Retirement/Disability Trust, of which Archbishop Sean O'Malley is the trustee. That trust acquired the home several years earlier from Regina Cleri Inc., the archdiocese's assisted living home for retired priests, which had owned it for a decade.

The sale was first reported Thursday by the Standard-Times of New Bedford.

"It was to be used as a kind of summer vacation residence for retired priests, but it was used mainly by Cardinal Law in his time as archbishop," Coyne said.

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Law resigned as archbishop in December after criticism of his handling of the clergy abuse scandal. O'Malley succeeded him in July.

**Load-Date:** October 10, 2003

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## *AP Massachusetts News in Brief*

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

October 10, 2003, Friday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 1318 words

### **Body**

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Bad goes to worse in FBI informant scandal

BOSTON (AP) - Boston's FBI scandal was already disturbing enough: agents taking bribes, shrugging off gangsters' crimes, and shielding informants from police. Now, it has turned almost unthinkable: A retired agent is charged with aiding a mob hit on a reputable businessman.

"I think this does take things a step further, despite all the problems the FBI has had," said Ronald Kessler, a journalist and historian of the FBI. "I think murder is the ultimate crime."

The arrest of ***H. Paul Rico*** is likely to complicate FBI efforts to shake off its legacy of missteps with violent mob informants in Boston, said several experts on the bureau. The arrest could further dent the agency's reputation and supply more fodder for roughly \$2 billion in lawsuits accusing the government of wrongdoing in the scandal.

"This is an ugly affair in the FBI's history, probably the worst," said Allan May, who writes for the Web site Americanmafia.com. "I think the most important thing for the FBI to do is to deal with this and get this thing behind it."

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Fans willing to do almost anything to land Fenway seat

BOSTON (AP) - So what would YOU do to land a ticket to Saturday's Red Sox-Yankees, Pedro-Roger, Beantown-Big Apple showdown?

Paint someone's house? Plow their driveway after each snowstorm? Wear pigtails? Wait outside Fenway Park through the night? Pay \$1,500?

As the Boston Red Sox prepare to host the New York Yankees for Game 3 of the American League Championship Series on Saturday, there was almost no price too high - or too weird - for the truly faithful to pay for one of the cramped, wooden seats at the storied park.

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Any Yankees-Red Sox ticket is a hot commodity in Boston, where the hometown team plays in the smallest park in the Majors, with an official capacity of under 34,000.

But Saturday's game is the playoffs and a marquee pitching matchup between Boston's Pedro Martinez and famed Red Sox defector Roger Clemens for New York. And this is a wildly popular Red Sox team that has people all over New England shaving their heads, "cowboy-ing up" and believing that maybe, just maybe, this time they won't have to wait 'till next year.

"It's totally worth it," said Joseph DeTufo, 42, of Boston, who settled in outside Fenway on Friday night hoping the team would release a few last-minute tickets before the Saturday afternoon game. "Are you kidding me? The excitement in there. There's nothing like it. If I had \$1,000, I'd do it that way. But I'm not rich."

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## UMass dumps race-based point system for accepting applicants

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP) - The University of Massachusetts will no longer award points to applicants based on their race, but will still consider a student's minority status when deciding whether he or she should be admitted to the Amherst campus.

Michael Gargano, vice chancellor for student affairs and campus life, said the campus decided last month to change its policy because of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling in June that struck down the University of Michigan's point system for undergraduate admissions. The system gave more weight to an applicant's race than to some measures of academic performance.

The court said colleges still can consider race as long as it isn't the only factor in admitting a person.

"We will be using race as a consideration," Gargano said Friday. "We will be looking at each applicant as an individual."

Along with minority status, the school awarded points to a student for categories including SAT scores, high school grades and grade point average. None of those categories will be awarded points any more.

"You need to be consistent with how you evaluate an applicant," Gargano said. "If we're not going to use points for race, we're not going to use them for anything else."

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## Romney files bill to keep federal wildlife money coming to state

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP) - Under threat of losing millions of federal dollars, Gov. Mitt Romney has filed a bill to redirect hunting and fishing license fees from the state's general fund to wildlife protection programs.

Federal officials last month announced a crackdown on how the state uses its share of federal excise taxes on guns and fishing tackle, which would amount to about \$4.7 million this year.

To receive the money, states must spend hunting and fishing license fees only on the preservation of wildlife and habitat. But lawmakers this year voted to divert the money to the general fund to plug the state's budget gap.

In addition to wildlife preservation, Massachusetts has in the past used a portion of the federal aid to support endangered species, marine fisheries and riverways protection programs.

Officials from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service sent the state a letter on Sept. 26 saying Massachusetts was no longer eligible for the federal money, and gave officials 30 days to start fixing the problem or forgo the cash.

## AP Massachusetts News in Brief

Romney's bill, filed Thursday in the House of Representatives, calls for the restoration of any money that was taken from the Inland Fish and Game Fund, and seeks to reverse legislation that eliminated the dedicated environmental account.

"The governor and Legislature want to fix this problem," said Ellen Herzfelder, secretary of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. "We have to make sure we get it done, and we are definitely taking the right steps to do it."

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## New Bedford schools plan to offer student drug testing

NEW BEDFORD, Mass. (AP) - City schools plan to offer a program for parents to test their children for illegal drugs, the mayor announced Thursday, a day after federal drug officials called the city a heroin distribution center.

If the free program is adopted, New Bedford would be the first school system in the state to test its students for drugs, city lawyers and the state Department of Public Health told the Standard-Times of New Bedford.

"I firmly believe that one of the important roles for our government is to attempt to provide the greatest level of support to the efforts of families in our community who are trying to raise their children in today's society," Mayor Frederick Kalisz Jr. said.

Under New Bedford's proposed guidelines, enrollment in the program is not mandatory and parents may withdraw at any time. Once parents enroll their children in the drug-testing regimen, the students would have to submit to random urine tests at the city's public health clinic.

An independent contractor would analyze the urine and contact parents with the results, and parents will receive a booklet with contacts for recovery programs. They would also have access to an anonymous phone hot line where counselors can outline treatment options.

The test results would not be turned over to school officials or the police, and students would not be punished, Kalisz said.

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## Bishop meets with members of reeling church

WOODS HOLE, Mass. (AP) - Bishop George W. Coleman of the Fall River Diocese met with parishioners of St. Joseph's Church, a congregation reeling from allegations their pastor befriended and hired as a church handyman a convicted rapist who now faces murder charges.

Some parishioners who attended the meeting said they were disappointed they didn't get more answers from Coleman about the connection of the priest, the Rev. Bernard R. Kelly, to Paul R. Nolin Jr., who is charged with killing Jonathan Wessner.

"Nothing happened there. Nothing was explained. No truth was shared," said Karen Perry after leaving the closed, 90-minute meeting. "Why bring us all out here?"

Coleman placed Kelly on indefinite administrative leave this week after police notified the diocese they had questioned Kelly in the case. Coleman said Kelly was suspended due to "the seriousness of the inquiry."

**Load-Date:** October 11, 2003

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## *AP Massachusetts News In Brief*

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

February 11, 2004, Wednesday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 926 words

**Byline:** By The Associated Press

### **Body**

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Massachusetts lawmakers begin debate on historic vote on gay marriage

BOSTON (AP) - Massachusetts lawmakers, thrust into the epicenter of the national debate on gay rights by a landmark ruling by the state's highest court, began a debate Wednesday on a proposal to rewrite the state constitution to ban same-sex marriages.

The debate began with consideration of an unexpected amendment, proposed at the last minute by House Speaker Thomas Finneran, that would ban gay marriage but allow the Legislature to adopt civil unions. That amendment was defeated by a 100-98 vote.

The Supreme Judicial Court ruled 4-3 in November that it was unconstitutional to ban gay couples from marriage. Finneran railed against the judges Wednesday, accusing them of libeling the Legislature in their ruling by stating that lawmakers had historically shown animus toward gay and lesbian citizens.

"There was a libel within that decision," Finneran said. "Long before it became politically fashionable, the Massachusetts Legislature was on record saying that discrimination in the basics of life would not be tolerated."

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Kerry called for U.N. control of troops in 1970 interview

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) - Democratic presidential front-runner John Kerry called for United Nations control of the U.S. military in an interview 34 years ago with Harvard University's student newspaper.

Kerry was a long-shot congressional candidate in Massachusetts when he was interviewed by The Crimson in February 1970. He was also a 26-year-old Vietnam veteran fighting against the continuing war.

He described himself as "an internationalist" and said he wanted "to almost eliminate CIA activity."

## AP Massachusetts News In Brief

"I'd like to see our troops dispersed through the world only at the directive of the United Nations," Kerry said.

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Ridge says U.S. will keep DNC convention safe

BOSTON (AP) - Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said Wednesday that his agency is taking "extraordinary measures to protect and provide security" for the Democratic National Convention in July.

Ridge, speaking to the press after an appearance at Harvard Business School, said his agency will provide whatever resources and staff are necessary for the convention in Boston. The DNC as well as the Republican convention in New York have been dubbed "National Special Security Events," the nation's highest security designation.

"The resources and the people will be available to work with Mayor Menino and Governor Romney and everybody else," he said. "They'll make sure that everybody has a good time, and we'll make sure that the maximum amount of security is brought to the event."

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Officer shot serving warrant; vest stops bullet

BOSTON (AP) - A Boston police officer was shot by a drug suspect early Tuesday, but was saved from serious injury by his bulletproof vest.

Officer Kevin Ford was part of a team executing a search warrant for drugs and firearms in the city's Roxbury neighborhood around 6:05 a.m. when James Nolan allegedly shot him, authorities said.

Nolan, 25, pleaded innocent at his arraignment Wednesday to charges of assault with intent to murder, assaulting a police officer, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, possession of marijuana with intent to distribute and weapons charges.

He was ordered held on \$50,000 bail and is scheduled to appear again on March 10.

The bullet hit Ford, 49, around the belt line, where it was stopped by his vest, said Boston police Lt. Robert O'Toole.

"It would feel like ... getting hit by a Pedro Martinez fastball," he said.

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Revere man to be cleared in brother's killing

BOSTON (AP) - A Revere man who was charged in the decapitation murder of his brother is expected to be exonerated through a confession made by a suspected serial killer.

William Leyden's bail was reduced from \$100,000 to personal recognizance Tuesday after a prosecutor told a judge that another man had confessed to killing Leyden's brother in 2001.

Assistant District Attorney Mark Lee said Leyden is scheduled to return to court on March 9, when the state will be ready to drop a first-degree murder charge against him in connection with the March 2001 beheading of his brother, John "Jackie" Leyden, of East Boston.

## AP Massachusetts News In Brief

"The commonwealth became aware of information from a second individual who claimed to have killed John Leyden," Lee told Superior Court Judge Peter Lauriat.

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Mobster's interview could be made public

WASHINGTON (AP) - Liberated by the January death of rogue FBI agent ***H. Paul Rico***, a Congressional committee is expected to release an interview with a Boston mobster that should shed light on the FBI's use of underworld figures as informants.

The House Government Reform Committee, which has been investigating the FBI's cozy relationship with its mob informants, has been unable to make public a staff interview with "Cadillac Frank" Salemme, a former member of Boston's Winter Hill Gang.

The committee has scheduled a vote for Thursday, and is expected to release the interview transcript.

Salemme, who is in the witness protection program, was interviewed in secret last summer. But the Justice Department and prosecutors in Oklahoma asked that the transcript be kept secret so it wouldn't hurt their case against Rico, who was facing a murder charge in Tulsa.

The case came to an abrupt end last month when Rico died of natural causes, and federal authorities gave the committee permission to make Salemme's interview public.

**Load-Date:** February 12, 2004



**APOLOGY ISSUED BY PANEL;  
MAN WAS WRONGLY JAILED FOR 30 YEARS**

Belleville News-Democrat

May 4, 2001 Friday

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**Section:** LOCAL: NATIONAL; Pg. 5A

**Length:** 329 words

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## **Body**

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WASHINGTON -- 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, 66, 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.

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, whom he briefly represented in 1970, when Barboza signed an affidavit recanting his story. "I believe the testimony was furnished."



APOLOGY ISSUED BY PANEL;MAN WAS WRONGLY JAILED FOR 30 YEARS

Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Conn., told Salvati he was "profoundly sorry" for what happened.

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."

**Load-Date:** November 28, 2001

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## [Appeals court hears arguments in suits against FBI](#)

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

March 2, 2004, Tuesday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 629 words

**Byline:** By DENISE LAVOIE, AP Legal Affairs Writer

**Dateline:** BOSTON

### **Body**

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A federal appeals court heard arguments Tuesday on whether to dismiss lawsuits filed by two families who claim the FBI's corrupt relationship with gangsters James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi contributed to the murders of their loved ones.

The two lawsuits, brought by the families of Oklahoma businessman Roger Wheeler and John McIntyre of Quincy, were dismissed last year by a federal judge who found they were filed too late.

The suits claim the FBI contributed to the deaths of Wheeler and McIntyre by giving the two gangsters free rein to commit crimes because they were also federal informants who provided the FBI with information on the Mafia.

Lawyers for the U.S. Department of Justice argued before the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that the families should have known by 1998 that FBI agents may have played a role in the killings because of widespread publicity at the time about the FBI's improper relationship with the gangsters.

But lawyers for the Wheeler and McIntyre families argued they had no proof because the FBI repeatedly denied any involvement.

The Federal Tort Claims Act requires that claims against the federal government must be filed within two years of the plaintiff's injury, or two years after they should have known they were injured.

The McIntyres filed their claim in May 2000, while the Wheeler family filed its claim in May 2001.

Attorney Frank Libby Jr., who represents the Wheelers, argued that former FBI Agent John Connolly Jr., and his supervisor, John Morris, "allowed the Bulger and Flemmi group to operate essentially with impunity."

The freedom to commit crimes without fear of being prosecuted "emboldened" Bulger and Flemmi to arrange the Wheeler's killing, Libby said.

Wheeler was shot in 1981 outside an Oklahoma country club by a hit man for Bulger and Flemmi.

## Appeals court hears arguments in suits against FBI

Flemmi, who pleaded guilty in January for his role in 10 murders, including the killings of Wheeler and McIntyre, admitted that Wheeler was killed because he suspected that the Bulger gang was skimming profits from his company, World Jai Alai.

In October, retired FBI Agent **H. Paul Rico** was charged in Oklahoma with helping Bulger and Flemmi arrange Wheeler's murder. Rico, 78, died shortly after pleading innocent to the charge.

Deputy Assistant Attorney General Jeffrey Bucholtz said the Justice Department was not defending what the FBI did in the Wheeler case.

"Roger Wheeler was an innocent victim of Bulger and Flemmi and Connolly," Bucholtz said. But, he added, statutes of limitations "serve a valid public interest."

McIntyre disappeared in 1984 after giving some information about the Bulger gang's crimes to the FBI. His body was found in a shallow grave in Boston in 2000.

William Christie, an attorney for McIntyre's family, told the three-judge panel that the FBI initially told the family McIntyre was alive and living as a fugitive, and later insisted it had no information on the circumstances of his death.

Christie said that in early 1998, the family had heard "nothing more than a cacophony of rumors" about what had happened to McIntyre. Some time later, Christie said, the family found out that FBI agents had leaked McIntyre's identity to Bulger and Flemmi.

But Richard Olderman, a prosecutor for the Justice Department, said the McIntyre family had enough evidence of the FBI's involvement by April 1998 to file the preliminary claim for their lawsuit.

When the family finally filed their claim in May 2000, it was a month too late, a federal judge ruled last year.

The appeals court took the cases under advisement and did not indicate when it would issue its ruling.

Editor's Note: Denise Lavoie is a Boston-based reporter covering the courts and legal issues.

**Load-Date:** March 3, 2004



## [Appeals court restores lawsuit against FBI, dismisses another](#)

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

May 10, 2004, Monday, BC cycle

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**Byline:** By KEN MAGUIRE, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** BOSTON

### **Body**

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A federal appeals court ruled Monday that a lawsuit claiming the FBI's corrupt relationship with mob informants James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi contributed to the death of a Quincy man can go forward.

The family of John McIntyre sued the federal government in May 2000, saying the FBI was responsible for his death because it gave the two gangsters free rein to commit crimes while they were also federal informants.

McIntyre disappeared in 1984 after he gave the FBI information about Bulger's involvement in an attempted arms shipment to the Irish Republican Army. His body was found in a shallow grave in January 2000 after Kevin Weeks, a former enforcer in Bulger's Winter Hill Gang, led investigators to the site.

The case - along with another lawsuit filed by the family of alleged Winter Hill Gang murder victim and Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler - was dismissed last year by a federal judge who said the families waited too long to file their lawsuits.

The 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned the McIntyre dismissal Monday.

"It takes a great step in the direction of fairness and accountability," said McIntyre family attorney Jeffrey Denner.

In the same ruling, the three-judge panel upheld the lower court's dismissal of the Wheeler lawsuit.

The ruling hinges on a federal law that requires claims against the government to be filed within two years of the plaintiff's injury, or two years after they should have known they were injured.

The McIntyres filed their lawsuit on May 25, 2000. Lawyers for the U.S. Department of Justice argued that the family should have known by May 1998 that FBI agents played a role in McIntyre's death because of widespread publicity at the time about the FBI's cozy relationship with Bulger and Flemmi.

But the panel said the FBI's exact role in his disappearance was unclear until June 1998 - which would mean the case was filed inside the two-year limit.

## Appeals court restores lawsuit against FBI, dismisses another

The court said the family's first indication likely came during the trial of mobster "Cadillac Frank" Salemme, when Quincy police officer Richard Bergeron testified about McIntyre's cooperation with the FBI and subsequent disappearance.

Bergeron testified that he arranged a meeting for McIntyre with the FBI after McIntyre told him Bulger was involved in a shipment of nearly 200 guns to the IRA that was stopped off the Irish coast in 1984. McIntyre was an engineer on the ship, an Ipswich-based trawler, the Valhalla. Bulger was never charged.

"As best we can tell, Bergeron's testimony was the first piece of evidence presented in the Salemme proceedings that provided direct information about McIntyre's disappearance," the 1st Circuit wrote in its ruling.

Denner praised the ruling.

"Making mistakes is one thing, not being accountable for them and hiding behind technicalities is another," he said.

Department of Justice spokesman Charles Miller declined to comment on the ruling. "We're going to have to review the court's decision before we can say anything," he said. An FBI spokesman in Boston declined to comment.

Flemmi pleaded guilty in January for his role in 10 murders, including the killings of Wheeler and McIntyre. Bulger fled a pending indictment in 1995 and remains a fugitive, wanted in connection with 21 murders.

Wheeler, owner of World Jai Alai, was shot in 1981 outside a Tulsa country club by John Martorano, a hit man for Bulger and Flemmi.

The Wheeler family sued in 2001, but the appeals court upheld the lower court's dismissal, saying each family member should have known in 1998 that the FBI's actions likely contributed to the murder.

"Had the Wheelers inquired further, the requisite facts were present in the Boston and Oklahoma television and press coverage to allow a reasonable person to infer a casual connection between the FBI's actions and Roger Wheeler's murder," the appeals court wrote.

Last October, retired FBI Agent ***H. Paul Rico*** was charged in Oklahoma with helping Bulger and Flemmi arrange Wheeler's murder. Rico, 78, died shortly after pleading innocent. Rico was security chief at World Jai Alai in Florida at the time of the slaying.

Murder charges were filed in March 2001 in Tulsa County against Flemmi, Bulger and Martorano. Martorano pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and received a 15-year prison term for carrying out the hit on Wheeler.

**Load-Date:** May 11, 2004



## [Appeals Court Rules Federal Judge Can Be Tried on Bribery Charges](#)

The Associated Press

July 12, 1982, Monday, AM cycle

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**Section:** Domestic News

**Length:** 517 words

**Dateline:** ATLANTA

### **Body**

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A federal appeals court ruled Monday that U.S. District Judge Alcee L. Hastings of Miami can be prosecuted on charges of conspiracy and obstruction of justice by allegedly soliciting a bribe.

The 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected Hastings' argument that he must be spared from prosecution unless he either resigns or is removed from office by impeachment.

The appeals court also rejected Hastings' argument that the principal of separation of powers prohibits the executive branch from prosecuting an active federal judge in connection with his official acts.

The appeals court said Hastings' argument "would be outweighed by the tremendous harm that the rule would cause to another treasured value of our constitutional system: no man in this country is so high that he is above the law."

"This is the first I've heard about it," Hastings said when contacted by The Associated Press Monday evening.

Hastings said he believed the decision could be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, but added: "That's up to my attorneys."

He referred other questions to Terence J. Anderson, a University of Miami law professor who argued the appeal.

Anderson, an expert on constitutional law, said he would ask for a stay of the ruling, then request a hearing before all 12 judges of the 11th Circuit. If that fails, Anderson said he will ask the Supreme Court to hear the case.

Hastings, a federal judge for the Southern District of Florida, was indicted last December by a federal grand jury in Miami on charges of conspiracy to commit bribery and obstruction of justice.

Indicted along with Hastings was his friend, Washington, D.C., lawyer William A. Borders Jr., a former president of National Bar Association who worked on the finance committee in former President Carter's re-election campaign.

Last fall, a panel of Hastings' colleagues accepted the judge's offer to reassign his caseload, but Hastings still receives his salary of more than \$70,000 a year.

## Appeals Court Rules Federal Judge Can Be Tried on Bribery Charges

Borders was convicted by a jury earlier this year and was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Edward T. Gignoux on May 6 to the maximum penalty of four, five-year prison terms and fined \$35,000. Borders is appealing the verdict.

Prosecutors contended that Borders solicited a bribe from an undercover federal agent posing as a convicted felon. Prosecutors said the bribe was to be in return for a reduction in the sentences of two convicted racketeers and the return of \$845,000 in forfeited assets.

Former FBI agent **H. Paul Rico** testified at Borders' trial that he paid Borders \$25,000 on Sept. 19, 1981, as the first installment of the payoff.

Hastings subsequently ordered the return of the \$845,000 to the Romano brothers, but he did not reduce their three-year sentences for 1981 convictions on mail fraud, tax evasion and racketeering charges.

Gignoux, who is from Maine, was assigned to preside at Borders' trial after Miami judges excused themselves from the case. Borders was tried in Atlanta because of excessive pretrial publicity in Miami.

Hastings became the first black federal judge in Florida's history when he was appointed to the bench in 1979.

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End of Document



## AROUND MIAMI-DADE

The Miami Herald

January 21, 2004 Wednesday FINAL EDITION Correction Appended

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**Section:** METRO & STATE; Pg. 3B

**Length:** 894 words

**Byline:** Herald Staff

### **Body**

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Passenger detained after bomb comment

Authorities last weekend arrested a European woman they say told security screeners at Miami International Airport three times that she had bombs in her carry-on luggage. Samantha Marson, 21, was charged with making a false bomb threat.

According to police, on Saturday evening she placed her luggage on the security belt at Concourse A and told screeners: "Hey, be careful, I have three bombs in here."

When asked to repeat what she had said, Marson twice made the same statement, police said.

No bombs were found. She is being held at Miami-Dade County Jail and has a Feb. 6 court date.

Various news outlets reported that Marson was a British citizen. The British tabloids caught on quickly, reporting that she was in the United States for a three-month stay with her American boyfriend.

The Sun's website displayed Marson's photo and an "exclusive" story. The headline: You idiot.

MIAMI-DADE

CHARGES DROPPED

IN PROTESTER TRIAL

A Miami-Dade judge on Tuesday dropped charges in the first trial related to a demonstrator arrested during November's Free Trade Area of the Americas meetings after a police officer failed to show up and testify.

County Judge Rosa Figarola dropped the misdemeanor charges against Ernesto Longo after one of the two subpoenaed police officers failed to appear, but she said prosecutors could refile the charges.



## AROUND MIAMI-DADE

Longo, 34, of Hollywood, was arrested Nov. 21 by Miami-Dade police on charges of failure to obey a lawful police order and refusal to disperse.

If convicted, he could have been sentenced to a maximum of 60 days in jail, six months probation and \$500 fine.

State attorney's spokesman Ed Griffith said prosecutors haven't decided whether to refile the charges.

Prosecutor Bart Armstrong asked the judge to reschedule the trial after Miami-Dade Lt. Jeffrey Schmidlinger, who had issued an order for protesters to disperse, failed to appear in court.

The judge refused.

Officer Christopher Moon, who had arrested Longo, came to the courtroom.

A police spokesman said a supervisor had told Schmidlinger he had been given a standby subpoena and wasn't told to be at court. Griffith said the officer had been told to appear.

MIAMI

REPORTS OF ASSAULT

IN CUSTODY PROBED

Jail authorities in Miami said Tuesday that they were looking into allegations that a former FBI agent was assaulted before his extradition to Tulsa, Okla., where he died last week facing murder charges involving World Jai Alai of Miami.

The results of an autopsy into the cause of **H. Paul Rico**'s death at a Tulsa hospital late Friday are pending, Tulsa officials said.

Even before Rico's death, the Miami-Dade County Jail was investigating reports by his attorney that the ailing 78-year-old was assaulted Dec. 5 while in custody, jail spokeswoman Janelle Hall said.

"We are reviewing his file and investigating and seeing if there were any other records of assault" on him, Hall said.

Rico's attorney, Garvin Isaacs, said in court filings that his client suffered hallucinations after the alleged assault.

A psychiatrist who examined Rico in Oklahoma found him competent but with little memory of the alleged attack.

MIAMI-DADE

SUSPECT IN BANK

ROBBERIES ARRESTED

A man allegedly responsible for a string of bank robberies in Miami-Dade and Broward counties has been arrested by a law enforcement task force, authorities announced Tuesday.

Reginald Watkins, 44, robbed 10 banks between Oct. 29 to Dec. 26, police said. The banks were located in Miami Shores, North Miami, Surfside, North Miami Beach, Hollywood, Miami and unincorporated Miami-Dade County.

So far, Watkins has been charged with six counts of strong-arm robbery and one count of possession of a controlled substance, but more charges are pending.

UPPER EASTSIDE

PLAN WOULD LIMIT

## AROUND MIAMI-DADE

## BUILDINGS' HEIGHT

Miami planning and zoning staff will propose an ordinance that could limit buildings along much of Biscayne Boulevard to no more than eight stories.

The ordinance, which would cover the boulevard between 36th and 88th streets, will be presented during tonight's meeting of the city's Planning Advisory Board, which gives recommendations to the city commission.

The meeting, which will include other items on the agenda, will begin at 7 p.m. in commission chambers at City Hall, 3500 Pan American Dr.

## MIAMI

## POLICE FIND MAN

## DEAD IN CAR

Miami police are investigating the shooting death of a man found dead in a white Ford Crown Victoria on Northwest 11th Avenue between 38th and 39th streets Tuesday night.

An officer was patrolling the area about 10:30 p.m. when she heard several gunshots. After a pursuit involving police dogs and a helicopter, two men were apprehended.

Police say the gunshot victim had been hit at least once in the torso. He was taken to Jackson Memorial Hospital where he was pronounced dead. Police did not identify the victim or the two men in custody.

## OPA-LOCKA

## MEETING TARGETING

## JUNKYARDS CANCELED

An Opa-locka City Commission meeting on junk and wrecker yards was canceled.

The meeting, scheduled for Tuesday night, sought to extend for 90 days a one-year moratorium on new applications for automotive junkyards, wrecking yards and storage facilities.

The proposals also sought to change laws that enacted a one-year moratorium on all applications for auto-related businesses and city thrift stores.

The commission decided to let the one-year moratorium expire, City Clerk Deborah Irby said.

## Notes

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Correction ran January 22, 2004; see end of text.

## Correction

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A brief item in some editions of Wednesday's B section incorrectly reported who dropped charges against a demonstrator arrested at the Free Trade Area of the Americas conference. Prosecutors dropped charges when a witness failed to appear and County Judge Rosa Figarola refused to delay the case. They now have the option to refile charges at a later date.

**Correction-Date:** January 22, 2004

## Graphic

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photo: Samantha Marson (a), Ernesto Longo (a)

**Load-Date:** August 21, 2005

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End of Document



## AROUND MIAMI-DADE

The Miami Herald

January 14, 2004 Wednesday FINAL EDITION

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**Section:** METRO & STATE; Pg. 3B

**Length:** 499 words

**Byline:** Herald Staff

### **Body**

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2 national parks top group's endangered list

Two of South Florida's national parks made the top of an environmental group's list of endangered parks for 2004.

The National Parks Conservation Association put Everglades National Park on the top 10 list for the sixth straight year, citing bureaucratic delays in a number of restoration projects and Florida's softening of water quality standards.

Biscayne National Park also made the list because of concerns about overfishing, urban pollution and sea grass loss caused by boat groundings.

The list, issued annually since 1999, assesses the nation's 389 parks for ones the association considers in the "gravest danger."

MIAMI

THREE ARRESTED

AFTER CAR CRASH

Miami police arrested three car theft suspects who allegedly took a joyride through the streets of Little Havana before crashing a stolen car into another vehicle Tuesday afternoon.

The car was crashed into a sport utility vehicle at 4:25 p.m. at Beacom Boulevard and Southwest Sixth Street, police said. The suspects ran from the crash toward a nearby residential neighborhood, where police captured them.

"Police officers who were in the area got reports of guys running through yards," said Detective Delrish Moss. "They spotted them and chased them on foot."

## AROUND MIAMI-DADE

## PALM BEACH

## BROWARD MAN IN JAIL,

## ACCUSED IN PLOT

Prosecutors unsealed an indictment Tuesday against a former associate of the man accused of plotting to detonate a "dirty bomb" in the United States, thwarting his attempts to seek refuge in another country.

Adham Hassoun, 41, of Sunrise, is accused of illegally possessing a gun when he was arrested in 2002 for overstaying his visa. Hassoun was held Tuesday at the Palm Beach County jail.

Hassoun has said he has not had contact with Jose Padilla, the "dirty bomb" suspect, since he helped fund a trip Padilla made to Egypt to study Islam in 1998.

## NORTH MIAMI

## CITY VOTES TO ACCEPT

## GRANT TO CLEAN DUMP

The North Miami City Council has voted to accept a Miami-Dade County grant of nearly \$50 million to clean up the former Munisport toxic waste dump, which will be the future site of the Biscayne Landing development.

The 190-acre development, east of Biscayne Boulevard and south of FIU's campus at 151st Street, calls for at least 4,800 condominiums, as well as a hotel, a town center with shops, and parks.

Work on the cleanup is the responsibility of developer Michael Swerdlow, under the supervision and inspection of county and state agencies.

The agreement must now be approved by the Miami-Dade Commission.

## ELSEWHERE

## EX-FBI AGENT IN JAIL

## FOUND COMPETENT

A request for a competency evaluation for **H. Paul Rico**, a former FBI agent accused in a 1981 Tulsa murder, has been withdrawn.

Rico, 78, has been staying in the medical center at the Tulsa County Jail since being transferred Thursday from the Miami-Dade County Jail.

In December, a competency evaluation was requested when Rico hallucinated after being assaulted in the Florida jail. A two-hour examination this weekend found Rico to be competent.

**Load-Date:** August 21, 2005



## AROUND SOUTH FLORIDA

The Miami Herald

January 18, 2004 Sunday FINAL EDITION

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**Section:** METRO & STATE; Pg. 3B

**Length:** 388 words

**Byline:** Herald Staff

### **Body**

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Ex-FBI agent facing murder charges dies

A retired FBI agent accused of helping his former mob informants arrange the murder of a Tulsa businessman died a week after he was transferred from a Miami-Dade jail to Oklahoma to face charges, a hospital spokeswoman said Saturday.

**H. Paul Rico**, 78, died late Friday, a few hours after a Tulsa County judge put the murder case on hold pending a psychological evaluation to determine if Rico was competent to stand trial.

The cause of Rico's death was not immediately released. He had been hospitalized since Wednesday.

His family said he had congestive heart failure and had lost 53 pounds since his arrest Oct. 9 in Florida, where he had been living.

Rico was accused of helping arrange the 1981 murder of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler, chairman of Telex Corp. and owner of World Jai Alai in Miami, where Rico worked as security chief after leaving the FBI.

During his arraignment Wednesday, conducted by video feed from the Tulsa County jail, Rico sat in a wheelchair and occasionally moaned but said nothing.

Isaacs said during that hearing that Rico, who had a pacemaker, was disoriented after being beaten Dec. 5 by an unknown assailant in the Miami-Dade County Jail.

Tulsa County prosecutors had questioned the assault allegation, saying an improper dose of medication may have been responsible for bruising on Rico's body. THE KEYS

BOY, 8, STRUCK AND

KILLED BY CAR ON U.S. 1

## AROUND SOUTH FLORIDA

An 8-year-old Miami-Dade boy was killed Friday night when he ran in front of a car driving northbound on U.S. 1 in the Keys, Florida Highway Patrol said.

The Aries family had just returned from a day of boating when the accident took place.

Daniel Aries ran east across the road at mile marker 13 and was struck by a van driven by John Barbel, 38.

The boy died at the scene. Barbel has not been charged.

MIAMI

POLICE APPLICATION

DEADLINE EXTENDED

The deadline for applications to become a Miami police officer has been pushed back to Jan. 30.

Applicants must be 19 or older as of March 1, a U.S. citizen, have a high school diploma and a driver's license. Applicants must bring proof of passing the FBAT and must not have a conviction involving perjury, or have a dishonorable discharge from the armed forces. Starting salary is \$35,479. Anyone interested can apply at the City of Miami Personnel Department, 444 SW Second Ave.

**Load-Date:** August 21, 2005

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Arrested ...



## Arrested ...

Golf World

October 17, 2003

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ASAP

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**Section:** Pg. 7; Vol. 57; No. 18; ISSN: 0017-1891**Length:** 87 words

### **Body**

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On charges of murder and conspiracy to commit murder, former FBI agent ***H. Paul Rico***, 78, at his home near Miami Oct. 9. A grand jury in Tulsa, Okla., charged that Rico, who worked with mob informants, helped arrange the 1981 killing of Roger Wheeler, a wealthy Oklahoma businessman, in the parking lot of Tulsa's Southern Hills CC after a round of golf. Wheeler was shot at point-blank range in the head by John Martorano, a hitman for the Boston-based Winter Hill Gang. Rico's attorney denies his client assisted in the murder.

**Load-Date:** February 14, 2008

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## ARRESTED ADMINISTRATOR SWEARS OFF PUBLIC SECTOR

The Miami Herald

December 12, 2003 Friday FINAL EDITION

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**Section:** METRO & STATE; Pg. 3B

**Length:** 528 words

**Byline:** Herald Staff

### **Body**

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#### NORTH MIAMI

A North Miami city administrator who was arrested last week on a year-old theft charge has agreed to resign from her city post and never work in the public sector again, according to a plea bargain announced by the Miami-Dade County state attorney's office.

Under the deal, Miranda Albury, who administered North Miami's housing program, will be on probation for 18 months, pay \$900 in restitution and perform 50 hours of community service.

Miami police arrested Albury a year ago on charges that she misused two checks totaling \$1,150 while she ran Miami's Neighborhood Enhancement Team in Overtown. North Miami city officials said they did not know about that arrest.

#### MIAMI-DADE

#### JAIL: NO REPORT SAYS SUSPECT BEATEN

Miami-Dade corrections officials Thursday said they have no reports documenting the alleged assault on a 78-year-old retired FBI agent accused of a 1981 mob-related slaying in Oklahoma.

**H. Paul Rico** has been resting at Jackson Memorial Hospital since Sunday.

On Wednesday, Tulsa police officials said they had received a letter from Rico's attorney saying Rico showed signs of having been assaulted and needing medical attention.

#### NORTH MIAMI-DADE

#### CLERICS PUSH EFFORT TO APPREHEND RAPIST

## ARRESTED ADMINISTRATOR SWEARS OFF PUBLIC SECTOR

Hoping to keep the heat on the North Miami-Dade serial rapist, local church leaders will be meeting Monday to discuss how their community can help Miami-Dade police close in on the attacker.

"We want to come up with a plan to help," said the Rev. Richard Dunn. Among the considerations: handing out fliers on street corners and at a community march to publicize a sketch of the rapist.

Anthony Dawkins of Project Hope Outreach Ministries said he would like others to join him in asking the Miami-Dade state attorney's office to seek the help of federal authorities and name a special prosecutor. "Local police are doing the best they can, but we need help."

## MIAMI BEACH

## GIRL, 16, IS ARRESTED, ON CHARGE OF MURDER

Miami Beach police arrested a 16-year-old girl in last month's stabbing death of a 20-year-old woman at a gas station.

Stephanie Petterson was charged with first-degree murder for the Nov. 3 death of Rocio Rodriguez in the Chevron gas station at 71st Street and Abbot Avenue, the police report said.

At the time of the killing, Petterson said she had stabbed Rodriguez in self-defense. A friend of Petterson's, 15-year-old David Miguel Escobar, was also arrested, accused of providing the kitchen knife used in the stabbing.

## MIAMI

## ACLU HELPING FELONS REGAIN VOTING RIGHTS

The American Civil Liberties Union is opening a center in Miami on Saturday that will offer extensive assistance to former felony inmates.

Volunteer lawyers, law students and ACLU attorneys will help applicants prepare for their hearings before the clemency board and applications to have their voting rights restored. Florida is one of six states that ban people with felony convictions from voting, even after they have completed their sentences and paid their fines.

The Miami workshop will be held 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Better Way House of Bargains, 100 NE 79th St. Reservations are required. Call 305-576-2337, ext 21.

The center will help applicants on the second Saturday of every month.

## Notes

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AROUND SOUTH FLORIDA

## Graphic

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photo: Sketch of rape suspect (n)

**Load-Date:** August 19, 2005

ARRESTED ADMINISTRATOR SWEARS OFF PUBLIC SECTOR

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End of Document



## [Arrest of Bulger is good news in Tulsa](#)

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

June 24, 2011 Friday

Final Edition

Copyright 2011 The Tulsa World

**Section:** News; Pg. A1

**Length:** 1169 words

**Byline:** NICOLE MARSHALL & BILL BRAUN World Staff Writers

### **Body**

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Related stories: Bulger played nice guy to neighbors. History of "Whitey" Bulger, 16 years on the lam. Reputed Boston mob boss James J. "Whitey" Bulger, a longtime fugitive who is charged in the 1981 slaying of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler, is finally behind bars, and several jurisdictions are lining up to prosecute him. Police, prosecutors and Wheeler's family said Thursday that they were happy to learn of his arrest, but authorities aren't expecting to have him in a Tulsa courtroom anytime soon. Tulsa County District Attorney Tim Harris said he has been in contact with the U.S. Attorney's Office in Boston, but he had no timetable for when Bulger could be brought to Tulsa.

"Our intention in Tulsa County is to bring Bulger to justice" and to have him "held accountable," Harris said. Bulger, 81, was on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted list for his alleged role in 19 murders. FBI agents arrested him and his girlfriend, 60-year-old Catherine Greig, in Santa Monica, Calif., on Wednesday evening on a tip produced by a recent publicity campaign. Authorities said Bulger spent nearly all of his 16 years on the lam in the quiet seaside city, passing himself off as just another elderly retiree. During a search of Bulger's apartment, agents found \$800,000 in cash, more than 30 firearms, including pistols, rifles and shotguns, several types of knives and several pieces of false identification, Steven Martinez, FBI assistant director in charge in Los Angeles, said. The weapons were tucked in hiding places throughout the apartment, Martinez said. Bulger was captured Wednesday after one of the biggest manhunts in U.S. history. His undoing may have been his impeccably groomed girlfriend. Earlier this week, after years of frustration, the FBI put out a series of daytime TV announcements with photos of Greig. The announcements pointed out that Greig was known to frequent beauty salons and have her teeth cleaned once a month. Two days later, the campaign produced a tip that led agents to the two-bedroom apartment where Bulger and Greig lived, authorities said. The boss of South Boston's vicious Winter Hill Gang - a man who authorities say would not hesitate to shoot someone between the eyes - was lured outside the building and captured without resistance. Seth Rosenzweig, a writer who lives down the hall from Bulger's apartment, said the fugitive, who was partial to baseball caps and dark sunglasses, kept a low profile. He would divert his eyes every time he got into the elevator with other people. The apartment's managers, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the couple, who went by the names Charles and Carol Gasko, had lived there 15 years and were ideal tenants who always paid their rent on time and in cash. Santa Monica property records show the apartment had a rent-controlled rate of \$1,145 a month. Bulger, who Harris said is in federal jurisdiction, appeared with Greig in federal court in Los

## Arrest of Bulger is good news in Tulsa

Angeles on Thursday afternoon and was ordered returned to Massachusetts to face federal charges that include murder, conspiracy to commit murder, narcotics distribution, extortion and money laundering. Greig is charged with harboring a fugitive. Balding, with a full white beard and wire-rimmed glasses, the handcuffed Bulger smiled as he was led away from the courtroom. Tulsa Police Chief Chuck Jordan and Mike Huff, who recently retired as the head of the Tulsa Police Department's Homicide Unit, both responded to investigate the Wheeler slaying at Tulsa's Southern Hills Country Club 30 years ago. Both were glad to hear of his capture. "This is a guy who is responsible for a lot of crimes and needs to be brought to justice," Jordan said. Huff, who has doggedly pursued Wheeler's killers for three decades, was receiving calls from across the country within an hour after Bulger's arrest. He said he is anxious to interview Bulger. Huff said he would encourage him to tell the truth so everyone involved could get some peace of mind. "I am elated that he is in custody," Huff said. "I think that this will start the next chapter, and I will be interested to see if he is man enough at 81 to admit to his crimes and not play games in court." Huff said he talked to Harris on Thursday about possibly working with him on the prosecution. Wheeler was chairman of the Telex Corp. Investigators suspected that his killing was ordered by Boston-area gangsters and was linked to Wheeler's suspicion that money was being skimmed from Florida-based World Jai Alai, which he owned. In 2001, Harris charged Bulger and fellow mobsters Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi and John Martorano with Wheeler's murder. Retired FBI Agent **H. Paul Rico** was charged in 2003. Rico died of natural causes at a Tulsa hospital in January 2004, about a week after he was brought to Oklahoma to face prosecution. Martorano, the hitman who shot Wheeler in the head at Southern Hills after Wheeler finished a round of golf, pleaded guilty in 2001 to a reduced charge of second-degree murder and was sentenced to 15 years in prison. Flemmi is serving a life sentence for his role in 10 murders, including Wheeler's. Bulger fled in 1995 after being tipped by a former Boston FBI agent that he was about to be indicted. Over the years, the FBI received several reports of sightings of Bulger and Greig throughout in Europe and the United States, including in California. Jordan said he has no doubt that the FBI worked hard to catch Bulger. He said he would like to see him face trial here for Wheeler's death but that several factors, including Bulger's age, could stand in the way. "The reality of it is, he's got a lot of cases pending," Jordan said. "He is 81, and we don't know for sure: He may not live long enough to come back here and face charges, even though I would love to see that happen. "That killing has had a dramatic impact on our community." Roger Wheeler's son, David Wheeler, said he was skeptical that Bulger would ever be found. He still has doubts that Bulger will ever stand trial for his father's death. Wheeler said he thinks it is a conflict of interest for federal authorities to be handling a case that involves corruption of federal officers. "He should be turned over to the states (where the murders occurred), and the cases should be handled free of federal interference," Wheeler said. Bulger has been the subject of several books and was an inspiration for the 2006 Martin Scorsese film "The Departed." His arrest should only add more intrigue to the story of conspiracy, mobsters and corruption. "I think the story is unfolding," Huff said, adding that there has been a lot of speculation that Bulger will provide more information about FBI corruption. "We will see whether he can bring something forward on that," he said. "I think everybody who knows anything about this case knows this is just the next chapter." The Associated Press contributed to this story. Nicole Marshall 918-581-8459 Bill Braun 918-581-8455 [nicole.marshall@tulsaworld.com](mailto:nicole.marshall@tulsaworld.com) [bill.braun@tulsaworld.com](mailto:bill.braun@tulsaworld.com)

**Load-Date:** June 26, 2011



**Arrest of ex-agent in FBI was result of a lawman's diligence;  
A Closer Look The Boston Underworld**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

OCTOBER 21, 2003 Tuesday CITY-D EDITION

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**Section:** NATIONAL; Pg. A02

**Length:** 788 words

**Byline:** Kelly Kurt ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Dateline:** TULSA, Okla.

## **Body**

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The sun had yet to rise over Miami Shores, Fla., but the Oklahoma lawman at **H. Paul Rico's** front door wasn't waiting any longer. After 22 years, it felt good to interrupt the retired FBI agent's sleep with a knock.

"I'm Sgt. Mike Huff," the detective told Rico before informing him he was under arrest in the 1981 murder of a Tulsa businessman.

After decades of pursuit, neither one needed the introduction.

Huff's mustache had gone salt-and-pepper since he was assigned the case, and his marriage had buckled under the strain. But the tangle of false leads, wrecked vacations, and outside efforts to thwart him had finally come undone that day in early October.

If it had not been him, Huff says, some other Tulsa police detective would have trailed Roger Wheeler's murder into the depths of the Boston underworld and its cozy relationship with the FBI.

Huff's tenacity, however, has stood out, even as mobsters and corruption stood in the way.

"Mike was a bulldog," said Robert Fitzpatrick, a former assistant chief of the FBI's Boston bureau. "He never let this go."

Tulsa Police Chief Dave Been said he believed Huff and the threat of Oklahoma's death row helped break mob kingpin Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, who pleaded guilty last week in 10 murders, including that of Wheeler.

"Sgt. Huff just kept the pressure and kept the pressure," Been said. "I think that's what made Flemmi roll over."

## Arrest of ex-agent in FBI was result of a lawman's diligence; A Closer Look The Boston Underworld

Spared the possibility of lethal injection, Flemmi is cooperating with investigators and has told them Rico and others wanted Wheeler killed. A confessed triggerman said Rico, who denies any involvement in Wheeler's death, aided the hit by providing information about Wheeler.

On May 27, 1981, youngsters in the pool at a Tulsa country club heard the shot from the parking lot. Wheeler, the 55-year-old chairman of Telex Corp. and owner of Miami, Fla.-based World Jai Alai, had been shot in the head after playing a round of golf.

Huff was 25 and undaunted when his supervisor told him the investigation into that afternoon's murder likely would change everything he'd thought about police work.

"I wish I hadn't been on duty that day," Huff would later say, after the case had consumed his life.

The investigation Huff led went cold at the start. Investigators eventually focused on Wheeler's suspicions that money was being skimmed from World Jai Alai. Rico, who had retired from the FBI in 1975, was the company's chief of security.

In 1982, a member of Boston's Winter Hill Gang was gunned down after reportedly telling the FBI that he had rejected an offer to kill Wheeler. Another person of interest to Huff, World Jai Alai executive John Callahan, was found dead in the trunk of a car.

"We were chasing leads all over the place," Huff said. "We very naively thought that as far as the Jai Alai angle, the FBI would bring us into the loop."

A year after Wheeler's murder, though, Huff's naivete was wearing off. He began to suspect Rico, who had cultivated Flemmi as an informant in 1965, when Rico was a rising star in the Boston FBI's war on the Mafia.

As the investigation went on, federal agents accused Huff of jumping to conclusions, he said. Tulsa detectives were led on wild-goose chases when Boston FBI reports validated false leads, Huff later learned.

Former Boston FBI Agent John Connolly was convicted last year of protecting gangster informants, including James "Whitey" Bulger, a fugitive since being tipped off to his pending indictment in 1995.

Huff delivered 60 pounds of documents in 1995 to East Coast authorities investigating the Winter Hill Gang, warning them they were "stumbling into a load of corruption."

Five years later, he named Flemmi, Bulger, confessed triggerman John Martorano and Rico in an affidavit in Tulsa County. District Attorney Tim Harris brought murder charges against all but Rico, wanting more evidence to take to court.

"When you see somebody who is clearly in your sights, it's very nagging," Huff said of his frustration. "But in retrospect, the case [against Rico] is much better with Flemmi."

Huff interrupted vacations to chase leads. He called Wheeler's son, David, sometimes in the early-morning hours. His dedication gave Wheeler's family hope that someone would eventually be brought to justice.

"He defines the word relentless," David Wheeler said.

When the 78-year-old Rico opened the door in his undershorts Oct. 9, Huff found the moment bittersweet.

"What I was really thinking," he said, "was, 'Can I get past this and reclaim some normalcy?'"

Rico is being held in Florida and faces an extradition hearing today. No trial date has been set in Oklahoma.

"It always comes down to the last man standing," said David Wheeler. "Rest assured, Mike Huff will always be the last man standing."

## Graphic

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PHOTO;

JOHN CLANTON, Tulsa World

Tulsa, Okla., Police Sgt. Mike Huff talks about his 22-year investigation into the murder of Roger Wheeler, whose son David (left) joined Huff during a news conference in Tulsa last week. The investigation led to the arrest of a retired FBI agent.

**Load-Date:** August 17, 2005

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End of Document





## *A self-portrait of thuggery by the numbers*

The Boston Herald

August 25, 1998 Tuesday

ALL EDITIONS

Copyright 1998 Boston Herald Inc.

**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 672 words

**Byline:** By Peter Gelzinis

### **Body**

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If you're Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi and you're hoping not to die in prison, you gotta ask yourself a question as the federal marshals lead you back into court this morning.

Is it really wise to plead the Fifth more than 100 times in three hours?

"Did you conspire with Larry Zannino to murder Edward 'Wimpy' Bennett?" asked U.S. Attorney Fred Wyshak.

The 63-year-old wiseguy, with skin the color of cooked asparagus, leaned closer to the microphone and barked: "I'm asserting the Fifth on that one."

Of course, some questions just answer themselves. This was the 32nd time Stevie invoked his Fifth Amendment privilege. And it triggered the biggest rise of uneasy laughter. But there were plenty of other questions, too. Questions like:

Stevie, what were you doing for a living back in the '60s?

"I assert my Fifth Amendment privilege."

You were running a loansharking business right?

"I'll assert the Fifth on that."

No, this wasn't the same forthright "Rifleman" we saw last week. In fact, the more Stevie took the Fifth, the more he looked like that well-coifed Edison lobbyist and former G-man with the sealed lips, John "Johnny" Connolly.

Yesterday, Stevie got himself all tangled up in the gangster version of the immutable chicken and egg dilemma. Was Stevie already a bad guy before he entered into unholy matrimony with the FBI?

Or did the FBI turn him into a really bad guy in the process of cultivating him as a rat?

## A self-portrait of thuggery by the numbers

"He wanted me to go down to the North End and get involved," Flemmi said, going back 30 years to the memory of his first FBI handler, **H. Paul Rico**. "In order to do that I had to be involved with criminal activity."

Fred Wyshak suggested Stevie's misty memory was a crock. Pulling documents out from Flemmi's gargantuan FBI case file, Wyshak set out to establish that The Rifleman hardly needed an FBI agent to tell him how to find Jerry Angiulo and the boys in the North End.

Wyshak had Stevie Flemmi backing up an extra 10 years to the late '50s in order to cover the fact that he was practically blood brothers, not only with the folks at 92 Prince, but also the Patriarca clan in Providence.

When Wyshak launched a series of questions about Flemmi's opportunity to become a "made" member of the Patriarca crime family, Stevie took the Fifth for the 81st through the 85th time.

Wyshak and the government began the journey into the heart of The Rifleman's darkness yesterday. The roster of Stevie's old friends who all died suddenly, due mainly to an infusion of hot lead, was ticked off. Let's see, there was the three Bennett brothers Stevie grew up with in Roxbury - Wimpy, Walter and Billy. There was Stevie Hughes, Joe Barboza and we can't overlook John Fitzgerald, the lawyer who had his leg blown off when he started his Oldsmobile in 1968.

Stevie dismissed each one with: "I assert the Fifth."

"Each one of those Fifths is as good as a 'Yes,'" whispered a spectator. Indeed, she had a point.

Abandoned by both his soulmate in evil - the thug he calls "Jim Bulger" - and Johnny Connolly, the last FBI agent to use him as a meal ticket, Flemmi is now reduced to marketing broken promises as a means to beating the rap one last time.

"Long as I continued to give them information, I was told I'd never be prosecuted. To me, that means protection."

But the information Stevie declined to share with his FBI paramours over 30 years was how lots of people he knew intimately died such awful, violent deaths. Stevie says nobody asked him. So, naturally, he wasn't volunteering any answers.

Now, the government is asking him. And Stevie's got just one answer. "I'll assert the Fifth on that." He'll talk all day about swapping Christmas trinkets with a hapless agent nicknamed "Vino," or a cunning agent named Johnny Connolly. But one mention of Edward "Wimpy" Bennett and The Rifleman turns to stone.

It's in such a moment when Stevie looks old and befuddled and destined to die in a place far, far away from "Jim Bulger" and the FBI's loveless embrace.

**Load-Date:** August 26, 1998



**A SPECIAL SALUTE . . .**

The Miami Herald  
February 3, 1985 Sunday  
FINAL EDITION

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**Section:** EDITORIAL; E; Pg. 2

**Length:** 89 words

**Byline:** Herald Staff

**Body**

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. . . to Miami Jai-Alai for its new policy that a designated nondrinking driver in any group of four or more patrons will get a free meal at the fronton's CourtView Club Restaurant. ***H. Paul Rico***, the fronton's general manager, said he got the idea from some New England businesses that are serving only soft drinks to designated drivers. The free meal is complete, from appetizer to dessert. If the program works well here, he adds, it'll be instituted at the Tampa Jai-Alai fronton. What a tasteful way to say, Don't drink and drive!

**Load-Date:** October 30, 2009



## [At Bulger Trial, Finally A Glimpse At Defense Strategy](#)

Legal Monitor Worldwide

July 27, 2013 Saturday

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**Length:** 807 words

### **Body**

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Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi endured more grueling cross examination Wednesday. A lawyer for his old partner, James "Whitey" Bulger, called him "a rat." He called Bulger "a rat." And at the end of the day, there had been a glimpse of what to that point had been Bulger's largely invisible defense.

There was no answer to the big question: Will Bulger testify? In fact the defense team reacted angrily to what it called the government's most recent suggestion - all made in the jury's absence - that he should.

But with its combative questions to Flemmi and argument to U.S. District Court Judge Denise Casper after jurors were excused for the day, the Bulger defense team was basing part of its case on the city's tradition of law-enforcement corruption, much of it allegedly fed by Bulger and his gang.

The defense lawyers argued that the chief witnesses against Bulger - ex-partners who are also three of the city's most violent, incorrigible and successful criminals - have learned firsthand that crooked FBI agents and prosecutors can help criminals avoid indictment, or at least ameliorate prison sentences. More significantly, the defense is arguing, the witnesses also have learned that they way to win the support of such agents and prosecutors is to testify the way the government wants, even if it means lying.

The Bulger lawyers have not asserted that his prosecutors are acting improperly. Rather, the defense contends that important government witnesses, beneficiaries for years of corrupt law enforcement practices, did not have to be told how to shape their testimony.

Defense lawyers reflexively accuse cooperating prosecution witnesses - such as Flemmi - of shading the truth in return for light sentences or no sentences at all. But Bulger's lawyers put evidence of it before the jury Wednesday. Flemmi testified that he personally became involved in a case in which corrupt federal law enforcement officials intentionally convicted innocent men of murder in order to protect a cooperating witness. They argued that other cooperating witnesses against Bulger, 83, are aware of and guided by the same case.

"Did it create in your mind the impression that the government could put who they wanted into a murder and keep people out of murders?" Bulger lawyer Hank Brennan asked Flemmi.

The 79-year old Flemmi, rattled after his third day of cross examination and fifth as a witness, didn't rise to the bait.

## At Bulger Trial, Finally A Glimpse At Defense Strategy

"I don't know how to answer," he said. "I can't say what is in the government's mind or what power it has about who to prosecute."

The case, which took place in the 1960s, involved the murder of Teddy Deegan, a small-time hoodlum who happened to be Flemmi's friend. The killers, revealed in court decades later, were Flemmi's brother Jimmy "The Bear" Flemmi and his partner Joseph "The Animal" Barboza.

Discredited FBI agent **H. Paul Rico**, who died in prison on 2004 awaiting prosecution on an unrelated murder, arranged to have Flemmi's brother and Barboza taken out of the murder and replaced by four innocent men, so that Rico could use Barboza as a cooperating witness in a major Mafia prosecution.

The four innocent men were convicted. Two died of old age in prison and two were released after serving about 30 years. A legal team led by Hartford lawyer Austin McGuigan won a \$100 million wrongful imprisonment judgment in the case in 2007.

Brennan was permitted to question Flemmi about Rico and the Barboza case. Flemmi testified that he visited his brother in prison after Rico instructed him to deliver a message: Flemmi's brother should keep his mouth shut about the frame.

"He told me to tell him not to get involved and to mind his own business," Flemmi testified.

Flemmi testified that he had become an informant for Rico at the same time Rico was attempting to frame the four men. Flemmi described his arrangement with Rico as a "quid pro quo." He said the two exchanged information.

He said he killed two men for Rico in the 1960s and, another time, gave Rico a gun that was to be used in a third. Flemmi said Rico warned him in return of his impending indictment for two crimes - maiming a lawyer in a car bomb attack and shooting to death a hoodlum named Edward "Punchy" McLaughlin.

Flemmi said he heeded the warning and "went on the lam" for about five years. He said he returned after Rico told him "the coast is clear."

The defense lawyers have indicated they want to call as a witness a former member of the state board of pardons to testify that he was improperly pressured by FBI agents and federal prosecutors when he disclosed in the 1990s that he was going to vote for commutations for the four improperly convicted men.

Bulger lawyer J.W. Carney Jr., said the testimony by former Springfield Mayor Michael Albano will show to what lengths the government will go to protect witnesses like Barboza.

**Load-Date:** July 27, 2013

A terrifying round of Russian roulette; Drug smuggler recalls deadly duress



## [A terrifying round of Russian roulette; Drug smuggler recalls deadly duress](#)

The Boston Herald

July 18, 2013 Thursday

All Editions

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**Section:** NEWS; Local; Pg. 12; Vol. 31; No. 199

**Length:** 321 words

**Byline:** LAUREL J. SWEET

### **Body**

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A prosperous dope dealer, who popped up on the Winter Hill Gang's radar screen in 1983 after he scored \$72 million smuggling 125 tons of marijuana into the country, testified yesterday he used his business acumen to talk mob boss James 'Whitey' Bulger out of blowing his head off during a frightening round of extortion Russian roulette.

'The conversation wasn't going too well,' said David Lindholm, 62, describing how Bulger and another man he did not identify drew guns from a cart of towels during a tense tete a tete at the Marconi Club - a Roxbury massage parlor tied to Bulger's partner Stephen 'The Rifleman' Flemmi - and Bulger fired a warning shot past his head.

Lindholm said Bulger then emptied five bullets from his firearm onto a table, loaded one in the chamber, put the gun to Lindholm's head and pulled the trigger. The chamber had spun in Lindholm's favor.

'He demanded \$1 million from me,' Lindholm, a Milton native who now collects antique cars and fine art, told jurors in Bulger's federal mass murder and racketeering trial. 'I knew if he killed me he wasn't going to get his money. I bluffed him into negotiating down to \$250,000. He seemed satisfied. He shook my hand and said I handled myself well.'

But that's not how the conversation left off. Lindholm, who takes the stand again this morning ahead of the much-anticipated appearance of Flemmi, said Bulger told him that if he ever tried pushing drugs on his own again, 'He'd cut my head off.'

The jury also heard yesterday from Oklahoma tax attorney Pam Wheeler, 63, whose father, Roger Wheeler, former owner of World Jai Alai, was killed by Bulger's hit man John Martorano outside a Tulsa country club in 1981. Wheeler said her father was trying to sell the gambling empire. Bulger's crew was skimming hundreds of thousands of dollars from its parking proceeds with the help of the late [H. Paul Rico](#), a crooked retired FBI agent who was head of security.

### **Graphic**

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A terrifying round of Russian roulette; Drug smuggler recalls deadly duress

ROGER WHEELER: Jai Alai exec's gaming business was being skimmed by Bulger gang.

**Load-Date:** July 18, 2013

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End of Document



## [AT THE BAR; FBI comment is worst PR imaginable](#)

The Boston Herald

November 27, 2001 Tuesday

ALL EDITIONS

Copyright 2001 Boston Herald Inc.

**Section:** FINANCE;

**Length:** 456 words

**Byline:** By Maggie Mulvihill

### **Body**

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The man holding one of the most important policing jobs in America - New York's FBI chief, Barry Mawn - made a truly astonishing statement not long ago.

Asked about his former job running the FBI's Boston office - now the subject of federal and congressional corruption probes - Mr. Mawn dismissed the situation there as nothing more than a "public relations problem."

Like I said, it was an astonishing statement.

So the corruption-infested Boston FBI office and the dirty agents who coddled their killer "informants" for decades is merely a "public relations problem," Mr. Mawn?

OK, let's review.

Was it a "public relations problem" when state police dug up the decayed remains of a beautiful 26-year-old girl named Debbie Davis from a Quincy death pit last year, nearly two decades after she was slain by prized FBI rat Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi?

And was it just a "public relations" problem when a slew of other bodies - including Flemmi's own stepdaughter - were rooted out from similar Boston mob graves after angering such FBI "friends" as Flemmi and crime boss James J. "Whitey" Bulger?

Was it just a "public relations problem" when four innocent Massachusetts men were sentenced to death in 1968 for the murder of Edward "Teddy" Deegan, a hoodlum actually slain by New England mobsters secretly working at the time for FBI agent [H. Paul Rico](#)?

And is it just a "public relations problem" that the Boston office of the FBI let Bulger, another "top-echelon informant," escape arrest nearly seven years ago - a fugitive who is now second only to Osama bin Laden on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted List?



AT THE BAR; FBI comment is worst PR imaginable

And is it a "public relations problem" that Bulger still can't be found by the most powerful law enforcement agency in the world after being tipped off to the pending arrest by his close friend, former agent John J. Connolly, a man considered a "superstar" cop by FBI brass?

Is it just a "public relations problem" that Connolly has now been charged with such crimes as obstruction of justice, bribery and anonymously sending a letter to a federal judge falsely accusing his fellow cops of misconduct?

If nothing else, Mr. Mawn's decision to brush off scores of murders, pervasive police corruption and obstruction of justice as only "public relations problems" illuminates the arrogance that continues to define the agency at its highest levels.

Mr. Mawn apparently learned nothing from the rough rebuke issued last August by U.S. District Court Judge Mark L. Wolf, who chastised the FBI for blaming its problems on a "few bad apples" rather than dealing with its long history of helping - not hindering - vicious killers such as Flemmi and Bulger.

But that's history Mr. Mawn has shamefully chosen to forget.

**Load-Date:** November 27, 2001

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End of Document



## [Attorney: Ex World Jai Alai security chief is now 'helpless'](#)

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

January 9, 2004, Friday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 418 words

**Byline:** By CLAYTON BELLAMY, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** TULSA, Okla.

### **Body**

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A former FBI agent accused in the 1981 mob-style killing of a Tulsa businessman is confined to a bed with heart problems and is "helpless" without assistance, his attorney said Friday.

**H. Paul Rico**, 78, wears a pacemaker, has had three bypass surgeries and takes nine medications each day to maintain his health, attorney Garvin Isaacs said.

"At the present time he cannot walk for any great distance," Isaacs said. "Unassisted, he is helpless. He is confined to the bed. He is on oxygen."

Rico, a Florida resident, was transported Thursday to the Tulsa County Jail by private air ambulance from the Miami-Dade County Jail to face Oklahoma charges of first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder for allegedly shooting Roger Wheeler, owner of Miami's World Jai Alia, in the head on May 27, 1981 at Tulsa's Southern Hills Country Club.

Isaacs has requested a hearing to determine whether Rico should be released on bail or a medical furlough. Until then, he remains in the jail infirmary.

"They have a fairly modern health care unit over there," assistant district attorney Doug Drummond said. Drummond declined to discuss Rico's health.

Also Friday, Special Judge Carlos Chappelle scheduled Rico's arraignment for 9:30 a.m. Wednesday in Tulsa County District Court.

Another hearing is scheduled Friday on whether the former Boston FBI agent is competent to stand trial.

Isaacs requested a competency evaluation last month when Rico hallucinated after being assaulted in a Miami jail. Isaacs said Friday he will determine by Monday whether the evaluation is still necessary.

Drummond said prosecutors filed a motion Friday asking that Chappelle determine whether Rico is competent before hearing arguments for bail.

### Attorney: Ex World Jai Alai security chief is now 'helpless'

A defendant is competent if he can appreciate the nature of the charge, consult with his lawyer and assist in a legal defense.

Wheeler, who also was chairman of Tulsa-based Telex Corp., had begun suspecting that Boston gangsters were skimming money from his jai alai business, investigators say.

Rico, who was security chief at World Jai Alai, had used the gangsters as informants when he investigated Boston's Winter Hill Gang as an FBI agent in 1970s.

Murder charges were filed in March 2001 in Tulsa County against Winter Hill Gang members James "Whitey" Bulger, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi and John Martorano.

Martorano, a confessed hit man, has pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and received a 15-year prison term for killing Wheeler.

## Graphic

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AP Photo

**Load-Date:** January 10, 2004

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End of Document



## *Attorney: FBI set up client in '65 murder*

The Boston Herald

October 11, 2000 Wednesday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 403 words

**Byline:** By ANDREA ESTES

### **Body**

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A lawyer for a reputed mobster convicted of murder 30 years ago is alleging that FBI agents knew he was innocent but concocted a "secret and ghoulish" plot to protect the true killers.

John Cavicchi, who has been fighting to free the man, Peter Limone, for more than two decades, is arguing that former FBI agents ***H. Paul Rico*** and Dennis Condon knew it was Joseph "The Animal" Barboza and Vincent J. "Jimmy the Bear" Flemmi who killed Edward "Teddy" Deegan in a Chelsea alley in 1965.

But because they were wooing Barboza to become an FBI informant, agents cavalierly conspired to pin the murder on Limone and several others, alleges Cavicchi in a motion filed in Middlesex Superior Court.

"I've been working on this case for 23 years. I knew they had a bad case when they prosecuted it," said Cavicchi, who yesterday asked a judge to free Limone. "When they finally admit they were wrong and let Peter Limone out of jail I'm not going to be ecstatic. I'm going to say 'big deal' - he's been in jail 33 years."

Cavicchi also says a decades-old FBI file indicates that Barboza, a notorious Mob hitman, admitted to an informant that he shot Deegan, with two other unnamed killers.

In addition, Winter Hill gang hitman-turned-informant John Martorano told investigators that Barboza had confided in him in the 1960s that he killed Deegan and didn't care if other mobsters were taking the fall.

"They (La Cosa Nostra) screwed me and now I'm going to screw as many of them as possible," Martorano quoted Barboza as telling him. According to investigators, Barboza didn't mention Limone or his co-defendants by name.

Yesterday Cavicchi asked a judge to set aside Limone's conviction based on a legal technicality, a prejudicial instruction given the jury in 1968.

Judge Margaret R. Hinkle took the request under advisement. But she also ordered Cavicchi and Suffolk County Assistant District Attorney Mark Lee to meet to discuss Cavicchi's new evidence.

Attorney: FBI set up client in '65 murder

She also agreed to ask federal prosecutors to turn over any information in the racketeering case against reputed Winter Hill leader Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, brother of Vincent, that focuses on Condon, Rico and the Deegan murder case.

Flemmi, according to federal court hearings, provided details of Barboza's involvement to Rico and Condon so they could use it as leverage in their efforts to recruit Barboza as an informant, Cavicchi alleges.

**Load-Date:** October 12, 2000

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End of Document



## *Attorney: Rico "helpless" without assistance*

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

January 9, 2004, Friday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 420 words

**Byline:** By CLAYTON BELLAMY, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** TULSA, Okla.

### **Body**

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A former FBI agent charged in connection with the 1981 mob-style killing of a Tulsa businessman is confined to a bed with heart problems and is "helpless" without assistance, his attorney said Friday.

**H. Paul Rico**, 78, wears a pacemaker, has had three bypass surgeries and takes nine medications each day to maintain his health, attorney Garvin Isaacs said.

"At the present time he cannot walk for any great distance," Isaacs said. "Unassisted, he is helpless. He is confined to the bed. He is on oxygen."

Rico, a Florida resident, was transported Thursday to the Tulsa County Jail by private air ambulance from the Miami-Dade County Jail to face Oklahoma charges of first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder.

Isaacs has requested a hearing to determine whether Rico should be released on bail or a medical furlough. Until then, he remains in the jail infirmary.

"They have a fairly modern health care unit over there," assistant district attorney Doug Drummond said. Drummond declined to discuss Rico's health.

Also Friday, Special Judge Carlos Chappelle scheduled Rico's arraignment for 9:30 a.m. Wednesday in Tulsa County District Court.

Another hearing is scheduled Friday on whether the former Boston FBI agent is competent to stand trial for allegedly shooting Roger Wheeler in the head on May 27, 1981 at Tulsa's Southern Hills Country Club.

Isaacs requested a competency evaluation last month when Rico hallucinated after being assaulted in a Miami jail. Isaacs said Friday he will determine by Monday whether the evaluation is still necessary.

Drummond said prosecutors filed a motion Friday asking that Chappelle determine whether Rico is competent before hearing arguments for bail.

Attorney: Rico "helpless" without assistance

A defendant is competent if he can appreciate the nature of the charge, consult with his lawyer and assist in a legal defense.

Wheeler, who owned World Jai Alai in Florida and was chairman of Tulsa-based Telex Corp., had begun suspecting that Boston gangsters were skimming money from his jai alai business, investigators say.

Rico, who was security chief at World Jai Alai, had used the gangsters as informants when he investigated Boston's Winter Hill Gang as an FBI agent in 1970s.

Murder charges were filed in March 2001 in Tulsa County against Winter Hill Gang members James "Whitey" Bulger, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi and John Martorano.

Martorano, a confessed hit man, has pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and received a 15-year prison term for killing Wheeler.

## Graphic

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AP Photo

**Load-Date:** January 10, 2004

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End of Document



## [Attorney says criminal evidence should become part of civil case](#)

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

January 18, 2004, Sunday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 433 words

**Byline:** By JULIE E. BISBEE, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** OKLAHOMA CITY

### **Body**

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An attorney for the family of a Tulsa businessman gunned down by members of the Irish mob 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 in a Tulsa hospital Friday, facing charges that he helped his former mobster 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. "In the coming weeks, we may make efforts to get that information so it will see the light of day."

Wheeler, chairman of Tulsa-based Telex Corp., was shot in the head May 27, 1981, after playing a round of golf at Tulsa's Southern Hills Country Club.

Investigators say Wheeler suspected that money was being skimmed from his business by Boston gangsters who were informants for Rico when he was an FBI agent. Rico served as security chief at World Jai Alai at the time of the killing.

In the civil suit, Wheeler's family claims federal agents did not do everything in their power to prevent Wheeler's death.

A similar lawsuit filed against the federal government was dismissed last year by a federal judge because it was filed after the two-year statute of limitations. That decision is being appealed, Libby said.

In that lawsuit, the Wheeler family sought more than \$860 million in damages, alleging the government could have prevented Wheeler's shooting death.



Attorney says criminal evidence should become part of civil case

Tulsa County District Attorney Tim Harris said Rico's case is still pending and evidence in the case is crucial to prosecuting Bulger, who has been a fugitive since 1995.

"I want to be cooperative, but I need to maintain the case against Bulger. He's still on the run and I'm hoping sooner or later to prosecute him," Harris said. "I'll be as cooperative as the law allows me to be."

Murder charges were filed in March 2001 in Tulsa County against Bulger, Flemmi and fellow Winter Hill Gang member John Martorano.

Martorano, a confessed hit man, pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and received a 15-year prison term for killing Wheeler.

Flemmi, whose statements to prosecutors helped implicate Rico, pleaded guilty to federal charges in connection with the deaths of Wheeler and nine others.

**Load-Date:** January 19, 2004

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End of Document



## [Attorney Says Rico 'Helpless' Without Aid](#)

Associated Press Online

January 9, 2004 Friday

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**Section:** DOMESTIC NEWS

**Length:** 303 words

**Byline:** CLAYTON BELLAMY; Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** TULSA, Okla.

### **Body**

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The attorney for a former FBI agent accused in a 1981 mob-style killing of a businessman asked a judge Friday for a hearing to determine whether his client should be released because of health problems.

**H. Paul Rico**, 78, is confined to a bed with heart problems and is "helpless" without assistance, his attorney, Garvin Isaacs, said.

Rico was transported Thursday to the Tulsa County Jail from a Florida jail to face charges of first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder.

Rico wears a pacemaker, has had three bypass surgeries and takes nine medications a day to maintain his health, Isaacs said.

"At the present time he cannot walk for any great distance," Isaacs said. "Unassisted, he is helpless. He is confined to the bed. He is on oxygen."

Isaacs has requested a hearing to determine whether Rico should be released on bail or a medical furlough. Until then, he remains in the jail infirmary.

Assistant district attorney Doug Drummond declined to discuss Rico's health.

Also Friday, Special Judge Carlos Chappelle scheduled Rico's arraignment for Wednesday in Tulsa County District Court.

Another hearing is scheduled Friday on whether the former Boston FBI agent is competent to stand trial for allegedly helping organize the slaying of a jai-alai executive.

Isaacs requested a competency evaluation last month when Rico hallucinated after being assaulted in a Miami jail.

Rico, who retired from the FBI in 1975, served as security chief for Roger Wheeler's World Jai Alai when Wheeler was shot to death at a Tulsa country club on May 27, 1981.

Attorney Says Rico 'Helpless' Without Aid

Investigators say Wheeler suspected money was being skimmed from a Miami jai-alai business by Boston's Winter Hill gang, an Irish mob that fed information to Rico on its rival New England Mafia.

Wheeler's confessed hit man, John Martorano, implicated Rico in the killing.

**Load-Date:** January 10, 2004

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End of Document

Attorney says Rico "helpless" without assistance, asks for hearing on medical release



## [Attorney says Rico "helpless" without assistance, asks for hearing on medical release](#)

The Associated Press

January 9, 2004, Friday, BC cycle

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**Section:** Domestic News

**Length:** 303 words

**Byline:** By CLAYTON BELLAMY, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** TULSA, Okla.

### **Body**

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Isaacs has requested a hearing to determine whether Rico should be released on bail or a medical furlough. Until then, he remains in the jail infirmary.

Assistant district attorney Doug Drummond declined to discuss Rico's health.

Also Friday, Special Judge Carlos Chappelle scheduled Rico's arraignment for Wednesday in Tulsa County District Court.

Another hearing is scheduled Friday on whether the former Boston FBI agent is competent to stand trial for allegedly helping organize the slaying of a jai-alai executive.

Isaacs requested a competency evaluation last month when Rico hallucinated after being assaulted in a Miami jail.

Attorney says Rico "helpless" without assistance, asks for hearing on medical release

Rico, who retired from the FBI in 1975, served as security chief for Roger Wheeler's World Jai Alai when Wheeler was shot to death at a Tulsa country club on May 27, 1981.

Investigators say Wheeler suspected money was being skimmed from a Miami jai-alai business by Boston's Winter Hill gang, an Irish mob that fed information to Rico on its rival New England Mafia.

Wheeler's confessed hit man, John Martorano, implicated Rico in the killing.

## Graphic

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AP Photo

**Load-Date:** January 10, 2004

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## *Attorneys may waive test of ex-agent's competency*

The Oklahoman (Oklahoma City, OK)  
January 10, 2004 Saturday CITY EDITION

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 4A

**Length:** 259 words

**Byline:** Larry Levy; State Correspondent

**Dateline:** TULSA

### **Body**

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Defense attorneys for a retired FBI agent charged in the 1981 gangland slaying of Tulsa business executive Roger Wheeler may withdraw their motion for a competency examination. But prosecutors say they will insist on one.

**H. Paul Rico's** defense attorneys - Garvin Isaacs and Nancy Zerr of Oklahoma City - were given the OK on Friday by Special Judge Carlos Chappelle to have Rico examined by a psychiatrist during the weekend.

District Attorney Tim Harris said that because of competency issues raised by the defense it is necessary to have Rico, 78, examined before deciding other issues in court. State law calls for all meaningful hearings to be suspended until competency is decided.

Rico is charged with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit first-degree murder in connection with Wheeler's death. Wheeler was shot in the head May 27, 1981, in the parking lot at Southern Hills Country Club after he finished playing a round of golf.

He was chairman of the Telex Corp., a Tulsa-based company, and had purchased World Jai Alai, a game with pari-mutuel betting. He suspected money was being skimmed by members of Boston's Winter Hill gang.

After retiring from the FBI's Boston office in 1975, Rico became head of security for the jai alai operation. It is alleged that he provided information about Wheeler to three others charged with the murder.

Chappelle said he would make a determination next Friday about proceeding on the competency issue.

An arraignment scheduled for Wednesday likely would be delayed because of the competency issue, Harris said.

**Load-Date:** January 13, 2004



## [AT WHAT PRICE THE FBI'S TREACHERY?; 4 families abused by feds await justice](#)

The Boston Herald

February 28, 2007 Wednesday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 006

**Length:** 609 words

**Byline:** By PETER GELZINIS

### **Body**

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No one paid much attention 42 years ago when Edward ``Teddy" Deegan, a very minor street gremlin, made his graceless exit from this vale of tears.

But then, back on the night of March 12, 1965, who could ever have imagined all who would die when this anonymous hood caught a couple of bullets in a Chelsea alley?

In a twist of fate more bizarre than ironic, the anniversary of Teddy's demise is likely to be memorialized with an epic judgment against the federal government in general - and the FBI in particular - that could exceed \$100 million.

The question is not whether U.S. District Court Judge Nancy Gertner will find for the plaintiffs who were framed for the Deegan murder.

It is how much compensation she decides to award to Joseph Salvati and Peter Limone, who survived a total of 64 years in prison, as well as to relatives of Louis Greco and Henry Tameleo, who died behind bars.

So far, they have received the sincere apologies of the governor(s) who vacated their wrongful convictions, along with the condolences of congressmen who gagged on the twisted tale of FBI treachery that left a trail of human wreckage in the wake of Teddy Deegan's innocuous death.

But not a penny for all the lost years, or what has been clinically referred to as the FBI's notion, ``acceptable collateral damage."

Yesterday, a fleet of lawyers described that ``collateral damage" in searing detail.

Michael Avery began by reminding a packed courtroom - where a trio of congressmen sat in the front row - that Joe Salvati and Peter Limone were not supposed to be there. Our government had intended for them die in prison, Avery said, describing how bolts of electricity were scheduled to burn through the flesh of Limone, Greco and Tameleo.

## AT WHAT PRICE THE FBI'S TREACHERY?: 4 families abused by feds await justice

The story of how a ruthlessly ambitious pair of G-men, **H. Paul Rico** and Dennis Condon, conspired to protect a psychotic hit man and serial killer named Joe "The Animal" Barboza was laid out in linear fashion, with the FBI's own internal documents as road signs.

"When you hear the story presented like that," Bill Delahunt remarked, "you gain a real appreciation for the culture of treachery that existed." And still exists.

As sinister and sordid as this "liability" presentation was, the most haunting aspect of what occurred in Nancy Gertner's courtroom yesterday was when the "damages" inflicted upon wives, children, grandparents, brothers, sisters, grandchildren - all the so-called "acceptable collateral damage" - was spelled out.

Unlike the families of Joe Salvati and Peter Limone, which were held together by a pair of heroic wives, Louis Greco's family perished when what had been a conventional suburban life fell apart with his imprisonment.

Greco was a hero of Bataan who was awarded 12 medals, survived 10 operations and was fearless enough to stare down a thug like Barboza in defense of a friend. And when Teddy Deegan was killed in that Chelsea alley, Louis Greco had taken his wife to a movie . . . in Florida.

Roberta (Greco) descended into a bottle before abandoning her two sons. After his father died in prison, Louis Jr. would kill himself by swallowing Drano. Edward, the younger, "stronger" brother who would drift on a sea of drugs, is now in a New Orleans nursing home, trying to recover from cancer.

All those years ago, the FBI figured that building an elaborate frame around the death of a slug like Deegan would somehow grant them access to the inner workings of the local mafia.

What it really did was expose the great lie behind the G-Man myth. When Teddy Deegan died in that alley 42 years ago, a certain faith in justice died with him. The FBI BECAME the gangsters they were chasing.

## Graphic

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DAY IN COURT: Joseph Salvati, above, and Peter Limone, left, are greeted by U.S. Reps. Stephen Lynch (shaking hands) and William Delahunt outside federal court yesterday morning. STAFF PHOTOS BY MIKE ADASKAVEG

**Load-Date:** February 28, 2007





## [Author delves into Whitey Bulger, Roger Wheeler parallels](#)

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

January 30, 2014 Thursday

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**Length:** 793 words

**Byline:** JAMES D. WATTS JR. World Scene Writer

**Dateline:** Tulsa, OK

### **Body**

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The murder of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler was an aberration in the way Boston mobster James "Whitey" Bulger usually went about his criminal business.

Wheeler, the CEO of Telex, was a "civilian" — not one of the underworld characters who would come to a violent end for getting in Bulger's way.

It was Wheeler's purchase of World Jai Alai, and his realization that something was very wrong with the organization's financial situation, that put him in the path of Whitey Bulger.

Yet even then, Bulger was reluctant.

As Laurence Yadon and Robert Barr Smith write in their new book "One Murder Too Many: Whitey Bulger and the Computer Tycoon":

"Whitey's qualms about killing a civilian were only exceeded by fear of the potential blowback. 'The guy (Wheeler) is a zillionaire. His family's politically connected. We'll never survive it.' Even after giving in, Whitey... predicted the outcome: 'We're all gonna go to jail. This will never go away, never.' "

"One Murder Too Many" (Pelican, \$24.95) originated as an article Yadon wrote for This Land Press, commissioned in the wake of Bulger's capture in 2011 after 16 years on the run.

But the research Yadon did for that article turned up the rather startling fact that Roger Wheeler and Whitey Bulger grew up in similar circumstances — and just miles apart from each other.

"Whitey Bulger was born in South Boston in 1929, and Roger Wheeler was born three years earlier in Reading, Mass. — just about 14 miles away," Yadon said. "And that coincidence started me thinking that this could become an unusual dual biography.

"Because the more we researched, the more it seemed that there were some very striking parallels between these two men," he said.

## Author delves into Whitey Bulger, Roger Wheeler parallels

Yadon, a Tulsa lawyer, has co-authored six books, all of them dealing with lawmen and criminals of the southwest, from the mid-1800s to the early 20th century.

"Bob (Smith) has worked with me on all six, either as the editor or co-author," Yadon said. "He's one of the finest authorities on the Old West out there.

"But this project was different," he said. "Besides the fact that it is a contemporary story, the structure is very different. Our other books were essentially collections of short pieces, with each of the writers doing a portion of the book. This was a continuous narrative."

Yadon focused on researching and writing about Wheeler, while Smith, who lives in Missouri, wrote the passages about Bulger. Once the two men finished their individual work, Yadon rewrote the entire manuscript to give the book a continuous voice.

Yadon interviewed Wheeler's family; former Tulsa Police homicide detective Mike Huff, who pursued the Wheeler case for decades; and former employees of Telex.

One major source was Tulsa attorney Joel Wohlgemuth, who had been invited by Wheeler to come with him to the Southern Hills Country Club — the scene of Wheeler's murder — to play golf.

"However, he needed to finish a document he was working on for Telex and had to decline," Yadon said.

The Wheeler portion of the book details how his entrepreneurial spirit started early, leading to his turning the Telex Corporation and building into a legitimate rival to IBM.

"At that time, IBM was the colossus of the computer industry," Yadon said. "And to challenge a company that much larger and ultimately getting a judgment against IBM — just the courage to even think of doing that is impressive. And that was Roger Wheeler."

It was also, Yadon said, one of those intriguing parallels between the two men.

"Whitey Bulger, like Roger Wheeler, has a first-rate mind," Yadon said. "That isn't to condone or express any admiration for what he did. But he was a very intelligent person.

"They both were very intense, purpose-driven men, who were able to take advantage of opportunities, to think strategically and have the patience to think and plan, to wait and be ready for when that perfect opportunity occurred."

In Yadon's eyes, the tragedy of Roger Wheeler's murder grew out of a single miscalculation.

"He believed that, in the World Jai Alai situation, he had an edge," Yadon said. "He thought that having a former FBI agent as head of security at World Jai Alai would give him an edge over people like Bulger.

"However, that former FBI agent was **H. Paul Rico**, who had been an associate of Bulger's. So Wheeler had placed his trust in someone who was in bed with the people Wheeler had the most reason to fear."

## LAURENCE YADON

Laurence Yadon will talk about his research into the lives of Roger Wheeler and James "Whitey" Bulger, and sign copies of his book "One Murder Too Many: Whitey Bulger and the Computer Tycoon," which he coauthored with Robert Barr Smith, at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Tulsa Historical Society, 2445 S. Peoria Ave.

James D. Watts Jr. 918-581-8478

[james.watts@tulsaworld.com](mailto:james.watts@tulsaworld.com)

Author delves into Whitey Bulger, Roger Wheeler parallels

**Load-Date:** January 31, 2014

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## *Authorities investigating FBI agents' links to unsolved murders*

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

January 27, 2000, Thursday, AM cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 456 words

**Dateline:** BOSTON

### **Body**

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Federal authorities are probing whether FBI agents were either accessories to, or blocked efforts to investigate, unsolved murders allegedly committed by reputed mobsters, the Boston Herald reported Thursday. One of the deaths was in Oklahoma.

The investigation is headed by John Durham, a federal prosecutor from Connecticut, and is being carried out by FBI agents from outside Massachusetts, sources told the Herald.

The FBI declined to comment on the report.

"We really aren't going to say anything about that," Boston FBI spokeswoman Gail Marcinkiewicz said Thursday.

In most of the murders being probed, the chief suspects are members of the Winter Hill Gang, a group of reputed mobsters that included James J. "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi. Flemmi and Bulger, currently a fugitive, were also FBI informants for years.

Investigators are said to be looking at John J. Connolly Jr. and **H. Paul Rico**, two former FBI agents who served as Bulger's 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 looking at whether Connolly and Rico are connected to murders that took place over an 18-month span in the early 1980s. The murders included the 1981 killing of Roger Wheeler, the owner of World Jai Alai, found shot to death in his car at his Tulsa, Okla., country club.

A second man, Brian Halloran, who was allegedly a member of the Winter Hill Gang, and a friend were killed in 1982 in front of a Boston bar.

Shortly before Halloran was killed, he told FBI agents that Bulger and Flemmi were responsible for Wheeler's murder, the Herald said.

Flemmi has allegedly told some of his colleagues that Connolly was in the area of the bar the night Halloran was shot, the Herald reported.

Authorities investigating FBI agents' links to unsolved murders

Connolly has denied being there, and Flemmi's lawyer, Michael Natola, said Wednesday that Flemmi would never make a statement that would implicate himself in a murder.

"If Flemmi had anything to do with a murder, why on earth would he tell anyone about this," Natola said.

Tuesday, Flemmi pleaded innocent to federal racketeering, conspiracy and obstruction of justice charges stemming from a second indictment issued last month.

Flemmi was first charged in 1995, along with Bulger, Francis "Cadillac Frank" Salemme and others. Charges in that racketeering case are still pending against Flemmi, Bulger and Salemme.

But a second federal indictment was handed up last month, charging Bulger, Flemmi and Connolly with racketeering and other crimes.

Connolly has already pleaded innocent in the second case. Bulger has been a fugitive since the indictment in the first case in 1995.

**Load-Date:** January 28, 2000



## *Authorities release voice recording of fugitive*

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

January 26, 2008 Saturday

Final Home Edition

Copyright 2008 The Tulsa World

**Section:** News; Pg. A13

**Length:** 486 words

**Byline:** Staff Reports

### **Body**

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They hope that someone will recognize the wanted mob leader.

A recording of the voice of longtime fugitive mob leader James "Whitey" Bulger has been released in hopes of generating new tips as to his whereabouts.

Bulger, who once was an FBI informant but now is one of the FBI's 10 Most Wanted people and a Tulsa County murder defendant, has been on the run since 1995, when his FBI handler tipped him that he was about to be indicted on racketeering charges.

That former FBI agent, John Connolly Jr., is now serving a 10-year prison sentence.

Bulger, the former head of the notorious Winter Hill Gang in Boston, is charged with 19 murders, including Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler's in May 1981.

In 2001, Tulsa County prosecutors charged him, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi and hit man John Martorano with murder and conspiracy in the slaying of Wheeler, who was chairman of the Tulsa-based Telex Corp. and owned the World Jai Alai organization.

Wheeler was shot in the head as he sat in his car at Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa. Investigators believe that the killing was ordered by Boston-area gangsters and was linked to Wheeler's purchase of World Jai Alai -- a sport on which bets are placed -- and his suspicion that money was being skimmed from the company.

Martorano reached a deal with state and federal prosecutors in 1999 and pleaded guilty to killings in multiple states. He pleaded guilty in 2001 to second-degree murder in Wheeler's death and received a 15-year prison term.

Martorano wasn't required to serve time in an Oklahoma prison, but he remained in federal custody while serving concurrent sentences for other crimes. He was freed from federal prison last year.

## Authorities release voice recording of fugitive

Flemmi pleaded guilty in 2004 to first-degree murder and conspiracy in the Wheeler case. He received concurrent sentences of life and 10 years, with the understanding that he also would serve his time in a federal prison for crimes committed elsewhere.

Former FBI Agent ***H. Paul Rico*** was added as a defendant in the Tulsa County case in 2003. He died of natural causes at a Tulsa hospital in January 2004, about a week after he was brought to Oklahoma from Florida to face prosecution.

Bulger apparently planned for life on the run, leaving cash in safe deposit boxes around the world, authorities said. The FBI says the last confirmed sighting of him was in London in September 2002. But hundreds of possible sightings, including one last spring in the Sicilian city of Taormina, have been reported in more than a dozen countries.

The recordings of Bulger's voice were taken by the FBI before he fled, and the Bulger Fugitive Task Force -- agents and officers from the FBI, Massachusetts State Police and Department of Corrections, and federal prosecutors -- thinks his voice may be recognizable by someone who has come into contact with him.

The FBI is offering a \$1 million reward for information leading to Bulger's arrest.

**Load-Date:** January 27, 2008



## *A year after mobster's capture, little has changed*

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

June 22, 2012 Friday

Final Home Edition

Copyright 2012 The Tulsa World

**Section:** News; Pg. A14

**Length:** 508 words

**Byline:** DENISE LAVOIE Associated Press

### **Body**

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QUINCY, Mass. It's been a year since mobster James "Whitey" Bulger was captured after more than 16 years on the run. But not much has changed for the families of some of the people he is accused of killing.

They say they have little faith that Bulger will ever stand trial. They cite his age, the yearlong delay his lawyer is seeking and Bulger's former position as a top-echelon FBI informant.

Bulger, now 82, is the former leader of Boston's notorious Winter Hill Gang. As an FBI informant, he provided information on the rival New England Mafia. He is charged with participating in 19 murders, including one in Tulsa, and is awaiting trial in Boston.

Among the homicides in which Bulger is implicated is the 1981 killing of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler, 55, at Southern Hills Country Club. Wheeler, chairman of the Telex Corp., was in the parking lot when a gunman shot him.

Charges were filed in Tulsa County against Bulger, former FBI Agent **H. Paul Rico** and mobsters John Martorano and Stephen Flemmi in connection with the Wheeler homicide.

Rico died in 2004; Martorano pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in 2001 and was sentenced to 15 years in prison; Flemmi is serving a life term for his role in 10 murders, including Wheeler's.

Steve Davis, whose sister Debra Davis allegedly was strangled by Bulger in 1981, said he felt some relief when Bulger was apprehended June 22, 2011, but now he wonders if he'll ever really get justice.

"I don't think in my heart that we're ever going to close this case. I don't think he's going to last that long or live through it," said Davis, who was a few days shy of his 25th birthday when his 26-year-old sister disappeared.

Prosecutors say Bulger strangled Debra Davis, a longtime girlfriend of Flemmi's, because she was planning to leave him, and Flemmi and Bulger worried that she knew too much.

Davis said he was happy when Bulger was captured in Santa Monica, Calif., but that feeling was quickly replaced by frustration as Bulger's lawyer repeatedly sought delays in the trial.



## A year after mobster's capture, little has changed

The trial is scheduled to begin Nov. 5, but Bulger's lawyer has asked a judge to delay it by a year so he can have more time to review more than 300,000 pages of documents, 31 videos and more than 1,000 cassette tapes of audio recordings turned over by prosecutors.

Prosecutors are opposed to delaying the trial.

Patricia Donahue, whose husband, Michael Donahue, died in a hail of bullets after Bulger allegedly opened fire on someone else in 1982, said she's been disappointed that no new information about Bulger's relationship with the FBI has been revealed publicly in the year since his capture.

Bulger fled Boston and remained a fugitive on the FBI's Most Wanted list until he and his longtime girlfriend, Catherine Greig, were caught last year in Santa Monica, where they had been living in a rent-controlled apartment during much of the time they were fugitives. Greig was sentenced last week to eight years in prison for helping Bulger while he was on the run. The Tulsa World contributed to this story.

**Load-Date:** June 23, 2012

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## *Backers: Cut Connolly slack*

The Boston Herald

June 26, 2002 Wednesday

ALL EDITIONS

Copyright 2002 Boston Herald Inc.

**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 704 words

**Byline:** By J.M. LAWRENCE

### **Body**

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The cast of characters now begging a federal judge to go easy on ex-FBI agent John J. Connolly Jr. includes a member of the jury who convicted him of racketeering, a veteran Boston Globe sports columnist and a screenwriter with ties to World Jai Alai.

"I believe that the pain and suffering that he and his family have endured so far is more than enough punishment, and no jail time should be served," wrote juror Joseph P. McNulty in a letter to U.S. District Court Judge Joseph L. Tauro. McNulty, an East Bridgewater warehouse worker who said he does not know Connolly, blasted the prosecution and told the judge he was confused by the wording of racketeering charges against Connolly.

He said he meant to find the retired agent not guilty of tipping James "Whitey" Bulger to his arrest on a 1995 indictment.

"Since Mr. Connolly was in law enforcement, I took it that it was common knowledge that he understood that if and when an indictment was handed down, arrests would be made," McNulty said.

As the lone holdout on another charge, McNulty said he convinced fellow jurors to acquit Connolly on a similar obstruction of justice count. Connolly was found not guilty of "causing confidential law enforcement information" to go to Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi about the pending indictments.

In May, jurors convicted Connolly, 61, of racketeering, two counts of obstruction of justice and one count of lying to investigators in 1997.

The U.S. Attorney's office declined comment on the juror's letter.

Connolly's defense team was unavailable for comment yesterday. His attorneys last week filed a motion for acquittal citing the jury's "inconsistent" verdicts.

With Connolly facing at least eight years in prison under federal guidelines, a stream of letters is arriving asking Tauro for leniency at sentencing on Sept. 12.

## Backers: Cut Connolly slack

"I hope you can find it in your heart to give him the most lenient sentence possible," wrote Boston Globe sports columnist Will McDonough, who has known Connolly for 40 years. "All of us would be better served with John in our community raising his children."

In a wide-ranging, single-page letter, McDonough defended Connolly as an agent just doing his job and attempted to distance Connolly from the Bulger brothers - Whitey and UMass President William M. Bulger, whose 1960 campaign McDonough managed.

McDonough disputed trial testimony that Connolly protected Whitey Bulger as a favor to William Bulger. He also offered a new version of how Whitey scored a janitor's job in the 1960s at the Suffolk County Courthouse after serving time in Alcatraz.

Boston lore had long held that William Bulger used his political clout to get his ex-con brother some work.

But McDonough wrote that he found Whitey the job after visiting him in prison in Leavenworth, Kan., while covering the Red Sox. "I got him the job to get him out of prison, when his brother didn't have the clout to do it," McDonough told the judge.

McDonough was unavailable for comment yesterday, according to a family member.

McDonough said he knew Whitey from playing high school football in South Boston and last spoke with the legendary gangster in 1994 two months before he disappeared.

"Believe me, he knew what was coming at that time," the sports writer and television commentator said, taking aim at the testimony of Bulger sidekick Kevin J. Weeks, who claimed Connolly spread the word about the indictments.

"Kevin Weeks (is) full of bull. There is no way John would have gone to the store to tell him. . . . If John wanted to tip Whitey, he would have done it directly," McDonough said.

Another Connolly supporter is Sag Harbor, N.Y., screenwriter Alan Trustman, who said he has never met Connolly but has written movie scripts sympathetic to the agent and to his mentor, FBI Agent H. Paul Rico, who first cultivated Flemmi as an informant.

In his letter, Trustman also notes he once controlled World Jai Alai for five years in the 1970s, a gambling organization connected with three mob murders.

Investigators believe Flemmi and Bulger skimmed profits from World Jai Alai and ordered a new owner, Roger Wheeler, killed in 1981.

Caption: MCDONOUGH: Globe writer has known Connolly for decades.

**Load-Date:** June 26, 2002



## *Bad fella*

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

August 14, 2013 Wednesday

Final Edition

Copyright 2013 The Tulsa World

**Section:** Opinion; Pg. A12

**Length:** 616 words

**Byline:** World's Editorials Writers

## **Body**

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The thing about wise guys is that eventually they aren't. On Monday, former mob boss James "Whitey" Bulger, who built a criminal career out of manipulating and mocking the legal system, failed to outsmart it one last time. After 36 hours of deliberation in 4 1/2 days, a federal jury in Boston convicted Bulger, nearly 84, in a string of 11 killings and a long list of conspiracy, money-laundering, drug-dealing, weapons and racketeering crimes. One of those murders, the brazen, broad-daylight shooting death of former Tulsa Telex Corp. Chairman Roger Wheeler, has haunted this city and the Wheeler family for decades.

Thirty-two years is a very long time to wait for justice. The conviction of Bulger in a faraway courtroom brings some measure of deserved peace to the Wheeler family and to retired Tulsa Police detective Mike Huff, who doggedly pursued those behind Wheeler's death for nearly 25 years. Yet, the conviction of Bulger, as satisfying as it might be, also exposed the frailties of a system. In return for acting as a government snitch, the petty south Boston hood, who morphed into one of the most vicious criminals in that city's history, was protected for years by corrupt FBI agents. Bulger induced nearly 20 of them to violate the law or federal informant guidelines. One agent, John Connolly, a friend from their working-class neighborhood, tipped Bulger to a pending indictment, allowing him to flee in 1995, which launched a global manhunt. Bulger remained on the lam for 16 years until a tip led to his arrest in California two years ago. While Bulger's case prompted reforms in the government's handling of informants, to convict him, prosecutors made deals with the devil. As part of a plea bargain, John Martorano, the actual triggerman in the Wheeler killing ordered by Bulger, served only 12 years in prison. A free man (he was implicated in at least 20 killings), Martorano joined a lineup of criminals testifying against Bulger, who headed the notoriously ruthless Winter Hill Gang. The 7 1/2-week trial at times rivaled "The Godfather" and "Goodfellas" for drama, with many of Bulger's fellow gang members offering damning testimony into the workings of a crime operation that terrorized, extorted and murdered both men and women - anybody who got in the way. Bulger did not testify nor react to the verdicts. In all, 63 prosecution witnesses, including Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, another conspirator in the Wheeler murder, took the stand, in sometimes explosive testimony. When Bulger associate Kevin Weeks characterized Bulger and Flemmi as "the two biggest rats," Bulger sneered, "You suck," followed by an expletive-laden screaming match that unfolded before stunned jurors. Not present at trial was **H. Paul Rico**, a former FBI special agent and World Jai Alai security chief. Rico, 78, died in a Tulsa hospital in 2003, awaiting trial for his role in Wheeler's May 27, 1981, death. Four of the murders, including that of Wheeler, which Bulger was

## Bad fella

charged with, were tied to efforts by his Winter Hill Gang to control World Jai Alai and skim tens of thousands of dollars. Wheeler, 55, who owned an East Coast fronton gaming facility, was killed after uncovering an embezzlement scheme in the business. Bulger, who faces life imprisonment, will appeal. After gaming the system his entire life, it's likely he will lose and die in custody - an old man whose wise guy image finally fades to black. Justice took too long in this case for there to be complete satisfaction, but there is at least this solace: The painful saga seems mercifully near an end, with Bulger where he belongs - behind bars. SUBHEAD: Long wait by Wheeler family finally ends with conviction

**Load-Date:** August 15, 2013

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## **BAD GUYS VS. GOOD GUYS ISN'T BLACK-AND-WHITE AFFAIR**

Chicago Tribune

May 22, 1998 Friday, EVENING UPDATE EDITION

Copyright 1998 Chicago Tribune Company

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 8; ZONE: C; EVENING. Reader.

**Length:** 1218 words

**Byline:** By Erica Noonan, Associated Press.

**Dateline:** BOSTON

### **Body**

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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, Morris answered.

Had he 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?

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 and sacrificed less powerful thugs in the pursuit of inside information.

FBI stings

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.

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.

## BAD GUYS VS. GOOD GUYS ISN'T BLACK-AND-WHITE AFFAIR

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 mobsters snared by FBI wiretaps--wiretaps that may be tainted by the relationship between Flemmi and his FBI handlers.

Convictions jeopardized

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

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

Raised in the projects, Bulger was a tough kid from a large, old-fashioned Irish-Catholic family. Stolen cars, dope, gambling and finally bank robbery kept him in and out of jail.

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 neighborhood--got the phone call that seemed to be the start of a beautiful relationship.

It was Flemmi's boyhood pal, Bulger, fresh from a stint in prison for bank robbery. Bulger had 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.

The thugs, Bulger said, planned to kill Gianturco that night when he dropped by a deserted warehouse to see some stolen jewelry. Connolly thanked Bulger, hung up the phone and pulled Gianturco off the case.

That tip, the agents still believe, saved Gianturco's life and drew Bulger and Flemmi into the FBI fold.

No jail time

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

## BAD GUYS VS. GOOD GUYS ISN'T BLACK-AND-WHITE AFFAIR

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

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.

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 headquarters in 1981. After two years, Connolly and a pack of agents had enough secret tapes to arrest Angiulo. 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 Mafia induction ceremony.

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

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

If the judge had known the truth about Flemmi and Bulger, the lawyers say, the wiretaps would never have been allowed in the first place.

Agents leave area

As years passed, agents such as 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.

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.

## Graphic

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PHOTOS 4PHOTO: James J. "Whitey" Bulger, who was raised in South Boston, dealt in stolen cars, dope, gambling and bank robbery, but his major claim to fame is working for the FBI as an informant.; PHOTO: Francis "Cadillac Frank" Salemme, a reputed mob boss and other top mob suspects were arrested on charges of racketeering. Defense attorneys say the wiretaps used against them are tainted.; PHOTOS: Whitey Bulger eluded



BAD GUYS VS. GOOD GUYS ISN'T BLACK-AND-WHITE AFFAIR

the FBI. Fellow informant Stephen "the Rifleman" Flemmi (right) shares a cellblock with Francis "Cadillac Frank" Salemme.

**Load-Date:** May 23, 1998

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End of Document



## *Bennett kin continue to wait, endure*

The Boston Herald

November 14, 2001 Wednesday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 522 words

**Byline:** By J.M. Lawrence

### **Body**

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As the backhoes pulled away three decades of debris in Hopkinton yesterday, members of the Bennett family hoped for a conclusion to the saga clouding all of their lives.

"It's not like it happened two or three years ago. It's an emotional scar that's been carried for 35 years," said Billy Bennett yesterday from his home in Florida.

In a single year, 1967, the mob killed a generation of Bennett brothers - Edward "Wimpy," Walter and William Bennett - to wipe out the competition.

But something else died that year as well, one Bennett son says.

"You don't just kill someone, put them in a hole and say it's over. It didn't just kill our parents, it killed an entire family," Billy said.

In some ways, Billy was luckier than his cousins, he says.

Billy got to bury his father. When Billy was 17, the Mob shot William Bennett to keep him from avenging his dead brothers. He was dumped in a snowbank in Mattapan.

But Billy's cousins - Wimpy's two sons and Walter's son and five daughters - have spent most of their lives without the finality of a father's wake and burial.

"It's devastating," he says. "You go to any family who has had a tragedy like that and you will find deep-rooted problems. It's something you can't step around."

Finding the Bennetts' bodies was a promise investigators offered the family last year when prosecutors cut the murder charges from one of several cases against gangster Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi.

The government never explained why the Bennett killings were dropped during plea negotiations.

Bennett kin continue to wait, endure

But Flemmi's attorneys speculated the case would have further embarrassed the government over Flemmi's role as an FBI informant.

Flemmi is still awaiting trial on numerous charges including murder.

Recovering the brothers' remains might bring some peace to their family, Billy said, but anger over the government's role in the men's deaths lingers.

"To this day, I still have trouble accepting it's just mobsters who did it," Billy says.

Flemmi, once friends with the Bennetts, allegedly double-crossed them to win more loansharking territory during Boston's gang wars. The murders won him favor with the Mafia and a position of trust.

Memos from the 1960s written by the gangster's handler, agent H. Paul Rico, make clear that Flemmi's new seat in the Mob's inner-circle made him valuable to the government and worthy of protection.

"To me that's manipulation. That is a total enterprise between the FBI and the Mob. They're as guilty of pulling the trigger as the Mob itself," Billy said.

Yet times have changed, Billy acknowledged yesterday after receiving a call from state and federal investigators who alerted him about the dig.

"These fellas who are running it now, I have to commend them on it," Billy said. "They are straight-up for a change. Over the years we had gotten no help, nothing at all."

Caption: VICTIM: Edward, one of three slain brothers.

Caption: GRIM SEARCH: Investigators stand by as a backhoe scrapes away earth behind the Hopkinton Sportsmen's Association yesterday where they believe Mob victims may be buried. Staff photo by George Martell

**Load-Date:** November 14, 2001



## [Billy won't talk; Congress panel seeks testimony on Whitey](#)

The Boston Herald

November 28, 2002 Thursday

ALL EDITIONS

Copyright 2002 Boston Herald Inc.

**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 820 words

**Byline:** By Maggie Mulvihill and Jonathan Wells

### **Body**

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University of Massachusetts President William M. Bulger was resisting efforts last night by a congressional committee to grill him about his notorious gangster brother, James J. "Whitey" Bulger.

The House Committee on Government Reform, which is probing FBI corruption in Massachusetts, yesterday announced plans to question Bulger about his brother's relationship with federal law enforcement at hearings next week in Boston.

But, according to a committee source, Bulger's lawyer, Thomas R. Kiley, called the panel and said the former Massachusetts Senate president had no intention of testifying, citing a scheduling conflict.

Kiley was told the committee would issue a subpoena to Bulger compelling him to appear, the source said. Kiley responded by requesting a copy of the House Rules, which explain the committee's powers to compel testimony.

Kiley did not return calls.

Whitey Bulger, a fugitive since 1995, is charged with murdering 20 people - most of them while serving as a "top echelon" FBI informant.

Bulger has said little publicly about his older brother's gangster activities or the fact that he was an informant for more than 15 years.

He mentioned him briefly in his 1997 autobiography, saying he firmly believes "Jim" left his criminal ways behind him when he was released from federal prison in the late 1960s for bank robbery.

"From everything I could see, he appeared to have taken enormous steps to separate himself from the environment that led to his early misbehavior," Bulger wrote. He also said the "lurid allegations" about his brother's organized crime activities were made to hurt his own political career.

"I am confident much of it has been circulated as an oblique political attack on me," he added.

## Billy won't talk; Congress panel seeks testimony on Whitey

Bulger did testify before a federal grand jury in Boston last year and was reportedly questioned about any contact he may have had with his fugitive brother.

Bay State congressman Stephen Lynch, a South Boston neighbor of Bulger and a member of the committee chaired by U.S. Rep. Dan Burton, will attend the hearings.

"I have great respect for UMass president Bulger," Lynch said in a statement last night. "He has had a long and distinguished career in public service. Whether or not president Bulger can assist in (the committee's) process remains unclear."

Also scheduled to appear at the committee hearings on Dec. 5 and 6 at the McCormack Courthouse are former U.S. Attorneys Paul Markham and Jeremiah O'Sullivan, who led the Boston office in the 1960s and 1980s respectively.

James Wilson, chief counsel to the committee, said Markham has refused to attend, so the committee planned to send a federal marshal to his Waltham home with a subpoena. It is unclear if O'Sullivan, who did not return calls yesterday, will testify.

Markham led the U.S. Attorney's Office during the 1960s. O'Sullivan was the head of the New England Organized Crime Strike Force and U.S. attorney when the FBI used informants Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi during the 1980s.

The Herald has reported that O'Sullivan took extraordinary steps to protect Bulger and Flemmi from prosecution at a time when he was acknowledging in private that the pair was responsible for numerous murders.

According to investigative reports from a private meeting in Boston in July 1982, O'Sullivan knew Bulger, Flemmi and one of their top lieutenants in the Winter Hill Gang, John Martorano, were prolific mob killers.

"O'Sullivan was very emphatic, stating that the Winter Hill Gang had pulled numerous hits," wrote one homicide detective after the meeting.

That meeting between O'Sullivan and detectives from Massachusetts, Connecticut and Oklahoma took place during a spate of gangland murders the federal government has since charged were carried out or ordered by Bulger and Flemmi.

One of those murders was the May 1981 slaying of business tycoon Roger Wheeler outside his Tulsa, Oklahoma, country club.

Two of the victim's sons, David and Lawrence Wheeler, are slated to testify next week. The Wheeler family has filed a \$ 500 million lawsuit against the Justice Department, the FBI and individual law enforcement officials.

Another witness will be Tulsa police Det. Michael Huff, who was called to the scene when Wheeler was murdered more than 21 years ago and has doggedly pursued the case ever since.

Huff has been working on the Wheeler case with the Tulsa District Attorney's office, which is reportedly considering a murder indictment against former Boston FBI agent **H. Paul Rico**.

After he retired from the bureau, Rico went to work as head of security at World Jai Alai in Florida, a company that Wheeler later purchased. Martorano, who has admitted to gunning down Wheeler on the orders of Bulger and Flemmi, has said that Rico was the source of personal information on Wheeler which he used to ambush the business executive.

Caption: WILLIAM BULGER: Balks at talking.

Billy won't talk; Congress panel seeks testimony on Whitey

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The Boston Herald

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Caption: WILLIAM BULGER: Balks at talking.



Billy won't talk; Congress panel seeks testimony on Whitey

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## **BOSTON FEDERAL JUDGE TO TESTIFY IN PROBE OF FBI**

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The Boston Globe

January 8, 2002, Tuesday

,THIRD EDITION

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**Section:** METRO/REGION;

**Length:** 863 words

**Byline:** By Shelley Murphy, Globe Staff

### **Body**

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Thirty-five years ago, then federal prosecutor Edward F. Harrington was hailed as a local hero for persuading Mafia hitman Joseph Baron Barboza to become the first member of the Federal Witness Protection Program and testify against local Mafia leaders.

Yesterday, it was announced that Harrington, now a federal judge, has been called to testify on Feb. 7 before a congressional committee investigating FBI misconduct. He will be asked to defend his handling of Barboza - whose testimony helped send four men to prison for a killing they didn't commit.

The House Committee on Government Reform, which is chaired by Indiana Republican Dan Burton, has been investigating allegations that the FBI mishandled and protected controversial informants dating back to the 1960s in its zeal to dismantle the Mafia.

"This committee has been conducting an investigation into the broad corruption that seems to have taken place in the Boston FBI with their handling of their mob informants, and it didn't start with Whitey Bulger and Stevie Flemmi; it started with Joe Barboza," said Mark Corallo, a spokesman for Burton's committee.

"Judge Harrington was a significant player in the early years of this story, and the committee has decided that it needs to hear from him," said Corallo.

Harrington, who has been a judge since 1988, declined to comment. He has willingly agreed to testify, unlike two retired FBI agents, **H. Paul Rico** and Dennis Condon, who have been subpoenaed to appear before the same panel next month.

Harrington was a trial attorney under US Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and was US attorney for Massachusetts from 1977 to 1981.

During his 16 years with the Justice Department, he was head of the New England Organized Crime Strike Force.

## BOSTON FEDERAL JUDGE TO TESTIFY IN PROBE OF FBI

It was while he was chief of the strike force that Harrington earned a reputation as an aggressive prosecutor with an uncanny ability to persuade vicious mobsters to switch sides.

In addition to persuading Barboza, who confessed to killing 26 people, to become a government witness, Harrington also got Vincent "Big Vinnie" Teresa to turn on his Mafia confederates, leading to the convictions of 26 major organized crime figures across the country.

During a telephone interview from Cuba yesterday, US Representative William Delahunt, a Quincy Democrat who is participating in the hearings conducted by Burton although he is not a member of the committee, said: "In my opinion Judge Harrington is an individual of unimpeachable integrity. So I think hearing from him and getting his perspective is important to get the truth.

"If mistakes were made, let's learn from them," Delahunt said. "This isn't a question of assigning blame or guilt. It's providing information, so we never allow this situation to reoccur."

Barboza, who agreed to cooperate in 1967, testified at three trials, sending then-New England Mafia boss Raymond L. S. Patriarca to prison in 1968 for plotting to commit a murder.

It was Barboza's testimony in 1968 that sent four men to prison for the 1965 gangland slaying of small-time criminal Teddy Deegan in Chelsea that is now under scrutiny by Congress.

Secret FBI reports by Condon and Rico show that informants claimed Barboza had framed four innocent men for Deegan's slaying. When the reports were released last year, a judge overturned the convictions of Joseph Salvati and Peter Limone, who each spent more than 30 years in prison.

Their two codefendants, Henry Tameleo and Louis Greco, died in prison.

Attorney John Cavicchi, who represented Greco and now represents Limone, said he wants to know why Harrington didn't credit a lie detector test that was administered to Greco by a Miami police detective shortly after his arrest and indicated he was innocent. Also, he questioned why Barboza wasn't given a polygraph examination to test his credibility.

"It was a Faustian bargain that they did with Barboza and apparently Harrington was the one who put the whole deal together," Cavicchi said. "Maybe he believed Barboza was telling the truth in his own zeal to go after the Mafia."

In 1970, Barboza approached noted criminal defense attorney F. Lee Bailey, saying that he had lied at the trial and wanted to recant his testimony. Bailey insisted that Barboza take a lie detector test. Initially, Barboza agreed, but later changed his mind after meeting with Harrington, Rico, and others.

In a telephone interview yesterday, Bailey blamed federal authorities for persuading Barboza not to recant perjurious testimony, but said, "I would be very hard put to lay the blame at Harrington's feet, simply because coming to know him as a judge, he's of much greater decency than I would have suspected when we were adversaries."

After his testimony in the Deegan case, Barboza was relocated to California, where he was charged in 1971 with killing a 26-year-old Santa Rosa man. Harrington, Rico, and Condon all traveled to California to meet with Barboza.

The two FBI agents testified at his trial, which ended when Barboza agreed to plead guilty to second-degree murder in exchange for a five-year prison term. Barboza was gunned down in San Francisco in February 1976 in a hit carried out by the New England mob.

**Load-Date:** January 8, 2002

BOSTON FEDERAL JUDGE TO TESTIFY IN PROBE OF FBI

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## *Boston gangster coming to Tulsa courtroom*

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

September 16, 2004 Thursday

Final Home Edition

Copyright 2004 The Tulsa World

**Section:** News; Tulsa; Pg. A13

**Length:** 783 words

**Byline:** BILL BRAUN World Staff Writer

### **Body**

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Stephen Flemmi is charged in the 1981 murder of Tulsan Roger Wheeler. His hearing is set for Sept. 30. Convicted New England mobster Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi is slated to appear in a Tulsa courtroom soon on a murder charge linked to the 1981 slaying of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler.

A Sept. 30 hearing is scheduled before Tulsa County District Judge Rebecca Nightingale on murder and conspiracy charges that were filed here in 2001 against Flemmi, now 70.

Flemmi has never made a Tulsa County courtroom appearance in the Wheeler case, but the Sept. 30 date was recently added to a public docket of matters in Nightingale's court.

If his Tulsa case is handled in the fashion of his co-defendant John Martorano, Flemmi's first court appearance here could be his last.

Flemmi pleaded guilty Oct. 14 in Boston to racketeering charges linked to 10 murders in a deal that calls for him to get a life sentence for Wheeler's murder.

A plea deal for Flemmi that was disclosed last fall calls for him to receive a life prison term for the Tulsa County murder. He would serve the sentence in federal custody, and it would run concurrently with his life sentence for federal and Florida crimes.

Investigators say Flemmi and James "Whitey" Bulger, 75 -- a fugitive since 1995 -- were leaders of the Winter Hill gang in Boston while also serving as FBI informants.

Tulsa County Chief Public Defender Pete Silva said Wednesday that he had been asked about representing Flemmi, who likely will have to sign a pauper's affidavit to ensure that he is eligible for a public defender.

Silva said he has conferred with a Boston public defender and been advised that Flemmi was found to be indigent for court purposes there.

Silva indicated that he expects that the previously reached plea agreement will resolve the case.

## Boston gangster coming to Tulsa courtroom

Tulsa County District Attorney Tim Harris said in October that Flemmi provided insider information that was important in his decision to file murder and conspiracy counts against former FBI Agent H. Paul Rico in the Wheeler slaying.

Based upon Flemmi's willingness to cooperate with three prosecuting jurisdictions, Harris said, he made a "measured and calculated decision" to abandon any possibility of a death sentence for Flemmi in the Wheeler case.

Rico, 78, died of natural causes Jan. 16 at a Tulsa hospital, about a week after he was brought to Oklahoma from Florida to face prosecution.

Flemmi was sentenced Jan. 27 in Boston to life in prison on racketeering charges related to 10 murders, including the shooting of Wheeler, 55.

Wheeler, who was chairman of the Tulsa-based Telex Corp., was shot once in the head on May 27, 1981, after a round of golf at Southern Hills Country Club.

Investigators theorized that the killing was ordered by Boston gangsters and was linked to Wheeler's 1978 purchase of World Jai Alai -- a sport on which bets are placed -- and his suspicion that money was being skimmed from the company.

Harris charged Flemmi, Bulger, and hit man Martorano in March 2001 with murder and conspiracy to commit murder in the Wheeler case.

Martorano, 63, wrapped up his entire Tulsa County case -- from initial appearance to sentencing -- during one afternoon in court in May 2001.

He was sentenced to 15 years in prison after he pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of second-degree murder. His conspiracy count was dismissed.

That outcome was negotiated in a deal with prosecutors in Oklahoma, Florida and Massachusetts in 1999, and it was specified that Martorano would serve no time in an Oklahoma prison.

Although Martorano was charged in state court, the case was resolved in a Tulsa federal courtroom for security reasons.

Nightingale, who confirmed the addition of Flemmi's case to her docket, has indicated that the Sept. 30 hearing is expected to be conducted in a federal courtroom also.

Martorano has admitted to killing 20 people. In Boston, he was sentenced in June to 14 years in federal prison, receiving leniency because of his cooperation in helping to expose the corrupt relationship between the FBI's Boston office and its gangster informants.

Martorano has been in custody since 1995. He will receive credit for that time when the length of his prison requirement is calculated.

Flemmi was sentenced in February to a concurrent life prison term in Florida after he pleaded guilty to the 1982 murder of John Callahan, a former World Jai Alai executive whose bullet-riddled body was found in a car trunk in Miami. Martorano also pleaded guilty to that murder.

Rico, who retired from the FBI in 1975, was in charge of security and parking at World Jai Alai arenas in Florida.

Bill Braun 581-8455

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**Load-Date:** September 17, 2004

Boston gangster coming to Tulsa courtroom

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## [Boston gangster cuts deal in 10 killings](#)

The Houston Chronicle

October 15, 2003, Wednesday

2 STAR EDITION

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**Section:** A;

**Length:** 421 words

**Dateline:** BOSTON

### **Body**

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BOSTON - Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, a gangster at the center of a scandal over the cozy relationship between the Boston FBI and its mob informants, pleaded guilty Tuesday to racketeering charges involving 10 murders.

In a plea deal allowing him to get life in prison instead of the death penalty, Flemmi accused his former FBI handler of helping to set up a murder.

Relatives of the murder victims packed into federal court Tuesday, many visibly shaken as they listened to grisly details. Some sobbed as they heard how their loved ones were strangled or shot in the head, then dumped into shallow graves by Flemmi or other members of the notorious Winter Hill Gang.

Associated Press

Steve Davis, whose sister Debra was one of the victims, had to be removed from the courtroom after hearing gruesome details of the slaying. He repeatedly shouted expletives at Flemmi and said: "You make me sick."

The 69-year-old Flemmi, a leader in the gang that ran loan-sharking, drug and gambling rackets in the Boston area, listened impassively as a prosecutor described the killings. After pleading guilty to 17 separate charges, Flemmi apologized.

"I'd like to extend my deepest apologies to the families, the victims, my family, the public at large and the court," Flemmi said. "I truly am sorry. I hope they forgive me."

Flemmi's sentencing was set for Jan. 27.

He cut the deal with prosecutors earlier this month after fingering his former FBI handler, **H. Paul Rico**, for allegedly helping to set up the 1981 murder of Oklahoma businessman Roger Wheeler. Flemmi admitted to his role in the murder of Wheeler.

Rico, 78, who retired from the FBI in 1975, was arrested in Florida last week in Wheeler's killing. An extradition hearing for Rico to face the charges in Oklahoma is scheduled for Friday.



## Boston gangster cuts deal in 10 killings

Tuesday, prosecutor Fred Wyshak Jr. described the killings, saying Flemmi removed the teeth of some victims to make it difficult for authorities to identify the bodies.

Wyshak said Flemmi and gang leader James "Whitey" Bulger decided to kill Debra Davis, Flemmi's longtime girlfriend, because they felt she knew too much about their criminal activities and was aware they were FBI informants.

The developments are the latest twists in a long-running scandal over the Boston FBI's relationship with its underworld informants. Authorities have said Bulger and Flemmi were left untouched by law enforcement for decades because they were informing for the FBI on the New England Mafia, which is separate from the Winter Hill Gang.

**Load-Date:** October 16, 2003

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## *Boston gangster on stand in ex-FBI agent's trial*

The Miami Herald

September 22, 2008 Monday

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**Length:** 286 words

**Byline:** DAVID OVALLE, [, dovalle@MiamiHerald.com](mailto:dovalle@MiamiHerald.com)

### **Body**

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Notorious Boston gangster Stephen Flemmi took the stand Monday morning in the trial of disgraced FBI agent John Connolly.

Flemmi, known as "The Rifleman," was the top lieutenant of Winter Hill gang leader James "Whitey" Bulger during the late 1970s and 1980s.

Unbeknown to people on the streets, he and Bulger were informants for agent Connolly, providing information the FBI said helped dismantle Boston's Italian mob.

But prosecutors say Flemmi and Bulger corrupted Connolly, who tipped them off to indictments, investigations and potential snitches -- some of whom wound up murdered.

Connolly is facing trial for one of those deaths -- a gambling executive named John Callahan found shot to death inside the trunk of a Cadillac at Miami International Airport in 1982. Prosecutors allege Connolly told Bulger and Flemmi that Callahan might cooperate with investigators probing the earlier homicide of World Jai-Alai owner Roger Wheeler.

Flemmi is serving life in prison. Bulger is still a fugitive on the FBI's Top 10 most wanted list.

The diminutive, 74-year-old Flemmi walked in about 9:30 a.m. under heavy security. His hair has gone gray and a large bald spot is expanding on the back of his head.

Early during his testimony, Flemmi calmly admitted he had pleaded guilty to killing 10 people during his days of crime. He also recalled his relationship with former FBI agent and one-time Miami Shores resident **H. Paul Rico**.

"We kind of exchanged information at the time," Flemmi said.

Flemmi was Rico's informant years before he cultivated a relationship with Connolly. Rico, along with Flemmi, was later implicated in Wheeler's 1981 murder.

Boston gangster on stand in ex-FBI agent's trial

Rico died in 2004 while awaiting trial for his role in the Wheeler death.

**Load-Date:** September 22, 2008

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End of Document



## [Boston gangster sentenced to life in prison](#)

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

September 30, 2004, Thursday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 725 words

**Byline:** By CLAYTON BELLAMY, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** TULSA, Okla.

### **Body**

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Massachusetts gangster Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi was sentenced to life in prison Thursday for the 1981 murder of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler, the former owner of Hartford, Conn.'s jai alai fronton.

Flemmi, 70, pleaded guilty to first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder in a deal struck with state and federal prosecutors in three jurisdictions allowing him to avoid the death penalty for his role in Wheeler's and nine other slayings.

Flemmi, in an olive-green and black sweat suit and sneakers, apologized to the Wheeler family Thursday in a state court proceeding held for security reasons in Tulsa's quiet U.S. Bankruptcy Court.

"I sincerely regret and profoundly apologize to Mrs. Wheeler for the loss of her husband and to the children for the loss of their dad," Flemmi said, adding, "I pray for their family."

Larry Wheeler, Roger Wheeler's son, said the murder tore his family apart and that they long to know more about the tangled web of organized crime and FBI corruption surrounding his father's killing.

"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," Larry Wheeler told the court.

Flemmi, turning to face Larry Wheeler, promised to help the family: "If I can provide you any good information, I certainly will."

Tulsa County District Judge Rebecca Nightingale sentenced Flemmi to 10 years on the conspiracy count. The sentences will be served concurrently with Flemmi's two other previously handed down life sentences, which also came in the omnibus federal and state plea agreement.

Flemmi, a leader in the Winter Hill Gang who has been jailed since 1995, will serve his time in federal custody. The gang ran loan-sharking, drug and gambling rackets in the Boston area.

## Boston gangster sentenced to life in prison

Wheeler, 55 and chairman of the Tulsa-based Telex Corp., was shot once between the eyes May 27, 1981, after a round of golf at Tulsa's Southern Hills Country Club.

Authorities say Wheeler suspected that Flemmi, gang leader James "Whitey" Bulger, and former FBI agent **H. Paul Rico** were skimming gambling profits from his World Jai Alai business in Miami, Fla.

In court Thursday, Flemmi admitted helping plan the killing and aiding trigger man John Martorano, who pleaded guilty in May 2001.

Tulsa County District Attorney Tim Harris charged Flemmi, Bulger and Martorano with first-degree murder in March 2001 only after a federal investigation into corrupt FBI dealings with the Boston underworld unearthed sufficient evidence about the 20-year-old execution.

In exchange for the life sentences, Flemmi provided prosecutors with information pinpointing Rico's role in Wheeler's murder. Flemmi had been a mob informant for Rico, who was head of security at World Jai Alai after retiring from the FBI.

Flemmi pleaded guilty in January in Florida state court and was sentenced to life in prison for the 1982 murder of World Jai Alai executive John Callahan, whose body was found in the trunk of a car at Miami International Airport.

In October, Flemmi pleaded guilty in federal court in Boston to racketeering charges involving the same 10 murders, including Callahan and Wheeler. He was sentenced to life in prison.

Flemmi was at the center of a long-running scandal over the Boston FBI's relationship with underworld figures. Authorities have said Bulger and Flemmi were left untouched by law enforcement for decades because they were informing for the FBI on the New England Mafia, which is separate from the Winter Hill Gang.

In 2002, former FBI Agent John Connolly Jr. was convicted of protecting gangsters, including Bulger, who is on the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted" list and is sought in connection with 21 murders. Bulger fled in 1995 after being tipped off by Connolly that he was about to be indicted.

Martorano, a hit man who has admitted 20 murders but helped expose the FBI's relationship with organized crime, is serving a 14-year federal sentence. He was sentenced to 15 years in state prison in 2001 for Wheeler's murder, but won't serve time here under the plea agreement.

Rico was arrested Oct. 9 at his Florida home and extradited to Oklahoma on a murder charge for helping Flemmi, Bulger and Martorano plan Wheeler's killing.

Rico, 78, died Jan. 16 while in state custody awaiting trial.

**Load-Date:** October 1, 2004

Boston gangster sentenced to life in prison in slaying of businessman in Tulsa, Okla.



## *Boston gangster sentenced to life in prison in slaying of businessman in Tulsa, Okla.*

The Associated Press

September 30, 2004, Thursday, BC cycle

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**Section:** Domestic News

**Length:** 402 words

**Byline:** By CLAYTON BELLAMY, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** TULSA, Okla.

### **Body**

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Boston gangster Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi was sentenced to life in prison Thursday for the 1981 murder of a Tulsa businessman.

The 70-year-old Flemmi, who is already serving two other life sentences, pleaded guilty to first-degree murder and conspiracy in a deal struck with prosecutors. The deal allowed him to avoid the death penalty for his role in businessman Roger Wheeler's killing and nine other murders in Florida and the Boston area.

Flemmi apologized to the Wheeler family Thursday in a state court proceeding held for security reasons in Tulsa's U.S. Bankruptcy Court.

Tulsa County District Judge Rebecca Nightingale sentenced Flemmi to 10 years for the conspiracy count.

Flemmi, a leader in Boston's Winter Hill Gang who has been jailed since 1995, will serve his time in federal custody.

Wheeler, 55 and chairman of the Tulsa-based Telex Corp., was shot once between the eyes May 27, 1981, after a round of golf at Tulsa's Southern Hill Country Club.

Authorities say Wheeler suspected that the Winter Hill Gang was skimming money from his World Jai Alai in Florida. Flemmi admitted plotting the killing and aiding trigger man John Martorano.

In exchange for the life sentence, Flemmi provided prosecutors with information pinpointing former FBI agent **H. Paul Rico**'s role in Wheeler's murder. Flemmi had been a mob informant for Rico.

Flemmi pleaded guilty and was sentenced to life in prison in January in Miami for the 1982 murder of World Jai Alai executive John Callahan, whose body was found in the trunk of a car. He also pleaded guilty in October to racketeering charges involving the 10 murders in federal court in Boston, a plea that garnered him his second life sentence.

Boston gangster sentenced to life in prison in slaying of businessman in Tulsa, Okla.

Flemmi was a lieutenant to mob boss James "Whitey" Bulger, now a fugitive on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted list. Bulger also had been an FBI informant. Authorities have said Bulger and Flemmi were left untouched by law enforcement for decades because they were informing for the FBI on the New England Mafia, which is separate from the Winter Hill Gang.

In Boston, a former Bulger crony who prosecutors said helped investigators in the Flemmi case was sentenced Thursday to one year and one day in prison. Kevin O'Neil, 56, pleaded guilty in 2000 to federal charges that included racketeering, extortion and money laundering.

O'Neil won't have to serve additional time; the sentence was offset by time he spent in jail awaiting trial.

**Load-Date:** October 1, 2004

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End of Document



## **BOSTON MAN SUES THE U.S. FOR WRONGFUL IMPRISONMENT**

Hartford Courant (Connecticut)

August 1, 2003 Friday, 7 SPORTS FINAL

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**Section:** MAIN; Pg. A1

**Length:** 1350 words

**Byline:** EDMUND H. MAHONY; Courant Staff Writer

### **Body**

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A Boston grandfather who was wrongfully imprisoned for 30 years while law enforcement agents -- including former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover -- concealed evidence of his innocence, sued the federal government and dozens of retired police officials Thursday in U.S. District Court in Boston.

Joseph Salvati's suit against the FBI and police officials may be the strongest yet among about \$2 billion in claims brought by victims or relatives of victims who say they were murdered or wrongly imprisoned during the 1960s, '70s and '80s by mobsters who were supposed to be working as FBI informants.

Salvati did not place a dollar amount on the damages he, his wife and four children are seeking in the suit.

Hartford attorneys Austin J. McGuigan and Glenn E. Coe of the law firm Rome McGuigan Sabanosh drafted the lawsuit. In many ways, it presents McGuigan with an opportunity to revisit an unfinished fight. In the late 1970s and '80s, as Connecticut's chief state's attorney, McGuigan squared off against some of the targets named in the Salvati lawsuit while investigating mob penetration of the state's jai alai industry. Coe was one of McGuigan's top assistants.

A series of disclosures in federal court and in Congress beginning in 1995 revealed evidence that Salvati's imprisonment and the gangland murders of four men linked to the jai alai industry were part of the same pattern.

Salvati was convicted in Massachusetts on July 31, 1968, in the murder of Edward "Teddy" Deegan. Investigators now view the conviction as one of the first signs of a decadeslong pattern of possible misconduct by influential organized crime fighters working for the FBI and the U.S. attorney's office in Boston.

Salvati was one of six men convicted in Deegan's murder in an alley behind a finance company in Chelsea on March 12, 1965. But hidden FBI memos recently uncovered by a special federal investigative task force strongly suggest that four of the men were innocent. The memos contain evidence that key FBI agents and other law enforcement officials knew the men were probably innocent yet did nothing to correct the injustice.

Two of the wrongly convicted men, Henry Tameleo and Louis Greico, died in prison. Former Massachusetts Gov. William Weld commuted Salvati's life sentence in 1997 and a state judge dismissed his murder conviction in



## BOSTON MAN SUES THE U.S. FOR WRONGFUL IMPRISONMENT

January 2001 after the federal investigative task force made public the documents pointing to his innocence. The fourth man, Peter Limone, was released from prison and cleared of the murder charge at the same time.

Salvati's suit against now-retired FBI agents and state and local police detectives in Massachusetts is based largely on the memos uncovered by the federal task force. Assistant U.S. Attorney John Durham of New Haven ran the task force with assistance from Leonard Boyle, another federal prosecutor in New Haven.

"Mr. Durham and Mr. Boyle and their group deserve credit for discovering much of the evidence contained in our suit," McGuigan said Thursday. "Mr. Salvati and his attorneys understand the debt we owe to those people."

Through the liberal reproduction of internal FBI memos, the lawsuit portrays Salvati's imprisonment as part of a chillingly brutal series of events. At the time, he was a truck driver working two jobs to support a wife and four young children. His biggest offense seems to have been borrowing \$400 from a loan shark and failing to repay it quickly enough.

The lawsuit contends the FBI had substantial evidence that the men who probably killed Deegan plotted the murder for as long as five months. The FBI knew it, according to the suit, because it had installed an illegal listening device in the Providence office used by Raymond L.S. Patriarca, then the boss of New England's strongest Mafia group.

According to the suit, FBI agents listened repeatedly as the two probable ring leaders of the Deegan hit -- James Vincent Flemmi and Joseph "The Animal" Barboza -- sought permission from Patriarca to commit the murder. At the time, Barboza was one of the most prolific killers in New England and Flemmi aspired to the same thing.

"The FBI knew that James Flemmi stated that he wanted to become the number one 'hit man' in the Boston area," according to the lawsuit. "This information was documented ... in an Official FBI Memorandum on October 8, 1964."

The suit also contends Hoover had advance warning of the Deegan murder:

"The FBI Director, J. Edgar Hoover, also was informed that James Flemmi and Barboza wanted to kill Deegan prior to the Deegan murder. A memorandum was sent from FBI-Boston to the FBI Director on March 10, 1965 stating that James Flemmi and Barboza had visited Patriarca, 'to get the OK to kill Eddie Deegan of Boston.'"

The FBI microphone in Patriarca's office produced evidence that the mob boss had initial misgivings about Flemmi's credentials as a murderer, but eventually gave Deegan's death his blessing. An FBI synopsis of the conversation, used in the suit, reported that Patriarca "has a high regard for [James] Flemmi, but that he, Patriarca, thought that Flemmi did not use sufficient common sense when it came to killing people."

The suit contends FBI agents did not intervene to protect Deegan.

Days before Deegan's murder, the suit says, FBI agents had information about who the killers would probably be. And hours after the murder, the FBI was learning from its informants who the killers were. The information was consistent. Salvati's name was never included among those of the killers, while the names of Barboza and Flemmi always were.

It was Barboza who eventually sealed the convictions of Salvati and the other three probably innocent men. After Barboza had been imprisoned for an unrelated crime, FBI agents **H. Paul Rico** and Dennis Condon approached him in an effort to turn him into an informant or cooperating witness. At the same time, the FBI was trying to persuade Flemmi to become an informant.

FBI memos indicate that Barboza said he would cooperate with Rico and Condon, but he had one condition: He would never say or do anything that would "fry" his pal Flemmi. Investigators now generally believe that Barboza put Tameleo, Greico and Limone at the Deegan murder because they were influential members of the Patriarca mob and, at the time, Barboza was in the midst of a violent dispute with the organization.

## BOSTON MAN SUES THE U.S. FOR WRONGFUL IMPRISONMENT

"Barboza informed Rico and Condon that he would not implicate James Flemmi in the Deegan murder, and would implicate Joseph Salvati," the lawsuit contends. "Barboza stated that Salvati had borrowed \$400.00 from a friend of Barboza's and had not repaid the debt, and that Salvati had 'disrespected' Barboza."

Barboza became a key prosecution witness in other federal mob cases. The Justice Department created the witness protection program to keep him safe.

A former tier mate of Barboza's at Walpole State Prison in Massachusetts said Barboza admitted killing at least two more people while in the witness program before being shot on a San Francisco street by another FBI informer.

Rico and Condon received commendations from Hoover for their work with Barboza. Rico retired from the FBI in the 1970s and was hired as vice president of World Jai Alai, a company that operated pari-mutuel facilities in Connecticut and Florida.

Rico was hired by John B. Callahan, a money launderer for another of Boston's criminal mobs, the Winter Hill Gang. At the time, Callahan was running World Jai Alai, and investigators believe he was a key player in the gang's efforts to seize control of the company.

Fellow gang members killed Callahan in the summer of 1982 just as McGuigan and his staff began searching for him as part of their investigation. The trigger man, who is now cooperating with authorities, testified in federal court a year ago that other Winter Hill members were afraid Callahan would fold under pressure from the investigators.

A discussion of this story with Courant Staff Writer Edmund H. Mahony is scheduled to be shown on New England Cable News each half-hour today between 9 a.m. and noon.

## Graphic

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PHOTO: (b&w) mug; SALVATI

**Load-Date:** August 1, 2003

Boston mobster admits having a role in killings; FBI informant Stephen Flemmi pleaded guilty to racketeering counts involving 10 slayings.



***Boston mobster admits having a role in killings;  
FBI informant Stephen Flemmi pleaded guilty to racketeering counts  
involving 10 slayings.***

The Philadelphia Inquirer

OCTOBER 15, 2003 Wednesday CITY-D EDITION

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**Section:** NATIONAL; Pg. A10

**Length:** 434 words

**Byline:** Denise Lavoie ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Dateline:** BOSTON

## **Body**

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Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, a gangster at the center of a scandal over the cozy relationship between the Boston FBI and its mob informants, pleaded guilty yesterday to racketeering charges involving 10 murders.

In a plea deal allowing him to get life in prison instead of the death penalty, Flemmi accused his former FBI handler of helping to set up a murder.

Relatives of the murder victims packed into federal court yesterday, many visibly shaken as they listened to grisly details. Some sobbed as they heard how their loved ones were strangled or shot in the head, then dumped into shallow graves by Flemmi or other members of the notorious Winter Hill Gang.

Steve Davis, whose sister Debra is one of the victims, had to be removed from the courtroom after hearing details of the slaying. He repeatedly shouted expletives at Flemmi and said: "You make me sick."

Flemmi, 69, a leader in the gang that ran loan-sharking, drug and gambling rackets in the Boston area, listened impassively as a prosecutor described the killings. After pleading guilty to 17 separate charges, Flemmi apologized.

"I'd like to extend my deepest apologies to the families, the victims, my family, the public at large and the court," Flemmi said. "I truly am sorry. I hope they forgive me."

Sentencing was set for Jan. 27.

Boston mobster admits having a role in killings;FBI informant Stephen Flemmi pleaded guilty to racketeering counts involving 10 slayings.

He cut the deal with prosecutors earlier this month after fingering his former FBI handler, ***H. Paul Rico***, for allegedly helping to set up the 1981 murder of Oklahoma businessman Roger Wheeler. Flemmi admitted to his role in the murder of Wheeler.

Rico, 78, who retired from the FBI in 1975, was arrested in Florida last week in Wheeler's killing. An extradition hearing for Rico to face the charges in Oklahoma is scheduled for Friday.

Yesterday, the voice of federal prosecutor Fred Wyshak Jr. choked with emotion as he described the killings, saying Flemmi removed the teeth of some victims to make it difficult for authorities to identify the bodies.

Wyshak said Flemmi and gang leader James "Whitey" Bulger strangled Debra Davis, Flemmi's longtime girlfriend, because they felt she knew too much about their criminal activities and was aware they were FBI informants.

Flemmi also admitted to planning and helping in the 1985 murder of Deborah Hussey, the daughter of his common-law wife, Marion Hussey.

The developments are the latest twists in a scandal over the Boston FBI's relationship with its informants. Authorities have said Bulger and Flemmi were left untouched by law enforcement for decades because they were informing for the FBI on the New England Mafia, which is separate from the Winter Hill Gang.

## Graphic

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PHOTO;

Stephen Flemmi will serve life in prison under the plea deal.

**Load-Date:** August 17, 2005



## [Boston mobster Flemmi pleads guilty to racketeering](#)

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

October 14, 2003, Tuesday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 668 words

**Byline:** By DENISE LAVOIE, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** BOSTON

### **Body**

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Mob informant 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.

"I'd like to extend my deepest apologies to the families, the victims, my family, the public at large and the court," Flemmi, 69, said after pleading guilty to 17 charges. "I truly am sorry. I hope they forgive me."

Prosecutors described graphic details of the slayings, as many of the victims' relatives watched from the courtroom benches. Prosecutor Fred Wyshak Jr. said Flemmi removed teeth from some victims to prevent authorities from identifying their bodies.

A brother of one victims, Debra Davis, had to be removed from courtroom after hearing grisly details of his sister's murder. Steve Davis repeatedly shouted expletives at Flemmi and said: "You make me sick."

Earlier this month, Flemmi cut a deal with prosecutors in which he accused the man who recruited him to become an FBI informant in the 1960s, a law enforcement source, speaking only on condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press.

Flemmi backed up a story provided by a mob hitman who 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, the source said. Rico was arrested Thursday.

In exchange for Flemmi's cooperation in the Wheeler case, state prosecutors in Oklahoma agreed to drop their bid for the death penalty against Flemmi in Wheeler's killing. Florida prosecutors also agreed to remove the death penalty in another mob killing in which Flemmi was charged.

The federal indictment to which Flemmi pleaded guilty covers the killings in Oklahoma and Florida.

## Boston mobster Flemmi pleads guilty to racketeering

Rico was a star in the FBI's war against the Mafia during the 1960s and '70s, recruiting Flemmi and other gangsters from the Winter Hill Gang to inform on the rival New England Mafia. He retired from the FBI in 1975 and worked as directory of security for World Jai Alai in Miami.

After Wheeler, the owner of World Jai Alai, ordered an audit of the company's books when he suspected profits were being skimmed by Flemmi and Winter Hill Gang leader James "Whitey" Bulger, he was gunned down in his car at a Tulsa country club.

Rico, 78, is accused by Oklahoma authorities of providing the gang with information on Wheeler's schedule and other personal details to help set up his killing.

An extradition hearing for Rico on Tuesday in Miami was postponed until Friday.

Rico's arrest was another turn in a long-running scandal over the cozy relationship between the Boston FBI and its underworld informants. Last year, former FBI Agent John Connolly Jr. was convicted of protecting gangsters, including Bulger, who is on the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted" list and is sought in connection with 21 murders.

Confessed hitman John Martorano testified last year that Flemmi and Bulger ordered the Wheeler killing and Rico helped by giving the gang details of his schedule.

Among the 10 murders Flemmi was accused of being involved in were those of Davis, his longtime girlfriend who prosecutors say was killed in 1981 after she made plans to leave Flemmi; and the daughter of his common law wife, Deborah Hussey, in 1985.

Wyshak said Flemmi decided to kill Davis because she knew too much about the gang's criminal activities and was aware he and Bulger were FBI informants.

Wyshak said Bulger strangled her and Bulger and Flemmi removed her clothing, wrapped her body in plastic and buried it. Her remains were found in October 2000 in a shallow grave near Quincy, a suburb just south of Boston.

Wyshak said Hussey shortly after she accused Flemmi of sexually abusing her. Wyshak said Bulger strangled Hussey and Flemmi removed her teeth.

**Load-Date:** October 15, 2003



## [Boston mobster Flemmi pleads guilty to racketeering in plea bargain](#)

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

October 14, 2003, Tuesday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 676 words

**Byline:** By DENISE LAVOIE, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** BOSTON

### **Body**

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Mob informant 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.

"I'd like to extend my deepest apologies to the families, the victims, my family, the public at large and the court," Flemmi, 69, said after pleading guilty to 17 charges. "I truly am sorry. I hope they forgive me."

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## Boston mobster Flemmi pleads guilty to racketeering in plea bargain

Rico was a star in the FBI's war against the Mafia during the 1960s and '70s, recruiting Flemmi and other gangsters from the Winter Hill Gang to inform on the rival New England Mafia. He retired from the FBI in 1975 and worked as directory of security for World Jai Alai in Miami.

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Rico, 78, is accused by Oklahoma authorities of providing the gang with information on Wheeler's schedule and other personal details to help set up his killing.

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Rico's arrest was another turn in a long-running scandal over the cozy relationship between the Boston FBI and its underworld informants. Last year, former FBI Agent John Connolly Jr. was convicted of protecting gangsters, including Bulger, who is on the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted" list and is sought in connection with 21 murders.

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Wyshak said Bulger strangled her and Bulger and Flemmi removed her clothing, wrapped her body in plastic and buried it. Her remains were found in October 2000 in a shallow grave near in Quincy, a suburb just south of Boston.

Wyshak said Hussey shortly after she accused Flemmi of sexually abusing her. Wyshak said Bulger strangled Hussey and Flemmi removed her teeth.

**Load-Date:** October 15, 2003





## *Boston mobster Flemmi pleads guilty to racketeering in plea bargain*

The Associated Press

October 14, 2003, Tuesday, BC cycle

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**Section:** Domestic News

**Length:** 657 words

**Byline:** By DENISE LAVOIE, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** BOSTON

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Wyshak said Bulger strangled her and Bulger and Flemmi removed her clothing, wrapped her body in plastic and buried it. Her remains were found in October 2000 in a shallow grave near Quincy, a suburb just south of Boston.

Wyshak said Hussey shortly after she accused Flemmi of sexually abusing her. Wyshak said Bulger strangled Hussey and Flemmi removed her teeth.

**Load-Date:** October 15, 2003

Boston mobster Flemmi to plead guilty in plea bargain, law enforcement official says



## **Boston mobster Flemmi to plead guilty in plea bargain, law enforcement official says**

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

October 14, 2003, Tuesday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 500 words

**Byline:** By DENISE LAVOIE, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** BOSTON

### **Body**

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Mob informant Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi has decided to plead guilty to charges to avoid the death penalty under a deal in which he accuses his former FBI handler of helping to set up a murder, a law enforcement official said Tuesday.

Flemmi, 69, was to appear in U.S. District Court on Tuesday afternoon for a change of plea hearing in a federal indictment that charges him in connection with 10 murders.

Earlier this month, Flemmi cut a deal with prosecutors in which he accused the man who recruited him to become an FBI informant in the 1960s, said the law enforcement source, speaking only on condition of anonymity.

Flemmi backed up a story provided by a mob hitman who 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, the source said. Rico was arrested Thursday.

In exchange for Flemmi's cooperation in the Wheeler case, state prosecutors in Oklahoma agreed to drop their bid for the death penalty against Flemmi in Wheeler's killing. Florida prosecutors also agreed to remove the death penalty in another mob killing in which Flemmi was charged.

Flemmi was expected to plead guilty to the federal indictment Tuesday in exchange for a sentence recommendation of life in prison. The federal indictment covers the killings in Oklahoma and Florida.

Rico was a star in the FBI's war against the Mafia during the 1960s and '70s, recruiting Flemmi and other gangsters to inform on the New England Mafia. He retired from the FBI in 1975 and worked as directory of security for World Jai Alai in Miami.

After Wheeler, the owner of World Jai Alai, which also had a fronton in Hartford, Conn., ordered an audit of the company's books when he suspected profits were being skimmed by Flemmi and Winter Hill Gang leader James "Whitey" Bulger, he was gunned down in his car at a Tulsa country club.

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Rico, 78, is accused by Oklahoma authorities of providing the gang with information on Wheeler's schedule and other personal details to help set up his killing.

An extradition hearing for Rico Tuesday in Miami was postponed until Friday because his attorney said he has not had the chance to speak to Rico since his arrest.

Rico's arrest was another turn in a long-running scandal over the cozy relationship between the Boston FBI and its underworld informants. Last year, former FBI Agent John Connolly Jr. was convicted of protecting gangsters, including Bulger, who is on the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted" list and is sought in connection with 21 murders.

Confessed hitman John Martorano testified last year that Flemmi and Bulger ordered the Wheeler killing and Rico helped by giving the gang details of his schedule.

Among the 10 murders Flemmi was accused of being involved in were those of: his longtime girlfriend, Debbie Davis, who prosecutors say was killed in September 1981 at age 26 after she made plans to leave Flemmi; and his stepdaughter, Deborah Hussey, in 1985.

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## [Boston Mobster Gets Life for 1982 Murder](#)

Associated Press Online

February 27, 2004 Friday

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**Section:** DOMESTIC NEWS

**Length:** 304 words

**Dateline:** MIAMI

### **Body**

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The body of World Jai Alai executive John Callahan was found in the trunk of a Cadillac parked in a long-term parking garage at Miami International Airport. Investigators have said they believe he was killed to keep him from telling authorities about links between World Jai Alai and the Winter Hill Gang, which ran loan-sharking, drug and gambling rackets in the Boston area.

Flemmi and FBI informant James "Whitey" Bulger were leaders of the gang, and were part of a long-running scandal over Boston FBI agents who protected their underworld informants.

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Investigators believe Flemmi may provide them with information that could lead to additional indictments, possibly against other FBI agents or police officers who may have steered the gang toward informants who were assisting law enforcement officials.

Boston Mobster Gets Life for 1982 Murder

**Load-Date:** February 28, 2004

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## [Boston Mobster Gets Life for 1982 Murder](#)

Associated Press Online

February 28, 2004 Saturday

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**Section:** DOMESTIC NEWS

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Boston Mobster Gets Life for 1982 Murder

**Load-Date:** February 29, 2004

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## *Boston mobster gets life for 1982 murder of Miami jai alai exec*

Associated Press International

February 28, 2004 Saturday

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**Dateline:** MIAMI

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Boston mobster gets life for 1982 murder of Miami jai alai exec

**Load-Date:** February 29, 2004

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## [Boston mobster gets life for 1982 murder of Miami jai alai exec](#)

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

February 27, 2004, Friday, BC cycle

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**Dateline:** MIAMI

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Federal prosecutors have called the Bulger-Flemmi reign "one of the darkest chapters in the history of law enforcement."

Investigators still believe Flemmi may provide them with information that could lead to additional indictments, possibly against other FBI agents or police officers who may have steered the gang toward informants who were assisting law enforcement officials.

Callahan's decomposing body was found in the trunk of a Cadillac parked in a long-term parking garage at Miami International Airport.

Boston mobster gets life for 1982 murder of Miami jai alai exec

**Load-Date:** February 28, 2004

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The Associated Press

February 27, 2004, Friday, BC cycle

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**Section:** Domestic News

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**Dateline:** MIAMI

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Boston mobster gets life for 1982 murder of Miami jai alai exec

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The Associated Press

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The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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**Length:** 1039 words

**Byline:** By The Associated Press

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MIAMI (AP) - Convicted mobster Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi has been sentenced to life in prison on his guilty plea to the 1982 killing of World Jai Alai executive John Callahan, whose body was found in the trunk of a car.

Flemmi, 69, entered the plea on Thursday before Circuit Judge Scott Silverman in Miami and was sentenced to concurrent terms of life without parole, plus 30 years.

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Flemmi and FBI informant James "Whitey" Bulger were leaders of the so-called Winter Hill Gang, a group that ran loan-sharking, drug and gambling rackets in the Boston area and were part of a long-running scandal over the relationship between the Boston FBI and its underworld informants.

Flemmi struck a plea deal with prosecutors after fingering his former FBI handler, **H. Paul Rico**, for allegedly helping to set up the 1981 murder in Tulsa, Okla., of World Jai Alai owner Roger Wheeler.

Rico, 78, who retired from the FBI in 1975 and became security boss of World Jai Alai, was arrested in October in Miami and brought to Oklahoma to face a first-degree murder charge. But Rico, who had a heart condition, died last month at a Tulsa hospital.

Woman pleads guilty, agrees to testify against former lover

MIAMI, Okla. (AP) - A Quapaw woman will receive a life in prison term in exchange for testifying against a man she says killed his disabled wife with her help.

Carlene Ethel Dunbar pleaded guilty Friday to one count of first-degree murder before Ottawa County Associate District Judge Robert Reavis.

Dunbar, 36, admitted she tore duct tape from a roll and gave it to Edmon Douglas Dollison, who then used it to bind Julie Ann Dollison to her geriatric wheelchair.

## Boston mobster gets life for 1982 murder of Miami jai alai exec

Dollison, of Picher, allegedly affixed 18 nicotine patches onto his wife's body and placed a plastic bag over her head in December 1994, she said. Julie Dollison, 31, suffocated after about 30 minutes, Dunbar said.

Her death was ruled a suicide about three months after she died.

Authorities allege Doug Dollison and Dunbar were lovers when they killed his wife after a day spent shopping for a wedding ring in Joplin, Mo.

They aren't seeking the death penalty against Dollison, who has pleaded innocent.

## Store chain posts petitions urging opposition to proposed tax

TULSA, Okla. (AP) - A convenience store chain has posted petitions at its Oklahoma locations asking legislators to oppose a proposed tobacco tax increase.

Officials with Tulsa-based QuikTrip are concerned that the plan by Gov. Brad Henry would widen the competitive gap between retailers and Oklahoma Indian smoke shops, Mike Thornbrugh, manager of public and government affairs for QuikTrip, said Friday.

The Oklahoma Grocers Association expressed the same opinion last week.

The petitions request lawmakers to vote against "any new tax that would raise the price on tobacco products."

State Finance Director Scott Meacham disagrees.

"They just don't want a higher cigarette tax," Meacham said, referring to QuikTrip.

Thornbrugh said that "in the Kansas City area, when Kansas increased its cigarette tax \$5.60 a carton, we lost 35 percent of our cigarette sales and lost 25 percent of our other inside sales on the Kansas side. ... We did get most of it back on the Missouri side.

"For every dollar in tobacco sales, we sell another dollar in other products," he said.

Henry's proposal calls for eliminating state and local sales taxes on cigarettes and raising the current 23-cent-per-pack excise tax to \$1, for a net increase of 52 cents per pack.

Some of the new revenue would go to local governments to compensate for lost sales taxes, and the rest would go to medical research and low-income health insurance.

Meacham and the Governor's Office argue that this arrangement benefits nontribal retailers by eliminating sales taxes on cigarettes. Because tribal shops don't collect state or local sales tax, this amounts to a roughly 25-cent-per-pack advantage.

New compacts bar tribes from subsidizing tobacco operations with the new tax money.

Thornbrugh, however, says that overall the tribes will be getting more money under the governor's program and that the lack of state control over that money worries QuikTrip.

## Lawmaker says he may launch initiative petition against bill

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) - A state lawmaker may launch an initiative petition to put a gaming bill passed in the Legislature to a vote of the people.

Rep. Forrest Claunch, R-Midwest City, said Friday that Gov. Brad Henry's main argument for passing the lottery proposal last year was "to let the people vote" on it.

Boston mobster gets life for 1982 murder of Miami jai alai exec

If a vote was good enough for the lottery, it should be good enough for the gaming bill, said Claunch, who is chairman of Oklahomans for Good Government.

The Oklahoma House on Thursday approved Senate Bill 553 on a 52-47 vote. It passed 30-18 in the state Senate on Feb. 18.

Rep. Clay Pope, D-Loyal, lodged a motion to reconsider the vote on the emergency clause within the next three legislative days. The vote was 52-44 for the emergency clause, but 68 votes were needed for it to pass.

Failure of the emergency clause will mean it won't go into effect until 90 days after the Legislature adjourns, allowing time for a constitutional provision giving people a chance to vote on it.

The measure would allow three of the state's pari-mutuel horse racetracks to offer the same electronic games that Oklahoma Indian tribes have at their casinos.

Proponents, who include Gov. Brad Henry, say it will raise more than \$70 million for education and save 50,000 jobs in the horse industry.

It also will include a compact that will permit specific electronic games and some non-house bank card games to be played at tribal casinos.

If Claunch's group does circulate a referendum petition, it will need a minimum of 51,781 signatures of registered voters.

The group would have 90 days after the last day of the 2004 legislative session to obtain the signatures. The Legislature must adjourn by the last Friday in May.

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## *Boston mobster gets life term in slaying*

The Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

October 1, 2004 Friday

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### **Body**

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Stephen Flemmi, 70, a leader in the Winter Hill Gang, is already serving two life sentences for his role in nine other murders.

TULSA, Okla. (AP) -- Boston gangster Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi was sentenced to life in prison yesterday for the 1981 murder of a Tulsa businessman.

The 70-year-old Flemmi, who is already serving two other life sentences, pleaded guilty to first-degree murder and conspiracy in a deal struck with prosecutors. The deal allowed him to avoid the death penalty for his role in businessman Roger Wheeler's killing and nine other murders in Florida and the Boston area.

Flemmi apologized to the Wheeler family in a state court proceeding held for security reasons in Tulsa's U.S. Bankruptcy Court.

Tulsa County District Judge Rebecca Nightingale sentenced Flemmi to 10 years for the conspiracy count.

Flemmi, a leader in Boston's Winter Hill Gang who has been jailed since 1995, will serve his time in federal custody.

Wheeler, 55 and chairman of the Tulsa-based Telex Corp., was shot once between the eyes on May 27, 1981, after a round of golf at Tulsa's Southern Hill Country Club.

Authorities say Wheeler suspected that the Winter Hill Gang was skimming money from his World Jai Alai in Florida. Flemmi admitted plotting the killing and aiding trigger man John Martorano.

In exchange for the life sentence, Flemmi provided prosecutors with information pinpointing former FBI agent H. Paul Rico's role in Wheeler's murder. Flemmi had been a mob informant for Rico.

Flemmi pleaded guilty and was sentenced to life in prison in January in Miami for the 1982 murder of World Jai Alai executive John Callahan, whose body was found in the trunk of a car. In October, he also pleaded guilty in federal court in Boston to racketeering charges involving the 10 murders, a plea that garnered him his second life sentence.

Flemmi was a lieutenant to mob boss James "Whitey" Bulger, now a fugitive on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted list.

Boston mobster gets life term in slaying

Bulger also had been an FBI informant.

Authorities have said Bulger and Flemmi were left untouched by law enforcement for decades because they were informing for the FBI on the New England Mafia, which is separate from the Winter Hill Gang.

**Load-Date:** October 5, 2004

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## [Boston mobster pleads guilty to racketeering in plea bargain](#)

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**Byline:** By DENISE LAVOIE, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** BOSTON

### **Body**

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Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, a gangster at the center of a scandal over the cozy relationship between the Boston FBI and its mob informants, pleaded guilty Tuesday to racketeering charges involving 10 murders.

In a plea deal allowing him to get life in prison instead of the death penalty, Flemmi accused his former FBI handler of helping to set up a murder.

Relatives of the murder victims packed into federal court Tuesday, many visibly shaken as they listened to grisly details. Some sobbed as they heard how their loved ones were strangled or shot in the head, then dumped into shallow graves by Flemmi or other members of the notorious Winter Hill Gang.

Steve Davis, whose sister Debra is one of the victims, had to be removed from the courtroom after hearing gruesome details of the slaying. He repeatedly shouted expletives at Flemmi and said: "You make me sick."

The 69-year-old Flemmi, a leader in the gang that ran loan-sharking, drug and gambling rackets in the Boston area, listened impassively as a prosecutor described the killings. After pleading guilty to 17 separate charges, Flemmi apologized.

"I'd like to extend my deepest apologies to the families, the victims, my family, the public at large and the court," Flemmi said. "I truly am sorry. I hope they forgive me."

Flemmi's sentencing was set for Jan. 27.

He cut the deal with prosecutors earlier this month after fingering his former FBI handler, **H. Paul Rico**, for allegedly helping to set up the 1981 murder of Oklahoma businessman Roger Wheeler. Flemmi admitted to his role in the murder of Wheeler.

Rico, 78, who retired from the FBI in 1975, was arrested in Florida last week in Wheeler's killing. An extradition hearing for Rico to face the charges in Oklahoma is scheduled for Friday.



## Boston mobster pleads guilty to racketeering in plea bargain

On Tuesday, the voice of federal prosecutor Fred Wyshak Jr. choked with emotion as he described the killings, saying Flemmi removed the teeth of some victims to make it difficult for authorities to identify the bodies.

Wyshak said Flemmi and gang leader James "Whitey" Bulger decided to kill Debra Davis, Flemmi's longtime girlfriend, because they felt she knew too much about their criminal activities and was aware they were FBI informants.

Bulger strangled Davis, then Flemmi and Bulger removed her clothing, wrapped her body in plastic and buried her in a marshy area in Quincy, Wyshak said. Her remains were not recovered until October 2000.

Flemmi also admitted to planning and helping in the 1985 murder of Deborah Hussey, the daughter of his common law wife, Marion Hussey. Wyshak said Hussey was killed after she accused Flemmi of sexually abusing her, and her mother then ended their relationship.

Bulger strangled Hussey, and Flemmi removed her teeth, Wyshak said.

The developments are the latest twists in a long-running scandal over the Boston FBI's relationship with its underworld informants. Authorities have said Bulger and Flemmi were left untouched by law enforcement for decades because they were informing for the FBI on the New England Mafia, which is separate from the Winter Hill Gang.

Last year, former FBI Agent John Connolly Jr. was convicted of protecting gangsters, including Bulger, who is on the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted" list and is sought in connection with 21 murders. Bulger fled in 1995 after being tipped off by Connolly that he was about to be indicted.

U.S. Attorney Michael Sullivan called the Bulger-Flemmi reign "one of the darkest chapters in the history of law enforcement."

"There are going to be additional chapters spinning out of this."

**Load-Date:** October 15, 2003



## [Boston mobster pleads guilty to racketeering in plea bargain](#)

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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**Byline:** By DENISE LAVOIE, Associated Press Writer

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### **Body**

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Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, a gangster at the center of a scandal over the cozy relationship between the Boston FBI and its mob informants, pleaded guilty Tuesday to racketeering charges involving 10 murders.

In a plea deal allowing him to get life in prison instead of the death penalty, Flemmi accused his former FBI handler of helping to set up a murder.

Relatives of the murder victims packed into federal court Tuesday, many visibly shaken as they listened to grisly details. Some sobbed as they heard how their loved ones were strangled or shot in the head, then dumped into shallow graves by Flemmi or other members of the notorious Winter Hill Gang.

Steve Davis, whose sister Debra is one of the victims, had to be removed from the courtroom after hearing gruesome details of the slaying. He repeatedly shouted expletives at Flemmi and said: "You make me sick."

The 69-year-old Flemmi, a leader in the gang that ran loan-sharking, drug and gambling rackets in the Boston area, listened impassively as a prosecutor described the killings. After pleading guilty to 17 separate charges, Flemmi apologized.

"I'd like to extend my deepest apologies to the families, the victims, my family, the public at large and the court," Flemmi said. "I truly am sorry. I hope they forgive me."

Flemmi's sentencing was set for Jan. 27.

He cut the deal with prosecutors earlier this month after fingering his former FBI handler, **H. Paul Rico**, for allegedly helping to set up the 1981 murder of Oklahoma businessman Roger Wheeler. Flemmi admitted to his role in the murder of Wheeler.

Rico, 78, who retired from the FBI in 1975, was arrested in Florida last week in Wheeler's killing. An extradition hearing for Rico to face the charges in Oklahoma is scheduled for Friday.

## Boston mobster pleads guilty to racketeering in plea bargain

On Tuesday, the voice of federal prosecutor Fred Wyshak Jr. choked with emotion as he described the killings, saying Flemmi removed the teeth of some victims to make it difficult for authorities to identify the bodies.

Wyshak said Flemmi and gang leader James "Whitey" Bulger decided to kill Debra Davis, Flemmi's longtime girlfriend, because they felt she knew too much about their criminal activities and was aware they were FBI informants.

Bulger strangled Davis, then Flemmi and Bulger removed her clothing, wrapped her body in plastic and buried her in a marshy area in Quincy, Wyshak said. Her remains were not recovered until October 2000.

Flemmi also admitted to planning and helping in the 1985 murder of Deborah Hussey, the daughter of his common law wife, Marion Hussey. Wyshak said Hussey was killed after she accused Flemmi of sexually abusing her, and her mother then ended their relationship.

Bulger strangled Hussey, and Flemmi removed her teeth, Wyshak said.

The developments are the latest twists in a long-running scandal over the Boston FBI's relationship with its underworld informants. Authorities have said Bulger and Flemmi were left untouched by law enforcement for decades because they were informing for the FBI on the New England Mafia, which is separate from the Winter Hill Gang.

Last year, former FBI Agent John Connolly Jr. was convicted of protecting gangsters, including Bulger, who is on the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted" list and is sought in connection with 21 murders. Bulger fled in 1995 after being tipped off by Connolly that he was about to be indicted.

U.S. Attorney Michael Sullivan called the Bulger-Flemmi reign "one of the darkest chapters in the history of law enforcement."

"There are going to be additional chapters spinning out of this."

**Load-Date:** October 15, 2003



## [Boston mobster pleads guilty to racketeering in plea bargain](#)

Associated Press International

October 14, 2003 Tuesday

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 619 words

**Byline:** DENISE LAVOIE; Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** BOSTON

### **Body**

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Mob informant 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.

"I'd like to extend my deepest apologies to the families, the victims, my family, the public at large and the court," Flemmi, 69, said after pleading guilty to 17 charges. "I truly am sorry. I hope they forgive me."

Prosecutors described graphic details of the slayings, as many of the victims' relatives watched from the courtroom benches. Prosecutor Fred Wyshak Jr. said Flemmi removed teeth from some victims to prevent authorities from identifying their bodies.

A brother of one victims, Debra Davis, had to be removed from courtroom after hearing grisly details of his sister's murder. Steve Davis repeatedly shouted expletives at Flemmi and said: "You make me sick."

Earlier this month, Flemmi cut a deal with prosecutors in which he accused the man who recruited him to become an FBI informant in the 1960s, a law enforcement source, speaking only on condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press.

Flemmi backed up a story provided by a mob hitman who told investigators that former FBI Agent **H. Paul Rico** helped him and others set up the killing of Tulsa, Oklahoma, businessman Roger Wheeler in 1981, the source said. Rico was arrested Thursday.

In exchange for Flemmi's cooperation in the Wheeler case, state prosecutors in Oklahoma agreed to drop their bid for the death penalty against Flemmi in Wheeler's killing. Florida prosecutors also agreed to remove the death penalty in another mob killing in which Flemmi was charged.

The federal indictment to which Flemmi pleaded guilty covers the killings in Oklahoma and Florida.

## Boston mobster pleads guilty to racketeering in plea bargain

Rico was a star in the FBI's war against the Mafia during the 1960s and '70s, recruiting Flemmi and other gangsters from the Winter Hill Gang to inform on the rival New England Mafia. He retired from the FBI in 1975 and worked as directory of security for a company named World Jai Alai in Miami.

After Wheeler, the owner of World Jai Alai, ordered an audit of the company's books when he suspected profits were being skimmed by Flemmi and Winter Hill Gang leader James "Whitey" Bulger, he was gunned down in his car at a Tulsa country club.

Rico, 78, is accused by Oklahoma authorities of providing the gang with information on Wheeler's schedule and other personal details to help set up his killing.

Rico's arrest was another turn in a long-running scandal over the cozy relationship between the Boston FBI and its underworld informants. Last year, former FBI Agent John Connolly Jr. was convicted of protecting gangsters, including Bulger, who is on the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted" list and is sought in connection with 21 murders.

Confessed hitman John Martorano testified last year that Flemmi and Bulger ordered the Wheeler killing and Rico helped by giving the gang details of his schedule.

Among the 10 murders Flemmi was accused of being involved in were those of Davis, his longtime girlfriend who prosecutors say was killed in 1981 after she made plans to leave Flemmi; and the daughter of his common law wife, Deborah Hussey, in 1985.

Wyshak said Flemmi decided to kill Davis because she knew too much about the gang's criminal activities and was aware he and Bulger were FBI informants.

Wyshak said Bulger strangled her and Bulger and Flemmi removed her clothing, wrapped her body in plastic and buried it. Her remains were found in October 2000 in a shallow grave in a Boston suburb.

**Load-Date:** October 15, 2003



## [Boston Mobster Pleads Guilty Under Deal](#)

Associated Press Online

October 14, 2003 Tuesday

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**Section:** DOMESTIC NEWS

**Length:** 588 words

**Byline:** DENISE LAVOIE; Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** BOSTON

### **Body**

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"There are going to be additional chapters spinning out of this."

**Load-Date:** October 15, 2003



**BRIAN MCGRORY;**  
**FOR FEDS, IT'S ALL HARD TIME**

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The Boston Globe

June 24, 2003, Tuesday

,THIRD EDITION

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**Section:** METRO/REGION;

**Length:** 646 words

**Byline:** BY BRIAN MCGRORY

## **Body**

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It's tough to imagine that the federal government can do anything worse to Joe Salvati than it already has. But this being Boston and the FBI here being a national disgrace, there's always, always something worse.

Nearly four decades ago, the FBI allowed a sleazy agent and a lying hitman to testify against Salvati and several other defendants in the murder of a small-time hood. After Salvati's conviction, agents hid documents that would have effectively proven his innocence. For more than 30 years, federal officials watched as his life melted away behind bars.

And now, with Salvati a free man, his sentence commuted by a governor and his conviction reversed by a state judge, it's time for the federal government to do the right thing, right? That government stole 30 years of his life. I mean, give him the Hoover Building, because how do you properly value 30 years of a man's life?

Well, think again, because federal law enforcement's reign of terror in Boston seems to have no logical end. Rather than negotiate, rather than settle, rather than try to reimburse Salvati for even a hint of what he lost, federal lawyers have chosen the time-tested strategy of endless delays.

"He is 70 years old," says Victor Garo, Salvati's lawyer. "The Department of Justice wants to see Joe Salvati die before he ever gets a penny, even though his estate will get it."

Tough words, but hard to disprove. Garo informed the Justice Department late last summer that he planned to file suit and then entered what's known as a six-month cooling off period, in which the parties are encouraged to negotiate. He traveled to Washington and met with lawyers. He offered figures of his own.

But through it all, the federal government made no counter offer, not even for a dime. The two sides haven't talked in more than four months. Federal lawyers have expressed not a whit of desire to see the case closed.



## BRIAN MCGRORY;FOR FEDS, IT'S ALL HARD TIME

But should we be surprised? Justice Department lawyers have successfully had cases thrown out on technicalities from other victims of the FBI's grotesque excess. When that hasn't worked, they've tried wearing down the plaintiffs. When that hasn't worked, they simply delay.

Through it all, there's little evidence of any remorse. One agent, ***H. Paul Rico***, testified about the Salvati case before Congress two years ago and flippantly asked, "What do you want, tears?" The bureau wants the public to think that the conviction of one agent, John Connolly, has made the whole problem go away.

But it hasn't. Salvati, for instance, lives with his wife in a subsidized one-bedroom apartment in Boston's North End. He owns no car. He minds a grandson every afternoon. He spends most of his time along Hanover Street, drinking coffee at Caffe Vittoria and picking up the occasional odd job. He gathers children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren together every Sunday and cooks them an elaborate meal.

"The bottom line with them is they don't care," he says of the government. "They have all the money and all the time in the world, and they're probably wishing we just died and went away."

So Salvati may end up back in court, and if he does, he'll be well represented. Garo has stuck with him since the 1970s, stuck with him when no one outside the family listened to a word he said. Now the two are best friends.

Yesterday, I called the Justice Department in Washington to ask why there's been no offer. I wanted to hear what possible motive they had to make an old man suffer all over again.

"There is absolutely nothing we can say in regards to this matter," spokesman Charles Miller responded.

Of course not. For 30 years, FBI agents in Boston accepted bribes, befriended thugs, sanctioned murders, arrested innocent men. And now the government, your government, doesn't have the good sense to try to make amends.

Brian McGrory is a Globe columnist. He can be reached at [mcgrory@globe.com](mailto:mcgrory@globe.com).

**Load-Date:** June 24, 2003



## BRIEFLY

The Commercial Appeal (Memphis, TN)

January 18, 2004 Sunday Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A4

**Length:** 481 words

**Byline:** Compiled by Mark Richens from our press services

### **Body**

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#### OHIO

All feared dead in Lake Erie crash

SANDUSKY - A single-engine plane carrying at least nine people crashed Saturday in snowy weather shortly after taking off from an island in Lake Erie, the U.S. Coast Guard said. The airline's president said there did not appear to be any survivors.

The pilot radioed a frantic call for help shortly after taking off about 5 p.m., but controllers then lost contact with the plane, Coast Guard Lt. j.g. Christopher Pasciuto said.

A helicopter found the wreckage about 7:30 p.m. Saturday about a mile west of Ontario's Pelee Island, Pasciuto said.

The wreckage of the Georgian Express plane was in the water with ice around it, Georgian Express airline president Paul Mulrooney said.

Mulrooney said 10 people - nine passengers and a pilot - may have been on board, but it was unclear whether one passenger made the flight.

#### CALIFORNIA

2nd suspect held in Williams death

LOS ANGELES - Sheriff's deputies on Saturday arrested a man accused of shooting to death the half-sister of tennis stars Venus and Serena Williams last year.

Robert Maxfield, 23, was booked for investigation of first-degree murder in connection with the Sept. 14 shooting of 31-year-old Yetunde Price. He was being held at the sheriff's Norwalk station without bail, Deputy Rick Bavouset said.

No other information was immediately available.

## BRIEFLY

Messages left for Raymone Bain, publicist for Serena Williams, were not immediately returned.

Another suspect, Aaron Michael Hammer, 24, has been charged with murder. He has pleaded innocent and awaits trial.

## KENTUCKY

Another human cloning claim

A maverick Lexington scientist said Saturday he successfully made a cloned human embryo and transferred it to the womb of a 35-year-old woman.

The scientist, Panos Zavos, who operates several businesses that deal with fertility products and has frequently sought publicity for his interest in human cloning, refused to say who the woman is or where the procedure was performed.

Nor did he offer evidence of having made such an embryo, raising immediate suspicions that his announcement is but the latest in a series of cloning-related hoaxes in recent years.

## SNAPSHOT

**H. Paul Rico**, a retired FBI agent accused of helping his former mob informants arrange the murder of a Tulsa, Okla., businessman, died late Friday, a week after he was extradited to Oklahoma to face charges. He was 78.

## QUOTABLE

A Michigan woman pregnant with sextuplets has given birth to the five remaining babies more than a week after delivering the first, hospital officials said Saturday. The four boys and two girls were three months premature. The mother, Amy Van Houten, 26, was tired but in fair condition Saturday. Says Dad, Ben Van Houten, 29:

"The Lord just blessed us abundantly. Six little wonderful darling children that from (our) perspective seem to be really healthy. From the doctor's perspective, they're in critical condition."

**Load-Date:** January 20, 2004



## BRIEFLY NATION

The Orange County Register (California)

October 10, 2003 Friday

Copyright 2003 Orange County Register

**Section:** NEWS

**Length:** 756 words

### **Body**

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Suspects in kidnapping of senator's wife held

CARTERET, N.J. Two men suspected of kidnapping a senator's wife in Virginia and forcing her to withdraw money at knifepoint were captured in New Jersey after they stumbled into an undercover drug-surveillance operation.

Police in Carteret spotted the suspects' stolen car in a known drug-trafficking area late Wednesday after Virginia police put out an alert for the vehicle, Carteret Police Chief John Pieczynski said.

Kathleen Gregg, wife of Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., managed to escape unharmed after her ordeal Tuesday, and police said there was no indication the kidnapers knew she was a senator's wife. Some of her jewelry was found in the suspects' car, authorities said Thursday.

An unmarked police car approached the stolen car late Wednesday, prompting one suspect to run off and the other to veer the car toward officers before speeding away, the chief said. The car smashed into a fence a short distance away, and the driver suffered a broken leg.

Fairfax, Va., police identified the suspects as Michael Pierre, 26, of Upper Marlboro, Md., and Christopher Forbes, 31, of no fixed address. Forbes was hospitalized in good condition; Pierre was jailed.

Both were charged with aggravated assault on a police officer, possession of stolen property and other counts, and authorities said they will be charged in Virginia with abduction, robbery and burglary.

Gregg said two men entered her McLean, Va., home Tuesday, threatened her with a knife and tied her up face down on the floor. The intruders went through the house, rifling through jewelry. They took her engagement ring, golf clubs and \$50 from her wallet.

"One man was sitting on me and I kept thinking, 'I need to get out of this house,' and I said, 'The only way I can get you money is if we go to the bank,'" she told WMUR-TV of Manchester, N.H., on Wednesday.

After lying tied up on the floor for more than an hour, she persuaded the men to untie her and take her to the bank. Inside the bank, she asked for money from a teller, and gave it the men, then bolted along a hallway and hid in a closet.

## BRIEFLY NATION

Ex-FBI agent held in executive's killing

BOSTON The former FBI handler of fugitive mobster James ``Whitey" Bulger was arrested Thursday in Florida and charged with the 1981 mob-related murder of a Tulsa, Okla., businessman, his lawyer said.

**H. Paul Rico**, 78, is charged with murder and conspiracy to commit murder in the death of Roger Wheeler, the 55-year-old chairman of Tulsa-based Telex Corp. Wheeler was shot in the head after playing a round of golf at Southern Hills Country Club on May 27, 1981.

Investigators have said Rico provided John Martorano, a hit man for the Boston-based Winter Hill Gang, with information on Wheeler's schedule so he could be killed.

``He flat out categorically denies this," said his Florida attorney, William Cagney III. ``He never assisted the Winter Hill Gang in trying to get inside information so they could ... do away with people."

Trash collectors end strike in Chicago

CHICAGO Union garbage collectors voted overwhelmingly Thursday to end a nine-day strike that left stinking piles of trash in the Chicago area.

Members of the Teamsters union, following the recommendation of their negotiators, voted 1,540 to 373 to accept a pact giving workers a 28 percent raise in wages and benefits over five years.

The Chicago Area Refuse Haulers Association said trucks would work through the night clearing festering piles of trash. The city's sanitation official said, however, it would be days before all the trash is gone.

The 3,300 union workers handle garbage for 17 private waste haulers that serve Chicago and the suburbs.

Philadelphia mayor denies wrongdoing

PHILADELPHIA Mayor John F. Street tried to get his re-election campaign back on track Thursday after FBI bugging devices were discovered in his office, insisting that he has done nothing wrong and that prosecutors have assured him he is not the target of a probe.

He and other politicians called on the FBI to say who is being investigated -- something the bureau refused to do for the third straight day.

Street's Republican rival, Sam Katz, denied having anything to do with the eavesdropping equipment. The rematch between the two has been marked by charges of intimidation and race-baiting.

The devices were found Tuesday by police conducting a routine sweep of Street's City Hall office suite.

Police Commissioner Sylvester Johnson said FBI agents confiscated Street's personal wireless e-mail unit shortly after the devices were found.

## Graphic

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Lighter than air: Albuquerque police Officer Chris Marquez watches as balloons inflate Thursday during the city's annual hot-air balloon fiesta. The event ends Sunday.

**Load-Date:** October 18, 2003

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End of Document



## Briefs

The Herald-Sun (Durham, NC)

January 18, 2004 Sunday

Final Edition

Copyright 2004 The Durham Herald Co.

**Section:** INSIDE FRONT; Pg. A6

**Length:** 637 words

### **Body**

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IBM plans to add 15,000 new jobs

ARMONK, N.Y. -- On the heels of strong earnings reports, IBM Corp. announced Saturday that it will add 15,000 jobs worldwide.

About 4,500 new hires will be made in the United States, primarily tied to high-growth areas such as software and services, company officials said. The remainder of the jobs will be in emerging markets such as China and India and in Europe.

The job additions were 50 percent over company projections and will increase Big Blue's work force to nearly 330,000, officials said. More than half of the company's employees are outside the United States.

With the new hirings, IBM will have the most employees it has had since 1991, when it had 344,000 employees worldwide.

Ex-FBI agent tied to murder dies

TULSA, Okla. -- A retired FBI agent accused of helping his former mob informants arrange the murder of a Tulsa businessman died a week after he was extradited to Oklahoma to face charges, a hospital spokeswoman said Saturday.

**H. Paul Rico**, 78, died late Friday, a few hours after a Tulsa County judge put the murder case on hold pending a psychological evaluation to determine if Rico was competent to stand trial.

The cause of Rico's death was not immediately released.

Rico was accused of helping arrange the 1981 murder of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler, chairman of Telex Corp. and owner of World Jai Alai in Florida, where Rico worked as security chief after leaving the FBI.

5 babies born week after first

## Briefs

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. -- A woman pregnant with sextuplets has given birth to the five remaining babies more than a week after delivering the first, a hospital official said Saturday.

The four boys and two girls were three months premature.

Amy Van Houten delivered four babies Friday and one Saturday morning, Spectrum Hospital spokesman Bruce Rossman said. All were in critical condition, weighing between 1 pound, 4 ounces and 2 pounds, 1 ounce.

The babies' names are Gerrit Calvin, Samantha Clair, Nolan Benjamin, Peyton Scott and Kennedy Alexis. John Paul, who was born Jan. 7 and weighed 1 pound, 8 ounces, also was listed in critical condition.

The mother, a 26-year-old teacher, was in fair condition but tired, the hospital said.

Probation given in cancer hoax

URBANA, Ohio -- A woman who accepted \$6,400 in donations after shaving her head and dyeing her skin to make it appear she had cancer has been sentenced to three days in jail and three years of probation.

Katrina Combs' ruse went on for about three years before a co-worker raised concerns to police, said Mindy Bailey, Combs' former boss at a nursing facility.

Under her sentence, Combs, 31, must return the donations, pay a \$500 fine and also serve 400 hours of community service.

Publisher sues, fires chairman

NEW YORK -- Newspaper publisher Hollinger International Inc. removed Conrad Black as its chairman Saturday, hours after announcing a lawsuit alleging that he and an associate improperly took more than \$200 million from the company.

Hollinger International, publisher of newspapers including the Chicago Sun-Times and The Daily Telegraph in London, said the executive committee of its board of directors removed Black as chairman, effective immediately. He remains the company's controlling shareholder.

The lawsuit, filed in federal court in New York on Friday, accuses Black and David Radler, the company's former president and chief operating officer, of "repeated and systematic schemes to divert corporate assets and opportunities to themselves."

Hollinger International is seeking recovery of the money, which includes fees paid to both men as part of asset sales. It also wants the return of fees paid to Hollinger International's Toronto-based parent company Hollinger Inc., which is controlled by Black, as well as two privately held companies also controlled by Black.

-- From wire reports

**Load-Date:** August 17, 2004





## Briefs

The Herald-Sun (Durham, NC)

October 10, 2003 Friday

Final Edition

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**Section:** INSIDE FRONT; Pg. A6

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### **Body**

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It's time to end Bosnia mission

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. -- After eight years in Bosnia, the United States and its NATO allies believe the end is in sight for a peacekeeping mission that has largely achieved its goal but is still tying down hundreds of U.S. soldiers, the American ambassador to NATO said Thursday.

Ambassador Nicholas Burns said that while final decisions are probably months away, talks here among NATO defense ministers produced a feeling that the time is approaching for the alliance to leave Bosnia.

91-year-old pulls off 3rd robbery

LUBBOCK, Texas -- A 91-year-old man who walks with a cane and is hard of hearing pleaded guilty Thursday to stealing nearly \$2,000 from a bank, his third such robbery in less than five years.

Leaning on his cane and wearing a headset to listen to the judge, J.L. Hunter "Red" Rountree initially responded "not guilty" when asked for his plea.

"I mean, "Guilty," Rountree later said. "I'm sorry."

In August, Rountree handed a First American Bank teller in Abilene an envelope with "Robbery" written on it in red marker, prosecutors said. He gave her a second envelope, telling her to put money in it. Twice the teller asked if he was kidding. After the first time, Rountree said, "Hurry up or you will get hurt."

Ex-FBI agent gets murder charge

BOSTON -- A former FBI agent who handled high-ranking mob informants was arrested Thursday 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 55-year-old Roger Wheeler, who was shot in the head at a Tulsa, Okla., country club after a round of golf.

## Briefs

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

## Texas OKs new map for districts

AUSTIN, Texas -- State lawmakers reached an agreement Thursday 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 add as many as seven Republicans to Texas' congressional delegation, currently dominated by Democrats 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 Thursday.

## Smoking rate for black men dips

ATLANTA -- For the first time, the smoking rate among black men in the United States has dipped to nearly that among white men -- a victory federal officials Thursday attributed in part to a decades-old change in attitudes.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said 27.7 percent of black men smoked in 2001, compared with 25.4 percent of white men. A decade before, the rates were 35 percent and 27 percent, respectively.

## Troops treated to Shakespeare

ANCHORAGE, Alaska -- It's true what Othello said: "Tis the soldier's life to have their balmy slumbers waked with strife." Thus, it seems a fine use of arts funds to treat American troops to a tour of Shakespeare.

Tucked inside the \$368 billion defense bill approved by Congress last month is \$1 million for Shakespeare performances to shift soldiers' attention from the battlefield to the Bard.

But the money could have a big impact as the Alabama Shakespeare Festival and other theater companies bring their plays to U.S. military bases, said Felicia Knight, spokeswoman for the National Endowment for the Arts.

-- From wire reports

**Load-Date:** August 17, 2004

Briefs: Bryant's prosecutors want closed testimony/Study finds cancer, tanning salons link/Mob informant pleads guilty in plea bargain/Bombing trial pace angers ....



**[Briefs: Bryant's prosecutors want closed testimony  
Study finds cancer, tanning salons link/Mob informant pleads guilty in plea  
bargain/Bombing trial pace angers Nichols judge](#)**

Ventura County Star (California)

October 15, 2003 Wednesday

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**Section:** News; Pg. A08

**Length:** 460 words

**Byline:** Associated Press

## **Body**

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COLORADO

Bryant's prosecutors want closed testimony

EAGLE -- Prosecutors accused Kobe Bryant's attorneys of deliberately smearing the reputation of his accuser Tuesday as they asked a judge to make sure any evidence about her sexual past is heard behind closed doors.

In a sharply worded court filing, prosecutors faulted defense attorney Pamela Mackey for asking a detective at a preliminary hearing last week whether injuries to the 19-year-old accuser were "consistent with a person who had sex with three different men in three days."

That question prompted Eagle County Judge Frederick Gannett to halt the hearing, which is to resume today and will determine whether the basketball star will stand trial on a sexual assault charge.

Prosecutors said the question was a "deliberate and calculated" attempt to elicit testimony on evidence that is irrelevant this early in the case.

The 25-year-old NBA superstar faces up to life in prison if convicted of the single count of felony sexual assault.

washington, d.c.

Study finds cancer, tanning salons link

Regularly baking to a golden tan under sun lamps can increase the risk of malignant melanoma, a sometimes fatal skin cancer, and the younger a woman starts the greater the risk, a study says.

Briefs: Bryant's prosecutors want closed testimonyStudy finds cancer, tanning salons link/Mob informant pleads guilty in plea bargain/Bombing trial pace angers ....

The study appearing this week in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, analyzed the lifestyles and melanoma risks for women between the ages of 30 and 50. It found what the researchers said was the strongest evidence yet that artificial sun tanning can be dangerous to healthy skin.

#### MASSACHUSETTS

Mob informant pleads guilty in plea bargain

BOSTON -- Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, a gangster at the center of a scandal over the cozy relationship between the Boston FBI and its mob informants, pleaded guilty Tuesday to racketeering charges involving 10 murders.

In a plea deal allowing him to get life in prison instead of the death penalty, Flemmi accused his former FBI handler of helping to set up a murder.

He cut the deal with prosecutors earlier this month after fingering his former FBI handler, **H. Paul Rico**, for allegedly helping to set up a 1981 murder. Rico was arrested last week in the killing.

#### OKLAHOMA

Bombing trial pace angers Nichols judge

OKLAHOMA CITY -- The judge in the state's murder case against Oklahoma City bombing conspirator Terry Nichols said Tuesday that lack of cooperation from the federal government was jeopardizing Nichols' right to a fair trial.

District Judge Steven Taylor chided the government for not making witnesses available for Nichols' defense attorneys.

Nichols, 48, was convicted of federal charges in the April 19, 1995, bombing and sentenced to life in prison. He now faces 161 state counts of first-degree murder for the other victims in the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building

**Load-Date:** October 22, 2003

Briefs: Suspects in senator's wife kidnapping found Court blocks execution, will review appeal/Former FBI agent charged with murder/More arrests in beating of di...



**[Briefs: Suspects in senator's wife kidnapping found  
Court blocks execution, will review appeal/Former FBI agent charged with  
murder/More arrests in beating of disabled black man/Garbage collectors  
agree to end strike/RDA fights terrorism with food registration](#)**

Ventura County Star (California)

October 10, 2003 Friday

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**Section:** News; Pg. A10

**Length:** 671 words

**Byline:** Associated Press

## **Body**

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new jersey

Suspects in senator's wife kidnapping found

CARTERET -- Two men suspected of kidnapping a senator's wife in Virginia and forcing her to withdraw money at knifepoint were captured in New Jersey after they stumbled into an undercover drug-surveillance operation.

Police in Carteret spotted the suspects' stolen car in a known drug trafficking area late Wednesday after Virginia police put out an alert for the vehicle, Carteret Police Chief John Pieczynski said.

Kathleen Gregg, wife of Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., managed to escape unharmed after her ordeal Tuesday, and police said there was no indication the kidnapers knew she was a senator's wife.

An unmarked police car approached the stolen car late Wednesday, prompting one suspect to run off and the other to veer the car toward officers before speeding away, the chief said. The car smashed into a fence a short distance away and the driver suffered a broken leg.

Fairfax, Va., police identified the suspects as Michael Pierre, 26, of Upper Marlboro, Md., and Christopher Forbes, 31, of no fixed address.

alabama

Court blocks execution, will review appeal

ATMORE -- The U.S. Supreme Court blocked the execution of David Larry Nelson less than three hours before it was to take place Thursday, granting a stay until the court can review his appeal in a quarter-century-old murder case.

Briefs: Suspects in senator's wife kidnapping found Court blocks execution, will review appeal/Former FBI agent charged with murder/More arrests in beating of di....

Nelson's attorneys filed papers with the court earlier Thursday saying Nelson has collapsed veins and that lethal injection would be so painful it would be cruel and unusual punishment.

Nelson, 58, had been sentenced to die at 6 p.m. CDT for the Jan. 1, 1978, shooting death of Wilson Thompson. Nelson also was convicted in the shooting death of a cab driver the night before.

massachusetts

Former FBI agent charged with murder

BOSTON -- A former FBI agent who handled high-ranking mob informants was arrested Thursday 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 55-year-old Roger Wheeler, who was shot in the head at a Tulsa, Okla., country club.

Rico's arrest was the latest turn in a long-running scandal over the cozy relationship between the Boston FBI and its underworld informants. Last year, a former FBI agent was convicted of protecting gangsters, including James "Whitey" Bulger, who is on the FBI's 10 Most Wanted list.

texas

More arrests in beating of disabled black man

LINDEN -- Two more white men were arrested Thursday over the beating of a mentally disabled black man that left him comatose for week and prompted the FBI to investigate the alleged attack as a hate crime.

Dallas Chadwick Stone, 18, and Christopher Colt Amox, 20, were each booked on an aggravated assault complaint after they surrendered to police in this small Texas town in eastern Texas.

Two other suspects -- John Wesley Owens, 19, and James Cory Hicks, 24 -- were earlier arrested on aggravated assault complaints. All four suspects were each released on \$30,000 bond Thursday.

illinois

Garbage collectors agree to end strike

CHICAGO -- Striking garbage collectors reached a tentative agreement early Thursday to end a nine-day walkout that left stinking piles of trash around the Chicago area.

The Teamsters union was set to vote on the deal later in the day and said garbage trucks could start hauling away the rubbish by nightfall.

The deal gives garbage collectors a 28 percent increase in wages and benefits over the next five years

washington, d.c.

FDA fights terrorism with food registration

WASHINGTON -- Virtually every food product in the United States will soon have to be registered as part of the fight against terrorism.

Figuring that the best way to protect the nation's food supply is to keep better tabs on it, the government is requiring some 400,000 facilities in the United States to register themselves and their products with the Food and Drug Administration.

In addition, anyone importing food from abroad will have to give regulators advance notice before its arrival.

Briefs: Suspects in senator's wife kidnapping found Court blocks execution, will review appeal/Former FBI agent charged with murder/More arrests in beating of di...

**Load-Date:** October 17, 2003

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## BROTHERS' KIN SAYS US FAILED TO STOP SLAYINGS BENNETT FAMILY SUES, ALLEGES FBI KNEW OF MURDERS

**BROTHERS' KIN SAYS US FAILED TO STOP SLAYINGS BENNETT FAMILY SUES, ALLEGES FBI KNEW OF MURDERS**

The Boston Globe  
August 5, 2003, Tuesday  
THIRD EDITION

Copyright 2003 Globe Newspaper Company

**Section:** METRO/REGION;

**Length:** 341 words

**Byline:** By Andrea Estes, Globe Staff

**Body**

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The children of slain brothers Edward and Walter Bennett filed two multimillion-dollar lawsuits yesterday against the US government, asserting that former FBI agents had allowed Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi to murder the Bennett brothers because he was a valued informant.

In one suit, the 11 children of Walter Bennett argue that former FBI agent ***H. Paul Rico*** should have protected their father. Rico, they allege, knew that Flemmi had killed Edward Bennett but did nothing to prevent further harm to the family.

Walter disappeared several months after Edward.

"Rico knew or should have known that Flemmi was going to murder Walter Bennett prior to the murder of Walter Bennett," said the suit, which seeks \$100 million in damages. "Despite his knowledge of the impending murder and ability to prevent the murder, Rico did nothing to prevent the murder."

Edward Bennett's son, William of Quincy, filed a separate suit, seeking \$50 million in damages. Both suits were filed in US District Court in Boston.

Walter and Edward Bennett, both of Dorchester, ran a bookmaking and loan-sharking business and employed Flemmi as a so-called enforcer. Edward, 47, vanished Jan. 18, 1967, and Walter, 55, disappeared on April 3 of the same year.

A third brother, William, 56, was shot to death and dumped in a snowbank on a Dorchester street on Dec. 23, 1967, after he suspected they had been killed and vowed to avenge them.

Two years ago, former New England Mafia boss Francis "Cadillac Frank" Salemme told investigators that he had helped Flemmi bury the bodies of Edward and Walter Bennett in woods behind a Hopkinton firing range. For eight days in 2001, investigators searched in vain behind the Hopkinton Sportsmen's Association.



BROTHERS' KIN SAYS US FAILED TO STOP SLAYINGS BENNETT FAMILY SUES, ALLEGES FBI KNEW  
OF MURDERS

FBI spokeswoman Gail Marcinkiewicz declined comment on the suits. Rico's lawyer, E. Peter Parker, could not be reached for comment.

More than a dozen families of murder victims have filed suit against the FBI in Boston, alleging that agents allowed Flemmi and fugitive gangster James "Whitey" Bulger to commit crimes with impunity.

**Load-Date:** August 6, 2003

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End of Document



## *Brothers who were kings of corruption in Boston*

The Washington Times

July 9, 2006 Sunday

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**Section:** BOOKS; Pg. B08

**Length:** 1233 words

**Byline:** By Joel Himelfarb, SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES

### **Body**

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After reading "The Brothers Bulger," Howie Carr's tale of the life of James "Whitey" Bulger, Beantown's most vicious gangster, and his brother Billy, the most powerful politician in Massachusetts, I'm somewhat baffled: Given Whitey's brutal nature and his willingness to use violence against virtually anyone who posed a threat to his criminal enterprises, how has Mr. Carr, a columnist for the Boston Herald and radio talk-show host, managed to live long enough to tell this fascinating story?

This isn't an idle question. In March, Kevin Weeks, one of Whitey's top criminal lieutenants, told CBS Television's "60 Minutes" that he went to Mr. Carr's home planning to shoot him to death, but decided not to after seeing him leave the house with his child.

While there is no way to know for certain whether Weeks is telling the truth, it's certainly plausible: Mr. Carr presents evidence in the book that Whitey and his gang had intimidated other members of the press, and he makes clear that they had no ethical compunctions about killing. Fortunately, the author survived to tell this remarkable story.

For more than a decade, James "Whitey" Bulger, who fled Boston in 1994 after starting his reign of terror in the 1960s, has been a fixture on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted list (behind only Osama bin Laden), with the focus of the search in Europe, where there have been repeated Whitey sightings over the past decade.

What made Whitey an especially dangerous hoodlum were the men on his team: his criminal partner, Stevie "The Rifleman" Flemmi; brother Billy, an attorney and politician who rose to become president of the Massachusetts Senate (making him arguably more powerful than most governors he served with) and later became president of the University of Massachusetts and John "Zip" Connolly, the crooked Boston FBI agent who grew up with the the Bulgers in South Boston and used his law-enforcement position to help Whitey carry out his crimes and eliminate his mob rivals.

Mr. Carr's story starts in the 1920s with James and Jean Bulger, who had six children. James "Whitey" Bulger was born on Sept. 3, 1929, and brother Billy on Feb. 3, 1934. The brothers' lives could hardly have taken more different paths. Billy was the studious sort who wanted to better himself and get out of the bleak housing projects the family

## Brothers who were kings of corruption in Boston

lived in. As a child, Billy's idea of disobedience was sneaking a flashlight under his pillow so he could read after bedtime.

Whitey, on the other hand was a budding sociopath who was destined to be a career criminal. He began in 1943 with larceny, soon advancing to assault and battery and robbery. Mr. Carr suggests Whitey, who was bisexual, made money by robbing men he met in gay bars on Boston's skid row.

During adolescence, his idea of fun was maiming other youths while pinning the blame on someone else. In one incident, when Whitey was about 18, he was driving Billy and another youth home from the beach, when they saw a child named O'Hara riding his bike. When Billy mentioned in passing that he disliked young O'Hara, Whitey tried to run him off the road. "Jimmy," Billy said. "I just said I didn't like him. I didn't say kill him." As the boy sped through a stoplight trying to get away, Whitey smiled at his younger brother. "We're not going to kill him," Whitey said. "When he gets to Broadway and barrels out into the street, the bus'll kill him."

Many young hoodlums do in fact "grow out of it," but not Whitey. In 1955, he fell in with a recently released ex-convict, becoming a bank robber. The following year, Whitey would be convicted of armed robbery, serving nine years in various federal penitentiaries. Whitey would later regale fellow gangsters who complained about Massachusetts prisons with tales of his time at Alcatraz.

A favorite story of his was the one about how a hulking black inmate began making sexual advances to a smaller white convict, describing in graphic detail how he planned to rape him. Terrified, the white guy made a scythe-type weapon in the prison shop, and just before the evening lockdown, hid at the top of a stairwell he knew the black guy would climb.

When the latter reached the top of the steps, the white convict emerged from the shadows and cut off the black convict's head with the scythe. "The inmates listened in their cells as the head bounced down the stairs one step at a time like a bowling ball," Mr. Carr recounts.

After leaving prison in 1965, Whitey spent the bulk of the next three decades making himself the most powerful gangster in New England.

Using his connections with Connolly; his FBI agent colleague John Morris; **H. Paul Rico**, a rogue veteran FBI agent; and Flemmi; Whitey either murdered or engineered the arrest and conviction of every Boston-area organized-crime figure who stood in his way, most prominently, Boston Mafia boss Gerry Angiulo and members of the Winter Hill Gang ó a non-Mafia mob that Whitey hooked up with after getting out of prison.

Mr. Carr describes scores of murders that Whitey was responsible for. When he was attempting to take over a company called World Jai Alai, he needed to find out what Peggy Westcoat, a cashier knew about skimming of profits. One day in December 1980, two men broke into her Florida house, hanged her boyfriend, tortured Westcoat and threw her into the garbage disposal after she told them what they needed to know.

Later, with the help of Rico (who had left the FBI and was World Jai Alai's vice president for security), Whitey arranged the murder of Roger Wheeler, the 55-year-old millionaire owner of the firm. In 1981, Whitey strangled to death 26-year-old Debbie Davis, Flemmi's girlfriend, because she was breaking up with Flemmi and knew too much. In 1985, Whitey, Weeks and Flemmi strangled to death Deborah Hussey, the daughter of Flemmi's common-law wife; they were afraid that she would tell police that Flemmi had sexually molested her when she was 16.

In many instances, however, Whitey's ferocious reputation was sufficient to intimidate people into yielding to his demands. Chapter 13 of the book, describing how Whitey forced Steven Rakes to sell his liquor store to him, is chilling, as is the story of how Richard Bucheri, a real-estate developer in Quincy, was taken for \$200,000 by Whitey, who threatened to kill Bucheri after he made the mistake of advising a neighbor who was feuding with Weeks over the location of a fence.

For years, Billy claimed not to be in contact with Whitey and professed ignorance of his criminal activities. This was undermined by the fact that from 1979 on Flemmi's family owned a home, where Whitey's gang used to convene,

## Brothers who were kings of corruption in Boston

next door to Billy, and the fact that relatives of gangsters repeatedly ended up on the public payroll ó something over which Billy exercised iron-fisted control.

All of the above barely scratches the surface of what's in this book. In the end, changes in the FBI and the U.S. attorney's office led to the collapse of Whitey's criminal enterprises and resulted in his flight to avoid prosecution. And Billy gave disastrous congressional testimony that led to his removal as president of the University of Massachusetts. Gov. Mitt Romney helped seal his fate.

Joel Himelfarb is the assistant editor of the editorial page of The Washington Times.

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THE BROTHERS BULGER: HOW THEY TERRORIZED AND CORRUPTED BOSTON FOR A QUARTER CENTURY

By Howie Carr

Warner Books, \$25.95, 352 pages

**Load-Date:** July 10, 2006



## ***BULGER AND THE KID; Cemetery photos unearth another Whitey puzzle***

The Boston Herald  
May 20, 2007 Sunday  
ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 009

**Length:** 607 words

**Byline:** By HOWIE CARR

### **Body**

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First question: Who knew Whitey Bulger liked to take photographs, especially at the funeral of a good criminal pal of his from Alcatraz who may have also been his boyfriend?

Second question: What exactly is the meaning of the jottings and numbers on the back of one of the pictures that the serial-killing gangster snapped at the 1988 funeral of Clarence Carnes, aka ``the Choctaw Kid"?

Here is what Whitey scribbled on the back of one of his photographs:

RAJAB

0819686538

Yes, Rajab is a month in the Islamic lunar calendar, but Whitey is not a Muslim. As for the number, it's got one too many digits to be a Social Security number and it doesn't appear to be a foreign phone number, either.

You can see all five of Whitey's cemetery photographs (plus the two-page funeral bill) on my Web sites - [thebrothersbulger.com](http://thebrothersbulger.com) and [howiecarr.com](http://howiecarr.com). Whitey left the photos behind when he went on the lam in December 1994, before he was added to the FBI's Ten Most Wanted list, with a \$1 million reward on his head.

The fugitive is now 77 years old. There has not been a confirmed sighting of him since 2002.

For those not familiar with the (love?) story between Whitey and the Choctaw Kid, it dates back to the legendary federal penitentiary in San Francisco Bay, where Whitey was imprisoned for bank robbery from 1959 to 1962.

Clarence V. ``Joe" Carnes was only two years older than Whitey, but he'd been at Alcatraz since age 17 after killing a gas-station attendant during a robbery in Oklahoma. In 1946, he took part in the famous prison uprising, when Army troops had to storm the island to regain control.

## BULGER AND THE KID; Cemetery photos unearth another Whitey puzzle

In later years, as he piled up bodies and bucks, Whitey used to say that Carnes saved his life in a prison riot. But there was likely more to their relationship, considering Whitey's bisexuality, dating to his days as a teenage male hustler in the gay dives of Bay Village, where he first met corrupt FBI agent H. Paul Rico.

By the late 1980s, after ratting out most of his fellow gangsters to the FBI, Whitey began edging out of the closet, posing in Village People drag as a cowboy in Provincetown and sipping brandy Alexanders at the bar at Jacques.

Meanwhile, the Choctaw Kid was finally paroled. But he had spent too much time in the stir to make a go of it on the outside. He was soon back in the joint, where he contracted AIDS and died on Oct. 3, 1988. He was buried in the graveyard at the federal prison hospital in Springfield, Mo.

Whitey knew that the Kid had desired more than anything to be interred back home in the Indian Territory - Oklahoma. And by then, Whitey had more than enough cash to make it happen.

He called Robert Embry at the Atoka Funeral Home in Billy, Okla. After Whitey obtained permission from the Kid's next of kin, Clarence Carnes' body was dug up, placed in the expensive bronze casket in the photograph and shipped back to Atoka County in the white hearse. Whitey flew to Dallas with his girlfriend, Teresa Stanley.

Years later, the funeral director said that Whitey had cut quite a swath at the services. He was wearing a sport coat, slacks and an open shirt. Pulling out the proverbial roll that would choke a horse, Whitey peeled off \$100 bills and passed them out as tips to all concerned, the preacher, the singers, even the funeral director. No wallet, just a wad of bills.

And he took photographs. And on the back of one of them he wrote RAJAB 0819686538.

For years afterward, Whitey occasionally called Embry, the funeral director, just to chat, usually late at night. After a while, Embry would say, ``We've been on the phone a long time, haven't we?"

``Well," Whitey would say, ``it's my nickel, ain't it?"

## Graphic

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SERIAL THUG, SHUTTERBUG: Two snapshots taken by fugitive murderer Whitey Bulger during the October 1988 funeral for his very close friend and fellow Alcatraz inmate Clarence ``the Choctaw Kid" Carnes. Bulger paid for the bronze casket and flowers and shot these touching mementos. Are those the Southie-born killer's fingers covering the lens? HERALD PHOTOS

**Load-Date:** May 23, 2007



## *Bulger case a mixed bag for FBI*

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

July 11, 2011 Monday

Main Edition

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**Section:** OPINION; Pg. 12A

**Length:** 651 words

**Byline:** Bob Barr

For the AJC

### **Body**

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Football coaching icon Vince Lombardi is credited with observing that in sports, "winning is the only thing." In our legal system, on the other hand, winning is not everything --- seeing that justice is done is. Yet, as the still-unfolding "Whitey" Bulger case reveals, too often law enforcement and prosecutors adopt a winning-at-all-costs mentality; sometimes with tragic consequences for innocent people.

James "Whitey" Bulger is the Boston-raised gangster connected with the infamous "Winter Hill Gang" and had been on the lam for 16 years before being arrested recently in California. Bulger played both sides --- serving also as an FBI informant, even as he bought off law enforcement to avoid prosecution for his myriad crimes, including 19 murders.

Ordinarily, the capture of a Top 10 suspect like Bulger would be cause for celebration. But few if any current or former FBI agents connected with the investigation have been seen hoisting a celebratory glass of the bubbly. As one observer explained to the Boston Globe, "It was a big problem when they didn't have Whitey. It's a bigger problem now that they do."

In his time as an informant, Bulger had used his FBI handlers to weed out his rivals, allowing him to expand an already profitable enterprise. In turn, his handlers looked the other way as he committed violent crimes and peddled illicit drugs.

Undoubtedly, reports that Bulger already is talking is not welcome news to those connected with his old Winter Hill Gang. And the fear in the FBI is that Bulger's arrest could replay the embarrassment and shame that fell on the bureau a decade ago.

## Bulger case a mixed bag for FBI

The sordid mess reads like a Hollywood script --- and, indeed, provided the basis for the 2006 Oscar-winning film "The Departed." For victims of the Bulger-FBI cabal, however, the results were all-too real.

In fact, evidence that four men convicted of murder in Boston three decades earlier were innocent prompted a 2000 investigation by the House of Representatives. The inquiry was led by then-chairman of the Government Reform and Oversight Committee, Dan Burton, R-Ind.

I was vice-chairman of the committee.

The committee's investigation delved into how the FBI could allow men it knew to be innocent spend 30 years in jail. During the hearings, a former FBI agent, ***H. Paul Rico***, who knew the men were innocent but did not intervene because of his connections to those responsible, was offered a chance to apologize for his role in sending the men to prison. Rico declined and callously replied, "What do you want, tears?"

Rico was indicted for his part in the 1981 murder of Roger Wheeler, allegedly carried out at the direction of Bulger and other gang members in Tulsa, Okla. Local investigators complained the FBI tried to prevent them from solving the crime because it was protecting the mobsters responsible.

Rico would die before ever standing trial; but in 2007 a federal judge ordered the government to pay more than \$100 million in damages to the wrongly convicted men, two of whom died while incarcerated.

John Connolly, another former FBI agent connected to the Winter Hill Gang, was convicted in 2002 for racketeering. Just six years later, Connolly was convicted of second-degree murder for his part in tipping off Bulger to a witness in the case being built against him. Bulger and his associates had the witness killed.

The FBI's blind zeal to catch bad guys in this instance has been a stain on an excellent law enforcement agency, and has ruined the lives of several innocent people in the process. Bulger's capture hopefully will result in his finally answering for his many crimes. It also should serve as a reminder to all law enforcement officers and prosecutors that "winning" at all costs is a hollow victory, indeed.

Bob Barr, an Opinion columnist and former U.S. House member, writes for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. His column appears Monday. Reach him at [mail@bobbarr.org](mailto:mail@bobbarr.org)

**Load-Date:** July 11, 2011





## *Bulger companion admits helping him evade arrest*

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

March 15, 2012 Thursday

Final Edition

Copyright 2012 The Tulsa World

**Section:** News; Pg. A14

**Length:** 410 words

**Byline:** DENISE LAVOIE Associated Press

### **Body**

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BOSTON - The longtime girlfriend of former mob boss James "Whitey" Bulger pleaded guilty Wednesday to charges she helped Bulger evade capture during 16 years on the run. In a deal with prosecutors, Catherine Greig, 60, pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy to harbor a fugitive, identity fraud and conspiracy to commit identity fraud. Bulger, who was captured with Greig last year in Santa Monica, Calif., is charged with participating in 19 murders including one in Tulsa and is awaiting trial.

He has pleaded not guilty. Each of the three charges Greig pleaded guilty to carries a maximum sentence of five years, but prosecutors told families of people believed killed by Bulger that Greig could face less than three years in prison under federal sentencing guidelines. Greig's plea agreement doesn't require her to testify against Bulger, and prosecutors have agreed not to charge her with anything else. They also won't make a sentencing recommendation to a judge. Sentencing is set for June 12. In a statement of facts filed in court, Greig acknowledged that she agreed to join Bulger on the run beginning in early 1995. She also acknowledged that she agreed to conceal him from authorities for 16 years, used aliases and unlawfully obtained identification documents and repeatedly helped him obtain prescription medication from a pharmacy by claiming to be his wife. Bulger, now 82, headed Boston's notorious Winter Hill Gang and also was a longtime FBI informant who gave the agency information on the rival New England Mafia. Bulger's former FBI handler, John Connolly Jr., was convicted of warning him that he was about to be indicted, prompting him to flee Boston in late 1994. Among the homicides Bulger is implicated in is the 1981 killing of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler, 55, at Tulsa's Southern Hills Country Club. Wheeler, chairman of Telex Corp., had finished a round of golf and was in the club's parking lot when a gunman shot him. Charges were filed in Tulsa County against Bulger, former FBI agent ***H. Paul Rico*** and mobsters John Martorano and Stephen Flemmi in connection with the Wheeler homicide. Rico died in 2004; Martorano pleaded guilty in 2001 to second-degree murder and was sentenced to 15 years in prison; Flemmi is serving a life sentence for his role in 10 murders, including Wheeler's. Greig, a former dental hygienist, has been held in jail since her arrest. **SUBHEAD:** He's implicated in 19 slayings, including one in Tulsa.

**Load-Date:** March 16, 2012

Bulger companion admits helping him evade arrest

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End of Document



## *Bulger ex-enforcer grilled about varying stories*

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

June 20, 2013 Thursday

Final Edition

Copyright 2013 The Tulsa World

**Section:** News; Pg. A7

**Length:** 790 words

**Byline:** DENISE LAVOIE Associated Press

### **Body**

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CUTLINES Martorano - BOSTON - A former hit man who admitted killing 20 people insisted Wednesday that he told authorities the truth when he implicated James "Whitey" Bulger in 11 slayings, but he acknowledged lying in the past, including to a close friend just before he shot him in the head. John Martorano is one of three former Bulger loyalists who agreed to cooperate with prosecutors and testify against Bulger at his racketeering trial. Bulger is accused of playing a role in 19 killings during the 1970s and '80s. Among those homicides is the 1981 slaying of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler, who was gunned down in parking lot of Southern Hills country Club after a round of golf. On Wednesday, Martorano's third day on the witness stand, he endured a stinging cross-examination by Bulger attorney Hank Brennan, who repeatedly challenged his truthfulness and his motives in testifying against Bulger.

Martorano insisted that he told prosecutors the truth about the role of Bulger and his partner, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, in various killings, but Brennan suggested that Martorano was a chronic liar who fabricated or exaggerated Bulger's involvement so he could get a reduced sentence for his own crimes. Martorano served 12 years in prison after he cut a deal with prosecutors and agreed to testify against Bulger. Brennan brought up the 1982 killing of Boston businessman John Callahan, whom Martorano described as a close friend. "You even lied to your best friend, John Callahan, before you murdered him," Brennan said. "Correct," Martorano replied. "To me that was a necessity. I couldn't tell him I wanted to shoot him." On Tuesday, Martorano implicated Bulger in a string of murders connected to their gang's failed effort to skim hundreds of thousands of dollars from the gambling businesses once operated by the World Jai Alai company in Florida and Connecticut. In 1981, Martorano said, Callahan, former World Jai Alai president, approached him, Bulger and Flemmi - part of what has been called the Winter Hill Gang - with a plan to take over the business by force. Wheeler, chairman of the Telex Corp. in Tulsa, had just bought the company. Martorano testified that Callahan told him that the new owner had begun an internal investigation based on suspicion that someone had been stealing from the business. Callahan was afraid he would end up in jail, and when his effort to buy back the business was rejected, Callahan hired the Winter Hill Gang to kill Wheeler. Martorano said he flew to Tulsa in May of 1981 and shot Wheeler. Charges were filed in Tulsa County against Bulger, former FBI agent **H. Paul Rico**, and Martorano and Flemmi in connection with the Wheeler murder. Rico died in 2004; Martorano pleaded guilty in 2001 to second-degree murder and was sentenced to 15 years in prison; Flemmi is serving a life term for his role in 10 murders, including Wheeler's. Within a year, Martorano

## Bulger ex-enforcer grilled about varying stories

testified, Callahan's plan to acquire World Jai Alai and avoid arrest was falling apart. He testified that he later killed Callahan. Martorano acknowledged that he knew he faced a possible death penalty for killings in Oklahoma and Florida when he decided to strike a deal with prosecutors and implicate Bulger and Flemmi. Brennan also asked Martorano if he had profited from his crimes. Martorano said he had been paid \$250,000 by a film company for the rights to his life story and could get another \$250,000 if the company ends up making a movie. He said he's also received about \$70,000 from a book, "Hitman," written by Boston Herald columnist Howie Carr. Brennan asked Martorano if he thought about how seeing the book in bookstores could hurt the families of the people he killed. "I didn't try to hurt anybody with the book," he said, adding that he used the money to support his family. Assistant U.S. Attorney Fred Wyshak tried to rehabilitate Martorano's credibility, going through 11 killings and asking him if he and Bulger were involved in each. "Correct," Martorano replied each time. Bulger, 83, was one of the FBI's most wanted fugitives when he fled Boston in 1994 after being tipped to an upcoming indictment by former FBI agent John Connolly. He was captured in Santa Monica, Calif., in 2011. Prosecutors say Bulger was a longtime FBI informant who was protected by Connolly and other agents in the Boston office. Bulger's lawyers deny that he was an informant and say he paid FBI agents to warn him about investigations of him and his gang's illegal activities, including bookmaking, extortion and loan-sharking. Bulger denies participating in the 19 killings. Edmond H. Mahoney of The Hartford Courant contributed to this report. SUBHEAD: John Martorano has testified about a 1981 Tulsa killing.

**Load-Date:** June 21, 2013

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End of Document



## *Bulger ex-partner grilled about woman's slaying*

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

July 23, 2013 Tuesday

Final Edition

Copyright 2013 The Tulsa World

**Section:** News; Pg. A3

**Length:** 722 words

**Byline:** DENISE LAVOIE Associated Press

### **Body**

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BOSTON - Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, the former partner of reputed gangster James "Whitey" Bulger, testified Monday that he watched as Bulger strangled Flemmi's stepdaughter, a woman who had called him "Daddy" since she was a toddler. Flemmi, testifying during Bulger's racketeering trial, said Bulger killed Deborah Hussey because she was using drugs, getting arrested and dropping their names when she got in trouble. Under cross-examination, Flemmi denied a suggestion from Bulger's lawyer that he, not Bulger, killed Hussey. But Flemmi also acknowledged that he twice had oral sex with Hussey in what he called "a moment of weakness."

Bulger, 83, is accused of participating in 19 killings during the 1970s and '80s while leading the notorious Winter Hill Gang. He fled Boston in 1994 and was one of the nation's most-wanted fugitives until he was captured in Santa Monica, Calif., two years ago. Among the 19 homicides in which he is implicated is the 1981 slaying of Tulsa business executive Roger Wheeler, 55, who was gunned down in the parking lot of Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa after a round of golf. Charges were filed in Tulsa County against Bulger, former FBI agent **H. Paul Rico**, John Martorano and Flemmi. Rico died in 2004; Martorano pleaded guilty in 2001 to second-degree murder and was sentenced to 15 years in prison; Flemmi has pleaded guilty to 10 murders and is serving a life sentence. Bulger fled in 1994 after being tipped that he was about to be indicted and remained at large for 16 years. Monday was the third day on the stand for Flemmi, 79, and his cross-examination began near the end of the day's court session. When Bulger attorney Hank Brennan asked Flemmi about whether he had a sexual relationship with Hussey, Flemmi acknowledged having oral sex with her twice. "I never inflicted any abuse on her; that was consensual," Flemmi said, prompting murmurs from family members of some of Bulger's alleged victims in the courtroom. Flemmi said Hussey's mother, Marion, had been his live-in girlfriend since Hussey was just a toddler and that she had called him "Daddy" from a young age. "A girl who called you 'Daddy' consented to sex with you?" Brennan asked. Flemmi said the sexual contact took place when Hussey became "a different person" because of "her demeanor, her lifestyle." He said she had been frequenting Boston's Combat Zone, which was then a center of drugs and prostitution. "So that gave you an invitation to have sexual relations with her?" Brennan asked. "On two occasions, and I regret it, in a moment of weakness," Flemmi said. Neither Brennan nor Flemmi specified how old Hussey was at the time. She was 26 when she was killed in 1985. Flemmi said Hussey was killed "at the insistence of Jim Bulger." "Mr. Brennan, I didn't strangle her," he said. Flemmi said he reluctantly agreed to bring Hussey to a home in South Boston. "Jim Bulger stepped out from behind the top of the basement stairs and grabbed her by the

## Bulger ex-partner grilled about woman's slaying

throat and started strangling her," Flemmi said. "He lost his balance and they both fell on the floor, and he continued strangling her." Flemmi said he and Bulger henchman Kevin Weeks carried her body downstairs in the basement, where she was buried in the dirt floor. He said Bulger went upstairs to lie down after he killed Hussey. Hussey was one of three people who were buried in the same house after Bulger killed them, Weeks testified previously. He said he helped move the bodies later when the house was being sold. In 2000, after he began cooperating with the government, he led authorities to the bodies. Earlier in the day, the brother of another 26-year-old woman who was allegedly killed by Bulger exploded in anger after Flemmi identified him as a drug user and informant. Steven Davis jumped out of his seat in the courtroom and shouted at Flemmi, "That's a lie!" Flemmi had testified Friday about the 1981 killing of Debra Davis, Flemmi's girlfriend. Flemmi said Bulger strangled her after Flemmi told her that he and Bulger were FBI informants. On Monday, when Assistant U.S. Attorney Fred Wyshak asked him to clarify and reminded him that Davis had several brothers, Flemmi corrected himself and said he meant Mickey Davis, not Steven Davis. "I apologize for that remark," Flemmi said. SUBHEAD: He says Bulger choked the woman to death.

**Load-Date:** July 24, 2013

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End of Document



## *Bulger, Flemmi would not take polygraphs; Informants' role in murders questioned*

The Boston Herald

January 9, 1998 Friday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 799 words

**Byline:** By RALPH RANALLI

### **Body**

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The FBI kept using FBI gangster-informants James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi despite their refusal to take lie-detector tests about their alleged involvement in two murders, a defense attorney suggested yesterday.

Local law enforcement officials still consider Bulger and Flemmi suspects in the murders of Tulsa, Okla., businessman Roger Wheeler in 1981 and Boston financier John B. Callahan in Miami in 1982.

In fact, members of both the Miami Dade police and Tulsa police departments attended the start of this week's hearings on the FBI's relationships with Flemmi and Bulger in U.S. District Court, hoping to find breaks in the two cases.

Defense attorney Anthony Cardinale asked former FBI Special Agent in Charge James W. Greenleaf, who headed the FBI's Boston office from 1982 to 1986, whether he knew that Bulger and Flemmi had refused to take lie-detector tests about the murders.

Greenleaf said he didn't recall being told of the memo or of any other criminal activities by Bulger and Flemmi while they were informants.

Greenleaf was the first witness yesterday at hearings delving into the FBI's relationships with Bulger and Flemmi.

Defense lawyers for Flemmi, New England Mob boss Francis P. "Cadillac Frank" Salemme and wiseguys Robert DeLuca and John Martorano are trying to get a 1995 federal racketeering case thrown out of court on a variety of legal arguments, including that the FBI gave Flemmi and Bulger "immunity" from prosecution for their crimes.

Greenleaf's recollections of his four-year stint in Boston seemed extremely fuzzy, and he answered "I don't recall" dozens of times over five hours of questioning. He also said a matter like the lie-detector tests "would not necessarily have been brought to my attention."

Bulger, Flemmi would not take polygraphs; Informants' role in murders questioned

But in response to a hypothetical question from lawyer Martin Weinberg, Greenleaf did say he might have looked into the matter if he had been told about it.

"I would have looked at that very carefully and tried to weigh what those individuals were involved with against the quality of the information they were providing," Greenleaf said. "My sense is that we would have wanted to conduct an independent investigation."

The Herald first reported last June that sources involved in the FBI's own probe of the slayings said Bulger and Flemmi were never cleared. "It was more a matter that there wasn't enough evidence to bring charges," one source said.

Police still believe Wheeler was assassinated outside the Southern Hill Country Club on May 27, 1981, because he had suspected an organized crime "skim" out of one of his companies, World Jai Alai in Miami.

Callahan may have been shot and stuffed in the trunk of his Cadillac at Miami International Airport in August of 1982 because he knew too much about Wheeler's murder, police believe.

A detective investigating Callahan's murder said his department was never advised of the polygraph request or that Bulger and Flemmi were FBI informants.

"It's just another example of us not being told," said Detective Greg Smith of the Metro-Dade Police Department's cold case squad. "Why wouldn't they have told us that there was something on one of our cases?"

**H. Paul Rico**, the FBI agent who first recruited Bulger and Flemmi and later went to work as World Jai Alai's head of security, is expected to be called as a witness today.

Also yesterday, more secret FBI documents were unsealed, including one showing that the FBI considered Bulger "an equal at the policy-making level with major Boston (Mafia) figures."

Other unsealed documents show that Bulger and Flemmi, particularly Bulger, had extensive knowledge of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Quincy Police Department into their alleged drug dealing activity.

Memos written by their FBI handler, Special Agent John Connolly, state that Bulger had spotted numerous cars and that they had \$ 12,000 worth of sophisticated bug detecting equipment.

Connolly's memos also allege that Bulger had a state police trooper as a source who tipped him off to pending investigations.

One memo ends with Connolly's conclusion that Flemmi and Bulger "are and have been for several years in a constant state of alert which . . . precludes law enforcement from being successful against them using 'conventional means.' "

Defense attorneys in the case, however, have alleged that Bulger and Flemmi were tipped off by the FBI as a reward for their cooperation.

Photo Caption: JOHN B. CALLAHAN; Murdered in Miami in 1982

Photo Caption: ROGER WHEELER; Oklahoma man killed in 1981

Art caption: Wiseguys: Accused gangsters Robert DeLuca, left, Stephen 'The Rifleman' Flemmi and John Martorano watch the proceedings in federal court yesterday. Staff illustration by Kathleen Geosits

**Load-Date:** January 9, 1998



Bulger, Flemmi would not take polygraphs; Informants' role in murders questioned

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## *Bulger frequented Boston*

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

June 28, 2011 Tuesday

Final Edition

Copyright 2011 The Tulsa World

**Section:** News; Pg. A7

**Length:** 816 words

**Byline:** DENISE LAVOIE Associated Press

### **Body**

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BOSTON - Notorious gangster James "Whitey" Bulger told agents who arrested him last week that he returned to Boston in disguise and "armed to the teeth" several times during his 16 years on the run, prosecutors said Monday. The revelations about Bulger's description of life on the lam were included in a memo filed Monday by federal prosecutors who are objecting to Bulger's request for a taxpayer-funded attorney. Bulger, 81, the former leader of the Winter Hill Gang who is charged in connection with 19 murders, was arrested in Santa Monica, Calif., last week, after spending years on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted list. Bulger, who was also a top-echelon FBI informant, fled Boston after he was tipped by his former FBI handler that he was about to be indicted.

Among other homicides, Bulger is implicated in was the 1981 killing of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler, 55, outside Tulsa's Southern Hills Country Club. Wheeler, chairman of Telex Corp., had just finished a round of golf when a gunman shot him. Charges were filed in Tulsa County against Bulger, Stephen Flemmi, FBI agent *H. Paul Rico* and mobster John Martorano. Rico died in 2004; Martorano pleaded guilty in 2001 to second-degree murder and was sentenced to 15 years in prison; Flemmi is serving a life term for his role in 10 murders, including Wheeler's. Bulger, while being brought back to Boston by federal agents, waived his Miranda rights and "admitted that he had been a frequent traveler as a fugitive," Assistant U.S. Attorneys Brian Kelly and Fred Wyshak Jr. said in their memo. They said Bulger admitted traveling to Boston several times "armed to the teeth" because he "had to take care of some unfinished business." "Bulger refused to elaborate on whom he visited, when exactly he visited, and who was with him on these trips to Boston," Kelly and Wyshak wrote. "While Bulger also admitted that he had previously stashed money with people he trusted, he did not identify anyone who might be currently hiding his assets." Bulger also said he visited Las Vegas to play the slots on numerous occasions and "claimed he won more than he lost." He also said he traveled to San Diego, then crossed the Mexican border into Tijuana to buy medications, according to the memo. "The foregoing facts are of course significant because they indicate Bulger may have additional assets and/or allies willing to assist him in his current predicament," Kelly and Wyshak wrote in the memo. The prosecutors also said Bulger told the U.S. Pretrial Services office in Los Angeles that his brother, former Massachusetts Senate President William Bulger, may be willing to help post bail for Catherine Greig, Bulger's longtime girlfriend who was arrested with him after the couple were found in California. Greig is charged with harboring a fugitive. "Of course, if that is true, William Bulger might also be willing to pay for an attorney to represent his brother, James Bulger," prosecutors say in their memo. William Bulger could not immediately be

## Bulger frequented Boston

reached for comment. Messages were left with his attorney, Thomas R. Kiley, and a spokesperson. Kelly and Wyshak said the court should require an affidavit from William Bulger and another Bulger brother, John, before deciding whether Whitey Bulger is entitled to a public defender. Peter Krupp, an attorney who represented Whitey Bulger at his initial appearance in court last week, said no one in Bulger's family has offered to help him pay for his defense. "Mr. Bulger has not and will not request any members of his extended family to pay anything for his defense, nor can he control any family member's assets to pay anything for his defense," Krupp wrote in a memo arguing that Bulger does not have the money to pay for a private attorney. In their memo, prosecutors say that during his 16 years on the run, Bulger "financed a relatively comfortable lifestyle" for himself and Greig. After he was arrested, agents found \$822,198 in cash in his apartment, much of it in packages containing \$100 bills that were hidden inside a wall, prosecutors said. Kelly said in court last week that prosecutors plan to seek forfeiture of the money. Money that is earned illegally is subject to forfeiture to the government. U.S. District Court Judge Mark Wolf will hold a hearing Tuesday on Bulger's request for a public defender. A lawyer for one of Bulger's victims won a lien on the cash found in Bulger's apartment, which means the money will be frozen for now. U.S. District Court Judge William Young issued the order Friday. A judge will decide later whether the victim, Julie Dammers, or the government will get the money, said Boston attorney Anthony Cardinale, who represents Dammers. Bulger's girlfriend, Greig, who is charged with harboring a fugitive, has a detention hearing scheduled in court Thursday.

SUBHEAD: The ex-fugitive tells agents he had to take care of some unfinished business.

**Load-Date:** June 29, 2011

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## *Bulger 'future crimes' immunity rejected*

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

March 5, 2013 Tuesday

Final Edition

Copyright 2013 The Tulsa World

**Section:** News; Pg. A4

**Length:** 501 words

**Byline:** DENISE LAVOIE Associated Press

### **Body**

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BOSTON - Gangster James "Whitey" Bulger cannot present evidence to a jury about his claim that he was given immunity for future crimes, including murder, a federal judge ruled Monday, calling Bulger's contention that he had a license to kill "beyond the pale." U.S. District Judge Richard Stearns found that an immunity agreement "cannot as a matter of public policy license future criminal conduct." "The court concludes that any grant of prospective immunity to commit murder was without authorization and is hence unenforceable under any circumstance," Stearns wrote.

He also wrote, "A license to kill is even further beyond the pale and one unknown even in the earliest formulations of the common law." Stearns, however, did not immediately rule on Bulger's claim that he received immunity for past crimes. "Without knowledge of the date of the alleged agreement, however, the court is unable to say whether this determination nullifies defendant's claim of immunity in its entirety (again, assuming proof of its existence)," he wrote. Stearns gave lawyers additional time to submit written arguments and indicated he will hold a pretrial hearing on Bulger's claim of immunity for past crimes. Bulger, the former leader of Boston's Winter Hill Gang, is accused of participating in 19 killings. His trial is scheduled to begin June 6. Among the homicides in which Bulger is implicated is the 1981 Tulsa killing of Roger Wheeler, 55, chairman of Telex Corp., who was gunned down in the parking lot of Southern Hills Country Club after a round of golf. Charges were filed in Tulsa County against Bulger, former FBI agent **H. Paul Rico** and mobsters John Martorano and Stephen Flemmi in connection with the Wheeler homicide. Rico died in 2004; Martorano pleaded guilty in 2001 to second-degree murder and was sentenced to 15 years in prison; Flemmi is serving a life term for his role in 10 murders, including Wheeler's. Monday's ruling was a blow to Bulger's lawyers, who want to use the claim of immunity as their defense during his trial. They blasted the ruling and said Bulger's right to a fair trial "is at stake by this decision." Attorneys J.W. Carney Jr. and Hank Brennan said the federal government "has done everything in its power over the past 25 years to cover up the relationship between James Bulger and Federal law enforcement officials." "The Federal government, including attorneys who worked for the D.O.J. during this period, desperately want to conceal this sordid history from the jury, the victims, and the public," they said. "Today's decision is another step toward that goal." Bulger, 83, was a fugitive 16 years after fleeing Boston in 1994 before he was indicted. He was captured in Santa Monica, Calif., in June 2011. Bulger, who authorities say worked as an FBI informant while he was committing crimes, claims he received immunity from

Bulger 'future crimes' immunity rejected

federal prosecutor Jeremiah O'Sullivan, who died in 2009. Bulger's lawyers have asked a federal appeals court to remove Stearns from the case.

**Load-Date:** March 6, 2013

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## [Bulger guilty](#)

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

August 13, 2013 Tuesday

Final Edition

Copyright 2013 The Tulsa World

**Section:** News; Pg. A1

**Length:** 1545 words

**Byline:** JAY LINDSAY & DENISE LAVOIE Associated Press

## **Body**

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BOSTON - James "Whitey" Bulger, the feared Boston mob boss who became one of the nation's most-wanted fugitives, was convicted Monday in a string of 11 killings including the 1981 murder of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler and dozens of other gangland crimes, many of them committed while he was said to be an FBI informant. Bulger, 83, stood silently and showed no reaction to verdict, which brought to a close a case that not only transfixed Boston with its grisly violence but exposed corruption inside the Boston FBI and a cozy relationship between the bureau and its underworld snitches. Bulger was charged primarily with racketeering, which listed more than 30 criminal acts - among them, 19 murders that he allegedly helped orchestrate or carried out himself during the 1970s and '80s while he led Boston's ruthless Winter Hill Gang. After 4 1/2 days of deliberations, the federal jury decided he took part in 11 of those murders, along with nearly all the other crimes on the list, including acts of extortion, money-laundering and drug dealing. He was also found guilty of 30 other offenses, including possession of machine guns.

The 1981 slaying of Wheeler, 55, occurred when he was gunned down in the parking lot of Tulsa's Southern Hills Country Club. Bulger could get life in prison at sentencing Nov. 13. But given his age, even a modest term could amount to a life sentence for the slightly stooped, white-bearded Bulger. As court broke up, Bulger turned to his relatives and gave them a thumbs-up. A woman in the gallery taunted him as he was led away, apparently imitating machine-gun fire as she yelled: "Rat-a-tat-tat, Whitey!" Outside the courtroom, relatives of the victims hugged each other, the prosecutors and even defense attorneys. Patricia Donahue wept, saying it was a relief to see Bulger convicted in the murder of her husband, Michael Donahue, who authorities say was an innocent victim who died in a hail of gunfire while giving a ride to an FBI informant marked for death by Bulger. "Today is a day that many in this city thought would never come," said U.S. Attorney Carmen Ortiz. "This day of reckoning has been a long time in coming." She added: "We hope that we stand here today to mark the end of an era that was very ugly in Boston's history." She said Bulger's corrupting of law enforcement officials "allowed him to operate a violent organization in this town, and it also allowed him to slip away when honest law enforcement was closing in." Bulger attorney J.W. Carney Jr. said Bulger intends to appeal because the judge didn't let him argue that he had been granted immunity for his crimes by a now-dead federal prosecutor. But Carney said Bulger was pleased with the trial and its outcome, because "it was important to him that the government corruption be exposed, and important to him to see the deals the government was able to make with certain people." Bulger, the model for Jack Nicholson's sinister crime boss in

## Bulger guilty

the 2006 Martin Scorsese movie "The Departed," was seen for years by some as a Robin Hood figure who bought Thanksgiving turkeys for fellow residents of working-class South Boston and kept hard drugs out of the neighborhood. But that image was shattered when authorities started digging up bodies. Prosecutors at the two-month trial portrayed Bulger as a cold-blooded, hands-on boss who killed anyone he saw as a threat, along with innocent people who happened to get in the way. Then, according to testimony, he would take a nap while his underlings cleaned up. Among other things, Bulger was accused of strangling two women with his bare hands, and shooting two men after chaining them to chairs and quizzing them for hours. Bulger skipped town in 1994 after being tipped off - by a retired FBI agent, John Connolly, it turned out - that he was about to be indicted. He spent 16 years on the run and was on the FBI's 10 Most Wanted list before he was finally captured in 2011 in Santa Monica, Calif., where he had been living near the beach with his longtime girlfriend, Catherine Greig. She was sentenced to eight years in prison for helping Bulger. His disappearance proved a major embarrassment to the FBI when it came out at court hearings and trials that Bulger had been an informant from 1975 to 1990, feeding the bureau information on the rival New England Mafia and members of his own gang while he continued to kill and intimidate. Those proceedings also revealed that Bulger and his gang paid off several FBI agents and state and Boston police officers, dispensing Christmas envelopes of cash and cases of fine wine to get information on search warrants, wiretaps and investigations and stay one step ahead of the law. At his trial, Bulger's lawyers tried to turn the tables on the government, detailing the corruption and accusing prosecutors of offering unconscionably generous deals to three former Bulger loyalists to testify against him. The defense portrayed the three key witnesses - gangster Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, hit man John Martorano and Bulger protege Kevin Weeks - as pathological liars who pinned their own crimes on Bulger so they could get reduced sentences. Other evidence put the crime boss at the center of an ambitious plot by his gang and retired Boston FBI agent H. Paul Rico to penetrate the U.S. pari-mutuel industry by taking over the World Jai Alai company. Four of the murders and two of the murder conspiracies of which he was found guilty were related to his gang's attempt to shoot its way into World Jai Alai, which had been purchased by Wheeler, who was the first of four to die. Then Winter Hill associates Brian Halloran and John Callahan were gunned down after Bulger's corrupt FBI handler, agent John Connolly, told him the two were, or were likely to become, witnesses against him in the Wheeler murder. The fourth victim was Donahue, an innocent bystander who happened to be sitting in a car with Halloran when Bulger opened fire with a machine gun, in broad daylight, on a busy South Boston street. But overall, the defense barely contested many of the charges against Bulger. In fact, his lawyers conceded he ran a criminal enterprise that took in millions through drugs, gambling and loansharking. His lawyers did strongly deny he killed women, something Bulger evidently regarded as a violation of his underworld code of honor. The jury ultimately found he had a role in the strangling of one woman - Flemmi's stepdaughter - but it could not reach a decision on the other woman, Flemmi's girlfriend. Prosecutors said the women were killed because they knew too much about the gang's business. Bulger's lawyers also spent a surprising amount of time disputing he was a "rat" - a label that seemed to set off the hotheaded Bulger more than anything else, causing him to erupt in obscenities in the courtroom. His attorneys argued that the now-imprisoned Connolly, Bulger's supposed handler inside the FBI, fabricated Bulger's thick informant file to cover up his corrupt relationship with the gangster and advance his own career. Prosecution witnesses also included drug dealers, bookmakers and legitimate businessmen who described terrifying encounters with Bulger in which he ordered them to pay up or take a beating or worse. Before the trial, Bulger's lawyers said he would take the stand and detail wrongdoing inside the FBI. But after Judge Denise Casper disallowed his claim of immunity, Bulger did not testify. "As far as I'm concerned, I didn't get a fair trial, and this is a sham, and do what youse want with me," he complained to the judge as the trial wound down. "That's it. That's my final word." Bulger's life story fascinated Bostonians for decades. He grew up in a South Boston housing project and quickly became involved in crime, while his brother William rose to become one of the most powerful politicians in Massachusetts as state Senate president. William Bulger was forced to resign as president of the University of Massachusetts system in 2003 after it was learned that he got a call from his brother while he was on the run and didn't urge him to surrender. Edmund H. Mahony of The Hartford Courant (MCT) contributed to this report WHITEY BULGER Guilty: 31 counts Count 1: Racketeering Conspiracy Count 2: Racketeering Note: Racketeering convictions include determination that Bulger took part in 14 acts of murder or conspiracy to murder, including the murder of Roger Wheeler in Tulsa; six acts of extortion or extortion conspiracy; one act of conspiracy to distribute narcotics; four acts of concealment of money laundering; and one act of concealment or promotion of money laundering transfer. Count 3: Extortion conspiracy Count 5: Concealment of money laundering conspiracy Counts 6-26: Concealment of money laundering Count 27: Concealment or promotion of money laundering Count 28: Possession of firearms in furtherance of violent crime

Bulger guilty

Count 29: Possession of machine guns in furtherance of violent crime Count 30: Possession of unregistered machine guns Count 31: Transfer and possession of machine guns Count 32: Possession of firearms with obliterated serial numbers Not guilty: Count 4: Extortion SUBHEAD: among victims: Tulsan roger wheeler in 1981 Boston mobster's trial outlined a grisly trail of murders

**Load-Date:** August 14, 2013

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## [Bulger had immunity, lawyer says](#)

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

June 26, 2012 Tuesday

Final Edition

Copyright 2012 The Tulsa World

**Section:** News; Pg. A4

**Length:** 623 words

**Byline:** JAY LINDSAY Associated Press

### **Body**

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BOSTON - The attorney for James "Whitey" Bulger said Monday that the former Boston mob boss and one-time FBI informant shouldn't be prosecuted in 19 murders because the government promised him immunity for past or future crimes. Attorney J.W. Carney said he'd soon file a motion to dismiss the charges because "a representative of the federal government" gave Bulger the blanket immunity during the 1970s. Carney wouldn't say who allegedly gave Bulger immunity or explain how it was possible to grant immunity for future crimes, saying it would all be in his motion. Bulger, the 82-year-old former leader of Boston's notorious Winter Hill Gang, is accused of 19 murders, including that of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler in 1981. Monday's sensational allegation came on a busy day for Bulger's defense, which was granted a four-month delay in Bulger's trial. And earlier in the day, Carney filed a motion to have the trial judge in the case recused, saying he expected to call him as a witness during his motion to dismiss.

Carney said U.S. District Judge Richard Stearns was a top prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Office when Bulger was allegedly committing crimes with impunity during the 1980s. But Carney noted the office never charged Bulger, and he argued Stearns would now do whatever he could to shield former colleagues who knew of the alleged immunity deal. "Since Judge Stearns was part of the governmental prosecuting agency which did nothing to stop the defendant from committing the criminal acts when they occurred, no reasonable person would believe he can now be impartial," Carney wrote in a motion for recusal. Christina Dilorio-Sterling, spokeswoman for the U.S. Attorney's Office, said the office didn't have any comment on Carney's motion or allegations. "The government will respond as appropriate through the court," she said. Bulger was a top-echelon FBI informant who fled Boston in 1995 after being tipped by John Connolly Jr., his longtime FBI handler, who recently completed a 10-year prison sentence on racketeering charges. Bulger was captured in Santa Monica, Calif., last year after 16 years on the run. Among the homicides in which Bulger is implicated is the 1981 Tulsa killing of Wheeler, 55, chairman of Telex Corp., who was in the parking lot at Southern Hills Country Club when a gunman shot him. Charges were filed in Tulsa County against Bulger, former FBI agent ***H. Paul Rico*** and mobsters John Martorano and Stephen Flemmi in connection with the Wheeler slaying. Rico died in 2004; Martorano pleaded guilty in 2001 to second-degree murder and was sentenced to 15 years in prison; Flemmi is serving a life term for his role in 10 murders including Wheeler's. In Boston, Carney had argued the case is so complex, he needed until November 2013 to prepare his defense, including reviewing 320,000 pages of evidence turned over by prosecutors. The evidence was such a

## Bulger had immunity, lawyer says

mess when it was given to him it was like a "shuffled deck of cards," Carney argued. But prosecutors say Carney hasn't accepted their help and preferred to "wallow in confusion and to complain." They also said Carney's problems were his client's own fault, because he remained a fugitive for so long. On Monday, U.S. Magistrate Judge Marianne Bowler granted Carney's motion to delay the start of Bulger's trial from this November until March 4, 2013, calling it a compromise. "Clearly, the (evidence) remains a problem in this case, because of its volume," she told Carney. "Clearly, you have a right to review it." Prosecutors said they'd call 30 to 50 witnesses at Bulger's trial, which they estimated could last up to three months.

SUBHEAD: It was granted in the 1970s and included all past and future crimes, the motion will say.

**Load-Date:** June 27, 2012

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Bulger says he'll go to House hearing; Judge rejects bid for 2001 transcripts



***Bulger says he'll go to House hearing;  
Judge rejects bid for 2001 transcripts***

Telegram & Gazette (Massachusetts)

December 06, 2002 Friday,

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 895 words

**Byline:** Lee Hammel

**Dateline:** BOSTON

## **Body**

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- University of Massachusetts President William M. Bulger agreed yesterday to appear today before a congressional committee seeking to question him about his fugitive gangster brother.

But after separate bids to appear behind closed doors and to obtain copies of Mr. Bulger's 2001 grand jury testimony, his lawyer, Thomas R. Kiley, said he would ask the U.S. House Government Reform Committee to postpone his appearance this morning.

Bulger, who had immunity from prosecution for the grand jury testimony, asked a federal judge yesterday if the immunity would extend to today's hearing. The judge said it would not.

In testimony taken yesterday, committee members expressed amazement over the explanation of a former federal prosecutor who excluded notorious criminals James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi from an indictment that could have taken them off the street, interrupting criminal careers in which they are charged with more than two dozen murders between them.

The committee was meeting in Boston to continue investigating what its chairman, U.S. Rep. Dan Burton called "a level of corruption that is absolutely appalling" in the Boston FBI office. The Indiana Republican's 2-year-old investigation is looking into the imprisonment of innocent men -- some for 30 years and some until they died in prison -- because of false testimony from an FBI informant in 1968 and the relationship between the FBI here and its informants since the 1960s.

Yesterday, Jeremiah O'Sullivan, former head of the New England Organized Crime Strike Force, said his reputation has been tarnished by untruths told in court and in books. Mr. O'Sullivan said that FBI Agent John J. Connolly and his supervisor John Morris had asked him to exclude FBI informants Whitey Bulger and Stephen Flemmi from a horse-race-fixing indictment in 1978.

## Bulger says he'll go to House hearing; Judge rejects bid for 2001 transcripts

Mr. O'Sullivan said he told the two FBI agents that he already had decided not to include Mr. Flemmi and Mr. Bulger in the indictments because the only evidence against them was testimony by crook-turned-witness Anthony "Fat Tony" Ciulla, and he did not believe that was enough. The two FBI agents asked whether they could tell their informants that they were being saved from indictment by FBI intercession rather than the truth, and Mr. O'Sullivan said he did not mind.

But under questioning by congressmen yesterday, Mr. O'Sullivan conceded that Mr. Ciulla's uncorroborated testimony was all it took to convict James Sims, another member of the gang. He said he knew that Mr. Bulger and Mr. Flemmi were killers, but that he did not want too many defendants against whom there was no corroborating evidence, fearing it would cause him to lose the case against the main target, gang leader Howard T. Winter.

He also acknowledged that with Mr. Sims' record of flight, he expected him to become a fugitive rather than actually be tried.

Mr. O'Sullivan said he did not believe in protecting murderous informants, and said that he had tried twice to go after Mr. Bulger and Mr. Flemmi. Both times the investigation was compromised, at least once and maybe both times by the FBI, Mr. O'Sullivan said.

He said that prosecutors are not immune from the wrath of the FBI. He said that after he acceded to the state police request to exclude the FBI from an investigation of their two informants, Boston FBI head Lawrence Sarhatt "berated me, yelling as loud as he could at me: how I should never have associated myself with the state police and go against FBI informants."

The former prosecutor acknowledged to U.S. Rep. Martin T. Meehan, D-Lowell., that he may have told a state police detective it is "political suicide" to try to go around the FBI.

"If you go against them they'll try to get you. They'll wage war against you. They'll cause major administrative problems for me as a prosecutor," Mr. O'Sullivan said.

Mr. O'Sullivan also said that Edward Halloran was not excluded from the witness protection program because he was implicating Mr. Bulger in the murder of Oklahoma millionaire Roger Wheeler in 1981. Rather, Mr. O'Sullivan said, Mr. Halloran had a murder charge pending against him, which would disqualify him from the witness protection program.

Mr. O'Sullivan said he asked the Suffolk district attorney whether the murder charge could be dropped in exchange for Mr. Halloran's testimony, but District Attorney Newman Flanagan said that his office determined that Mr. Halloran was not telling the truth about murders in Boston.

Soon after that Mr. Bulger allegedly murdered Mr. Halloran.

The committee also heard from Sgt. Michael T. Huff, a Tulsa detective investigating the murder of Mr. Wheeler in his town. Sgt. Huff said that after years of stonewalling by the FBI and federal prosecutors, his department has recommended that a former FBI agent, ***H. Paul Rico***, who handled Mr. Flemmi and other informants in Boston, be indicted, among other people, in Mr. Wheeler's murder. He said the Boston FBI did not share the knowledge it had, including that Mr. Halloran had told them who was responsible for Mr. Wheeler's murder, with Tulsa investigators.

U.S. Rep. William D. Delahunt, D-Quincy, got Mr. O'Sullivan to acknowledge that the information gotten from Mr. Bulger and Mr. Flemmi, for whom so many people allegedly were sacrificed, was not "crucial" to the application for the bug of mafia headquarters in Boston.

## Graphic

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Bulger says he'll go to House hearing; Judge rejects bid for 2001 transcripts

PHOTO; William Bulger

**Load-Date:** December 8, 2002

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End of Document



## [Bulger's longtime girlfriend gets 8-year prison sentence](#)

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

June 13, 2012 Wednesday

Final Edition

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**Section:** News; Pg. A5

**Length:** 570 words

**Byline:** DENISE LAVOIE Associated Press

### **Body**

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BOSTON - The longtime girlfriend of mobster James "Whitey" Bulger was sentenced Tuesday to eight years in prison for helping one of the FBI's most-wanted men stay on the run for 16 years, a life her lawyer said she doesn't regret because she still loves Bulger. Catherine Greig showed no emotion when U.S. District Judge Douglas Woodlock handed down the sentence after listening to emotional pleas from relatives of those Bulger is accused of killing. Bulger, the 82-year-old former leader of the notorious Winter Hill Gang, is awaiting trial in Boston on charges that he participated in 19 murders, including that of a Tulsa businessman in 1981. Greig, 61, had pleaded guilty in March to charges of conspiracy to harbor a fugitive, identity fraud and conspiracy to commit identity fraud. Her lawyer, Kevin Reddington, urged the judge to impose a sentence of a little more than two years, arguing that Greig was in love with Bulger when she fled Boston with him in 1995. "Catherine Greig fell in love with Mr. Bulger, and that's why she was in the situation she was in," Reddington said.

"Miss Greig did not believe that Mr. Bulger was capable of these homicides." But prosecutors dismissed her professions of love and said Greig had numerous opportunities to leave Bulger during their time on the run. "This was not a romantic saga," U.S. Attorney Carmen Ortiz said. "She helped and protected and concealed a fugitive." Bulger, in addition to being the former leader of the Winter Hill Gang, was also an FBI informant who provided information on the rival New England Mafia. Among the homicides in which Bulger is implicated is the 1981 killing of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler, 55, at Tulsa's Southern Hills Country Club. Wheeler, chairman of Telex Corp., had just finished a round of golf and was in the parking lot when a gunman shot him. Charges were filed in Tulsa County against Bulger, former FBI Agent ***H. Paul Rico*** and mobsters John Martorano and Stephen Flemmi in connection with the Wheeler homicide. Rico died in 2004; Martorano pleaded guilty in 2001 to second-degree murder and was sentenced to 15 years in prison; Flemmi is serving a life term for his role in 10 murders, including Wheeler's. Family members of those Bulger is accused of killing lashed out at Greig during victim impact statements Tuesday. Tim Connors, the son of a man prosecutors say was killed by Bulger on June 12, 1975, called Greig "a cold-hearted criminal." "You're as much a criminal as Whitey and should be treated as such," he said. Prosecutors asked the judge to sentence Greig to 10 years in prison, citing the length of time she helped Bulger and the number of things she did for him, including taking him to medical appointments, posing as his wife so she could pick up his prescriptions and using false identities. Greig and Bulger posed as married retirees from Chicago and had a stash of more than \$800,000 in cash and 30 weapons in their apartment when they were captured last

## Bulger's longtime girlfriend gets 8-year prison sentence

June in Santa Monica, Calif. Greig's lawyer had appealed for leniency, asking the judge to give her 27 months in prison. After the sentencing, Reddington told reporters that Greig has no regrets about what she did. "He's the love of her life and she stands by him. ... Of course she doesn't regret it," Reddington said. Greig, a former dental hygienist and dog groomer, had faced a maximum of 15 years - five years on each of the three charges.

**Load-Date:** June 14, 2012

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End of Document



## *Bulger under fire as source says:; Billy talked with Whitey*

The Boston Herald

December 3, 2002 Tuesday

THIRD EDITION

Copyright 2002 Boston Herald Inc.

**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 965 words

**Byline:** By J.M. Lawrence and Maggie Mulvihill

### **Body**

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University of Massachusetts President William M. Bulger, who received a subpoena yesterday from a Congressional panel probing FBI corruption, has been in contact with his fugitive brother since the notorious informant fled Boston seven years ago, a source said yesterday.

The investigative source said the House Committee on Government Reform on Friday should ask William Bulger "whether he has talked to (James "Whitey" Bulger) since he's been a fugitive, which we know he has."

Last year, Bulger told a federal grand jury he spoke to his brother just once - in January 1995 in a prearranged phone call at a friend's Quincy home - after he fled in the face of a racketeering indictment. Bulger said his brother sought legal advice and he did not urge him to surrender to authorities, according to a transcript of the testimony obtained by the Boston Globe.

When asked if he felt more loyalty to his mob boss brother than to the public, Bulger replied, "I never thought of it that way," according to today's Globe.

"But I do have an honest loyalty to my brother, and I care about him, and I know that's not welcome news, but . . . it's my hope that I'm never helpful to anyone against him . . . I don't feel an obligation to help everyone to catch him," Bulger testified.

Federal marshals served a subpoena on Bulger, 68, through his Boston attorney Thomas R. Kiley yesterday afternoon after Bulger refused to appear voluntarily at the committee's hearing this week.

"Whitey" Bulger, now 73 and one of the FBI's Top Ten Most Wanted, is accused of involvement in 21 murders while acting as an informer for the FBI about the Mafia.

Another source familiar with the investigation said William Bulger has provided no help to law enforcement in the hunt for his fugitive brother.

"Bulger has not helped us and has had no interest in talking to anyone about his brother," the source said.



## Bulger under fire as source says:; Billy talked with Whitey

The source added, "As a public servant, you would think he would tell his brother to turn himself in and just get this taken care of."

But a Bulger supporter yesterday said investigators are looking for a scapegoat for their inability to catch the fugitive despite offering a \$ 1 million reward.

"There's a fringe out there that wants to blame everything but the current cold wave on him," the Bulger friend said.

Investigators once were willing to accept William Bulger's characterization of his brother as the family's distant black sheep who failed to reform despite attempts to get him work after his release from Alcatraz for bank robbery.

But testimony from federal witnesses altered that picture this year when they portrayed a triangle comprised of William Bulger, corrupt FBI agent John J. Connolly and his informant, "Whitey."

"If your brother's your brother and he's doing something wrong that's one thing," the source said. "But if you're helping and enabling him to do it, that's another."

At Connolly's trial in May, Winter Hill gang hit man John Martorano testified the gang relied on Connolly because William Bulger had cashed in a favor by asking the agent to keep his brother "out of trouble." William Bulger, the former state Senate president, denies ever making the request.

Former federal prosecutor Jonathan Chiel also testified that Connolly attempted to persuade investigators in 1989 not to dig into William Bulger's role in a real estate transaction at 75 State St.

And a former FBI agent testified that William Bulger appeared at the home of gangster Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi's mother in the 1980s while Flemmi, "Whitey," Connolly and the agent were having dinner.

"How can you act like that's nothing?" the source said.

Another Bulger brother, John P. "Jackie" Bulger faces trial in February on charges he lied to the grand jury in 1998 about his indirect contact with "Whitey."

He also is accused of obstructing justice when he claimed he did not know about his brother's Florida safe deposit box. Investigators have evidence he paid the rent on the box in 1996.

It was unclear yesterday whether William Bulger will comply with the subpoena. His attorney told Congressional investigators last week he would not appear, according to committee sources.

Kiley yesterday declined comment on whether Bulger will appear Friday but did not rule out attempting to quash the subpoena. When asked if Bulger had contact with his brother, "Whitey," he said: "I am outraged by unannounced sources making suggestions at this stage. It casts doubt in my mind at the overall objectivity of the proceedings."

Others reluctant to answer questions of the House panel led by Indiana Republican Dan Burton have asserted their Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination, including retired FBI agent **H. Paul Rico**.

Bulger's position as the leader of UMass makes taking the Fifth a precarious choice, Boston criminal defense attorney Norman Zalkind said yesterday.

"If this were Billy Bulger the longshoreman, not Billy Bulger the president of UMass, it would be a no-brainer to take the Fifth," Zalkind said. "He is supposed to be this high and mighty official and parents sending their kids to UMass might think differently about him if he isn't willing to testify."

If Bulger ignores the subpoena and does not attend the Friday morning session at the J.W. McCormack U.S. Post Office and Courthouse, the committee could vote to find him in contempt.

Bulger under fire as source says; Billy talked with Whitey

That vote would then go before the full House of Representatives, where a majority vote would be needed to hold Bulger in contempt. The U.S. Attorney's office for the District of Columbia would then decide whether to bring criminal charges, according to lawyers familiar with the procedure.

Contempt of Congress is a federal misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in prison.

Caption: BULGER: Subpoenaed.

**Load-Date:** December 3, 2002

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End of Document



## *Bulger under fire as source says: Billy talked with Whitey*

The Boston Herald

December 3, 2002 Tuesday

FIRST EDITION

Copyright 2002 Boston Herald Inc.

**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 927 words

**Byline:** By J.M. Lawrence and Maggie Mulvihill

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The investigative source said the House Committee on Government Reform on Friday should ask William Bulger "whether he has talked to (James "Whitey" Bulger) since he's been a fugitive, which we know he has."

Federal marshals served a subpoena on Bulger, 68, through his Boston attorney Thomas R. Kiley yesterday afternoon after Bulger refused to appear voluntarily at the committee's hearing this week.

Bulger skillfully handled questions about his brother, who is now 73, in front of a grand jury more than a year ago, according to the source.

"Whitey" Bulger, one of the FBI's Top Ten Most Wanted, has been missing since January 1995 after he was indicted on racketeering charges. He is accused of involvement in 21 murders while acting as an informer for the FBI about the Mafia.

Another source familiar with the investigation said William Bulger has provided no help to law enforcement in the hunt for his fugitive brother.

"Bulger has not helped us and has had no interest in talking to anyone about his brother," the source said.

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Contempt of Congress is a federal misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in prison.

On Thursday, the committee will hold a day-long hearing to question other witnesses.

Investigators want to question former U.S. Attorney Paul Markham about his office's knowledge of the FBI's role in a 1968 murder trial.

Bulger under fire as source says: Billy talked with Whitey

A state judge found FBI agents withheld evidence leading to wrongful convictions of four local men, including Joseph Salvati.

Caption: BULGER: Subpoenaed.

**Load-Date:** December 3, 2002

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End of Document



## **BURTON, JUSTICE DEPARTMENT REACH AGREEMENT ON BOSTON FBI DOCUMENTS**

States News Service

February 27, 2002, Wednesday

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**Length:** 832 words

**Byline:** by Jim Geraghty, States News Service

**Dateline:** WASHINGTON

### **Body**

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House Government Reform Committee Chairman Dan Burton reached an agreement with the Justice Department Wednesday afternoon after threatening to hold the department in contempt of Congress if it did not comply with a committee subpoena for FBI records on its use of organized crime informants decades ago.

While Burton had threatened contempt of Congress in the morning, by the afternoon he released a statement thanking the Attorney General and the White House "for working with us as we have been trying to uncover the corruption that existed in the Boston FBI for four decades and do our part to right a tragic wrong."

Mark Corallo, a spokesman for the committee, said that the Justice Department will have lawyers from the U.S. attorney's office in Boston review the documents to see if any grand jury material is in the documents. Corallo said any grand jury material would be redacted, although committee lawyers expect that little if any such material is in the documents. Committee lawyers expect to be able to review the documents by next week.

Rep. William D. Delahunt, D-Quincy, decried "overwhelming evidence" of a "culture of concealment" at the FBI. Delahunt is not a member of the committee, but he was invited by Burton because of his interest in the investigation.

On Sept. 6, the committee announced it was subpoenaing documents related to the bureau's use of mob informants in Boston dating to the 1960s. In December, the Justice Department announced that it would not turn over documents, citing an order from President Bush. In a letter that month to Attorney General John Ashcroft, Bush said that "Congressional pressure on executive branch prosecutorial decision making is inconsistent with separation of powers and threatens individual liberty."

"It is my hope that in the future, we will be able to find similar common ground so that we can work together to get the information Congress needs to carry out our oversight of the executive branch," Burton said in a written statement.

Burton's panel examined legislative solutions to allegations of FBI misconduct, and heard testimony from state law enforcement officials who alleged the bureau's Boston office interfered with their organized crime investigations.

## BURTON, JUSTICE DEPARTMENT REACH AGREEMENT ON BOSTON FBI DOCUMENTS

Austin J. McGuigan, who served as the Connecticut chief state's attorney from 1978 to 1985 and on a statewide organized crime task force the previous three years, told the panel that the Boston FBI office passed sensitive information to former agents who worked for businesses under investigation.

McGuigan told the panel that in 1975, the Connecticut organized crime task force began investigation of the World Jai Alai organization's operations in Bridgeport. State officials believed the jai alai fronton owners were connected to the Winter Hill Gang, a Boston organized crime group. The FBI told state authorities it had no information on World Jai Alai president John B. Callahan or any connections between the group and organized crime.

Callahan resigned his position as president shortly before state authorities planned to question him. McGuigan alleged that former FBI agent H. Paul Rico, who was working for World Jai Alai as a security guard, warned Callahan about the state's investigation.

McGuigan also cited the May 1982 murder of Brian Halloran, a Winter Hill Gang member. He said Halloran went to the FBI seeking to enter the witness protection program, and offered federal authorities testimony that Callahan and other members of the Winter Hill Gang had murdered World Jai Alai owner Roger Wheeler in 1980. (McGuigan said Wheeler had no known connections to organized crime.) The FBI deemed his testimony was not credible, did not give him protection, and Halloran was gunned down on a South Boston street shortly after his FBI meeting, McGuigan said.

Shortly after Halloran was murdered, Callahan was also killed, shortly after he agreed to be interviewed by Connecticut authorities in Florida in August 1982, McGuigan said.

The committee also heard testimony from Victor Garo, the lawyer for Joseph Salvati, an innocent man who spent more than 30 years in jail for the 1967 slaying of Edward "Teddy" Deegan in Chelsea. Salvati was convicted on the testimony, since proven false, of FBI informant, Joe "The Animal" Barboza. Barboza's testimony sent four men to prison for the Deegan slaying. Two of the men died in prison, and two served about 30 years each before their convictions were overturned, according to Boston Globe accounts.

His voice trembling with emotion, Garo implored committee members to consider making prosecutors who withhold evidence punishable by imprisonment.

McGuigan said he would like to see some sort of oversight agency that would arbitrate disputes about sharing information between federal and state law enforcement authorities.

"They ought to be able to work it out with state and local prosecutors," McGuigan said. "They're not unreasonable guys."

**Load-Date:** February 28, 2002



## **BURTON THREATENS BUSH WITH CONTEMPT OVER BOSTON FBI DOCUMENTS**

States News Service

February 27, 2002, Wednesday

Copyright 2002 States News Service

**Length:** 744 words

**Byline:** by Jim Geraghty, States News Service

**Dateline:** WASHINGTON

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Burton would not say how long he was willing to wait for the documents before deciding to bring the citation before his committee for consideration. If the committee approves it, Burton would then have to convince the House's GOP leaders to bring the citation against Bush to the full House for a vote.

"Once the White House and Justice Department realize we're going to the mats on this, they'll come around," Burton said. "It's not in the national interest to keep this under wraps."

Burton's comments came as the panel examined legislative solutions to allegations of FBI misconduct, and heard testimony from state law enforcement officials who alleged the bureau's Boston office interfered with their organized crime investigations.

Austin J. McGuigan, who served as the Connecticut chief state's attorney from 1978 to 1985 and on a statewide organized crime task force the previous three years, told the panel that the Boston FBI office passed sensitive information to former agents who worked for businesses under investigation.

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**Load-Date:** February 28, 2002

Cadillac yaks; Mob boss Salemme talking to feds; Mob boss talking to feds about FBI duo, informants



## ***Cadillac yaks; Mob boss Salemme talking to feds; Mob boss talking to feds about FBI duo, informants***

The Boston Herald

March 12, 2001 Monday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 1032 words

**Byline:** By J. M. LAWRENCE

### **Body**

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The imprisoned boss of the New England Mafia has agreed to testify against former FBI agent John Connolly and his two informants, reputed Winter Hill gang leaders James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "the Rifleman" Flemmi, the Herald has learned.

In a stunning twist to the unfolding Mob saga, Francis P. "Cadillac Frank" Salemme also has agreed to provide "significant additional assistance to the United States" in its ongoing investigation of "allegations of wrongdoing" by ex-FBI agent **H. Paul Rico**, according to a sealed federal court filing examined by the Herald.

Rico, 73, who was once lauded for breaking down the New England Mob during the 1960s, is under Justice Department scrutiny for allegedly protecting his informants from prosecution for crimes including murder. He is also being probed in connection with a gangland slaying in Oklahoma two decades ago.

Prosecutors expect Salemme to help with several major underworld prosecutions and become a government witness.

"The government respectfully gives notice to this court that the defendant has in fact provided information to investigators and the grand jury which has been of assistance in the investigation of, among others, John J. Connolly Jr., Stephen J. Flemmi, and James Bulger," a document filed by U.S. Attorney Donald K. Stern and special prosecutor John H. Durham states.

Durham heads the task force probing FBI corruption.

"It is anticipated that Francis Salemme will be called to testify by the United States in the prosecutions of, among others, Connolly and Flemmi," the document says.

Former FBI agent Connolly, 60, has already been indicted for racketeering and obstruction of justice. He is accused of partnering with Bulger and Flemmi, two top echelon Mob informants he was handling.

Cadillac yaks; Mob boss Salemme talking to feds; Mob boss talking to feds about FBI duo, informants

Connolly is also charged with protecting his informants from prosecution for their criminal activities. He has denied all those charges.

Rico recruited Flemmi as an informant in 1965 and handled him until Connolly took over in the 1970s.

Fugitive Whitey Bulger is on the FBI's 10 Most Wanted list after vanishing in January 1995, while Flemmi faces a trial in May.

Sources familiar with the case stressed, "The only information Salemme has agreed to provide concerns FBI agents and Bulger and Flemmi. No one else."

Another document on file with U.S. District Court Judge Mark L. Wolf shows the government is banking on Salemme's testimony.

"It is the Government's present intention to immunize the defendant and seek an order from the Court which compels him to testify," says a Dec. 2, 1999 letter to his attorney as part of his plea agreement.

The information Salemme now has to offer the government about Rico is unclear.

Salemme's attorney, Anthony Cardinale, declined comment on the documents but did say the information was sealed from the public by a court order.

Court documents show Salemme's grand jury testimony helped fuel indictments against Connolly and his one-time friend Flemmi, as well as crime boss Bulger.

Sources told the Herald last year that Salemme told a federal grand jury in December, 1999 that Connolly tipped Flemmi that he and Bulger were about to be indicted on racketeering charges in January, 1995. Bulger and Salemme went on the lam. Flemmi was arrested.

Prosecutors say Salemme, Bulger and Flemmi were partners in crime, dividing up Boston's crime rackets between the Mafia and the Winter Hill gang during the '80s and '90s.

The government filed its documents about Salemme with Wolf on Feb. 2 to meet a deadline under federal laws governing sentence reduction for a defendant's help in prosecuting other crimes.

The motion effectively preserves the government's ability to recommend a reduced sentence for Salemme at a later date.

Salemme, 67, is now serving 11 years in federal prison after pleading guilty Dec. 9, 1999, to racketeering, bribing union officials and extorting bookmakers and loansharks.

Flemmi, Salemme and Bulger were among seven men charged in a sweeping criminal indictment six years ago. Flemmi and Bulger are the only defendants who have not pleaded out.

Salemme was the head of the New England branch of La Cosa Nostra for years, according to federal investigators. Sources said Salemme was "disgusted and sickened" by revelations that Flemmi and Bulger had been longtime informants, spying on him and the Mafia for the FBI.

Rico, who retired from the FBI in 1975, has not been charged with any wrongdoing and through his attorney has repeatedly denied committing any crimes.

Sources said investigators are struggling to pull together a case against the ex-agent in Boston because the 10-year statute of limitations on racketeering and obstruction of justice has run out since his career ended.

Rico is under investigation in connection with the 1981 Mob murder of Tulsa millionaire Roger Wheeler.

Cadillac yaks; Mob boss Salemme talking to feds; Mob boss talking to feds about FBI duo, informants

Wheeler was killed shortly after taking over World Jai Alai, a sports betting operation where Rico headed security in Miami after his retirement from the FBI.

Investigators from the Justice Department's anti-corruption task force and Stern's office met with Wheeler's sons last week in Tulsa.

In affidavits filed with the Tulsa district attorney, who has sole power to indict in the state, Tulsa police have recommended that Rico be charged in connection with Wheeler's murder.

Stern, who wouldn't comment on the Salemme documents, said the investigation into Rico is going ahead.

"There continues to be an active investigation with respect to other former members in law enforcement," the U.S. attorney said.

Photo Caption: DIRTY WORK: State troopers remove a body, believed to be that of Southie gangster Paul McGonagle, from an alleged Mob burial site at Tenean Beach, Dorchester, last September. Stephen 'The Rifleman' Flemmi and James 'Whitey' Bulger, allegedly involved in the murders of a number of victims whose bodies were found last year, will be the targets of testimony by convicted mobster Francis P. Salemme. STAFF FILE PHOTO BY REN NORTON

Photo Caption: CONNOLLY: Accused of partnering with mobsters.

GRAPHIC: RICO: Probed over murder of jai alai owner.

Photo Caption: WOLF: Expects to hear Salemme case in May.

**Load-Date:** March 12, 2001



## CANARY FRANK: FLEMMI, WHITEY WORTH MILLIONS

The Boston Herald  
February 13, 2004 Friday  
ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 858 words

**Byline:** By J. M. LAWRENCE

### **Body**

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James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi were tightwad "squirrels" worth \$ 20 million each who swore no oath to anyone but themselves, ex-New England godfather Francis "Cadillac Frank" Salemme told Congress last year in a secret interview.

"There's two things with Flemmi paramount to everything, his money and his women," Salemme said. "That's what it was to him, his money and his women, not necessarily in that order."

Given immunity during an April 10, 2003, meeting with House Government Reform Committee investigators, Salemme claimed Bulger made millions bringing drugs into Boston by boat and stashed his money in Iowa banks in preparation for his run, while Flemmi put money in the Cayman Islands.

The Boston FBI yesterday refused to discuss whether agents ever found Bulger's stashed cash in the Midwest. He's been a fugitive for nine years.

The House committee, which issued a blistering report last year condemning the FBI's alliance with murderous informants, voted yesterday to make public the transcript of Salemme's wide-ranging interview. Two portions were cut at the request of the Justice Department.

Salemme portrayed Flemmi's original FBI handler agent, **H. Paul Rico**, as a gangster with a badge. The mob even got Rico a gun during the 1960s gang wars when the agent allegedly requested an untraceable weapon to kill gang leader Edward "Punchy" McLaughlin, Salemme claimed.

Rico, who died last month at 78 in Tulsa, Okla., while awaiting trial for a mob murder, had good reason for hating McLaughlin, according to Salemme.

"The feds would pick up the McLaughlins . . . casting aspersions on Paul's manhood and his relationship with J. Edgar Hoover, and J. Edgar Hoover was, excuse me again, a fag. . . . They had a menage a trois with a guy by the name of Colson, I think," Salemme said.

## CANARY FRANK: FLEMMI, WHITEY WORTH MILLIONS

The committee's chief investigator corrected him. "I believe the name was Tolson," attorney James Wilson noted of Hoover aide Clyde Tolson.

Now in the Witness Protection Program, Salemme offered little information about Bulger but said the Irish crime boss and Flemmi were rich mercenaries who hoarded cash.

"Bulger was a squirrel, and so was Flemmi. They're not extravagant people. They're not nightlifers or boozers. They weren't gamblers and they didn't do drugs, so they had plenty of money," he said.

In the late 1980s, when Salemme joined forces with the pair, their rackets were pulling down \$ 120,000 a week or \$ 5 million to \$ 6 million a year with a steady stream of payoffs to "local police," Salemme said but gave no names.

The godfather said he never oversaw any bribes until Flemmi sought \$ 5,000 for top dirty cops, including ex-State Police Lt. Richard J. Schneiderhan, who was convicted of obstructing justice last year.

Other claims made by Salemme include:

\*\* Flemmi became an informant out of a "natural dislike for the LCN" and to protect himself. "It gave him a safe boundary so that he would do what he wanted, and obviously he could do what he wanted up until the time that we got indicted."

\*\* Hub defense lawyer John Fitzgerald, who represented Joseph "The Animal" Barboza" and lost his leg in a 1968 mob assassination attempt, was actually a numbers man for Barboza.

"John Fitzgerald was playing both sides against the middle. He was a lawyer, and he was also, as I like to say in the vernacular, a crook," Salemme said.

Fitzgerald became a judge in South Dakota and died in 2001.

\*\* Salemme admitted he was ordered by Raymond L.S. Patriarca in 1968 to kill Fitzgerald because Patriarca feared the lawyer would be a witness against him.

But Salemme, who served 17 years in prison for the bombing, maintains he quit the hit when the mob decided Fitzgerald should be blown up to "make an example." "That's when I withdrew. I abandoned it. Flemmi stayed on board," Salemme said.

\*\* Rico told Salemme and Flemmi how to find McLaughlin at a girlfriend's home in Canton where they killed him at a bus stop.

The hit came after two failed attempts, including one at Beth Israel Hospital where the gangsters posed as rabbis and shot McLaughlin in the jaw.

"The bus stop was much better, boom, boom and out," Salemme said.

\*\* Flemmi believed the FBI in 1995 would save him again from racketeering charges and kept asking for agent Charlie Gianturco.

\*\* Salemme rapped Joseph Salvati, who was wrongly convicted of a mob murder and spent 30 years in prison, for parlaying his prison stint into media glory, including a VIP seat at a play last year about innocent men on death row.

"What gets me is don't play off like you're some kind of abused hero," Salemme said.

\*\* Flemmi killed the mob's numbers man Peter Poulos because he was a witness to Flemmi's murder of Wimpy Bennett over stolen money.

He had planned to bury Poulos outside Las Vegas but ran into trouble. Flemmi, who had a shovel and rope in his trunk and a gun under his seat, was stopped by a state trooper but never searched.



CANARY FRANK: FLEMMI, WHITEY WORTH MILLIONS

"He said the desert's not soft. I said what were you thinking, it's the Sahara? I said this is Nevada, this isn't North Africa," Salemme said.

Caption: FRANCI P. SALEMME

**Load-Date:** February 13, 2004

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End of Document



## *Capital charges filed against reputed Boston mob figures*

March 14, 2001, Wednesday, BC cycle

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**Section:** Domestic News

**Length:** 383 words

**Byline:** By KELLY KURT, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** TULSA, Okla.

### **Body**

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Two reputed Boston mobsters were charged Wednesday with murdering two businessmen in Florida and Oklahoma in the 1980s while serving as FBI informants, marking the first time they could face the death penalty.

Oklahoma prosecutors charged James "Whitey" Bulger, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi and John Martorano in the 1981 slaying of a Tulsa executive. Prosecutors in Miami followed with an indictment accusing the three in the 1982 murder of a Boston businessman.

Martorano, who admitted pulling the trigger in both slayings, agreed to testify against his former bosses and will have his charge reduced to second-degree murder in return, District Attorney Tim Harris of Tulsa said.

Harris said he will seek the death penalty against the two others.

Flemmi and Bulger are already under a federal racketeering indictment in Boston accusing them of involvement in the two murders and several others. The indictment, handed up last year, said Bulger personally participated in 18 slayings and Flemmi in 10.

Harris said the Oklahoma case will probably not come to trial until the federal charges are resolved.

Bulger, 71, fled in 1995 and has been a fugitive ever since. Investigators have charged that his FBI handler, John Connolly, tipped him off that he was about to be indicted.

Martorano and Flemmi are in custody. Their lawyers had no comment Wednesday.

The Oklahoma case involves the slaying of businessman Roger Wheeler, who was shot in the head while sitting in his car after a round of golf. Investigators believe the killing was tied to Wheeler's ownership of World Jai Alai and his suspicion that money was being skimmed from it for the Boston mob allegedly run by Bulger and Flemmi.

The Miami case involves the slaying of World Jai Alai executive John B. Callahan. Investigator said he was killed to keep him from telling authorities about links between World Jai Alai and the mob.

Martorano has accused retired FBI agent **H. Paul Rico** of helping him kill Wheeler. Rico and John Connolly served as handlers for Bulger and Flemmi.

Capital charges filed against reputed Boston mob figures

Rico, 73, has denied any wrongdoing. He was not charged in the Wheeler case but remains under investigation.

"Rico has never been to Oklahoma," said his lawyer, William Cagney III. "I'm not too sure I understand what Rico's role could be because he's never been out there."

**Load-Date:** March 15, 2001

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End of Document



## *Capital murder charges filed against reputed Boston mob figures*

Associated Press International

March 15, 2001; Thursday

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**Section:** International news

**Length:** 425 words

**Byline:** KELLY KURT

**Dateline:** TULSA, Oklahoma

### **Body**

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Harris said the Oklahoma case will probably not come to trial until the federal charges are resolved.

Bulger and Flemmi do not face the death penalty if convicted of the federal charges because the federal death penalty statute was not in effect at the time of those murders, said Samantha Martin, spokesman for the U.S. attorney in Massachusetts.

Bulger, 71, fled in 1995 and has been a fugitive ever since. Investigators have charged that his FBI handler, John Connolly, tipped him off that he was about to be indicted.

Martorano and Flemmi are in custody. Their lawyers had no comment Wednesday.

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Capital murder charges filed against reputed Boston mob figures

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"Rico has never been to Oklahoma," said his lawyer, William Cagney III. "I'm not too sure I understand what Rico's role could be because he's never been out there."

**Load-Date:** March 15, 2001

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End of Document



## *Capturan a conocido jefe Mafioso con crímenes en Miami*

El Nuevo Herald (Miami, Florida)

23 junio 2011 jueves

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**Length:** 878 words

**Byline:** Por DAVID OVALLE

[dovalle@MiamiHerald.com](mailto:dovalle@MiamiHerald.com)

### **Body**

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James "Whitey" Bulger, capturado el miércoles después de permanecer 16 años como fugitivo, debe la mayor parte de su fama al haber dirigido una violenta empresa criminal en Boston, pero la carnicería que dejó detrás, en Miami según las autoridades, ayudó a cementar su caída.

Bulger, de 81 años – en un momento determinado el fugitivo "más buscado" del FBI después de Osama bin Laden – será enviado de vuelta a Boston de Los Angeles para ser juzgado por un sinnúmero de cargos federales. Él enfrenta asimismo un cargo de homicidio en Oklahoma.

Si Bulger vive lo suficiente, será extraditado a Miami-Dade, donde está acusado de haber asesinado en 1982 al ex ejecutivo de World Jai-Alai, James Callahan, cuyo cadáver acribillado a balazos fue encontrado en el maletero de un auto en el Aeropuerto Internacional de Miami.

"Si la pandilla no hubiera matado a Callahan en Miami, [la policía] probablemente nunca hubiera capturado a nadie. Ellos metieron la pata", dijo el detective retirado de homicidios de Miami-Dade Shelton Merritt, el investigador original en el asesinato de Callahan, quien dijo estar "feliz como una lombriz" con el arresto de Bulger.

Se cree que Bulger es responsable por un mínimo de 19 asesinatos, y su relación con la oficina del FBI en Boston se convirtió en un escándalo nacional. El agente de FBI a cargo de él, John J. Connolly Jr., lo protegió durante años y fue acusado de avisar a Bulger de su inminente arresto federal en 1995.

Su captura ocurre a menos de tres años después de que Connolly fuera condenado por asesinato de segundo grado en un juzgado de Miami-Dade por su participación en la muerte de Callahan. Connolly está cumpliendo 40 años de cárcel, pero sostiene firmemente su inocencia.

"Las actividades criminales de James 'Whitey' Bulger han quedado jalonadas por los cadáveres que sus asesinos y cómplices han ido dejando atrás en maleteros de carros y en callejones", dijo en una declaración la fiscal estatal de Miami-Dade Katherine Fernández Rundle.

## Capturan a conocido jefe Mafioso con crímenes en Miami

“Después de una demora de 16 años, me esforzaré por asegurar que un jurado de Miami tenga la oportunidad de mirarle a los ojos y decidir su destino, como hicimos con su cómplice, el ex agente del FBI John J. Connolly Jr.”.

Aunque Bulger no estuvo presente en el juicio del 2008, su papel al frente de la notoria pandilla Winter Hill del bajo mundo de Boston en los años 70 y 80 fue determinado con abundancia de detalles.

“El nombre de Whitey Bulger fue el más mencionado durante el juicio”, recordó el juez de circuito de Miami-Dade Stanford Blake, quien presidió el caso. “Él ocupó la ‘silla vacía’, por decirlo de alguna manera. Todo el mundo conocía el nombre de Whitey Bulger cuando se acabó el juicio”.

Bruce Fleisher, uno de los abogados defensores de Connolly, dijo que la captura de Bulger ha fascinado a la comunidad legal del sur de la Florida.

“Mi teléfono ha estado sonando sin parar desde temprano en la mañana”, dijo el jueves por la tarde.

La saga de corrupción y codicia asociada con el nombre de Bulger se hizo leyenda en Boston, cuyos habitantes bromeaban a menudo: “¿Dónde está Whitey?” Bulger y Connolly sirvieron de inspiración, aunque bastante libremente, para el filme ganador de varios premios Oscar del 2006, *The Departed* (exhibida en español como “Infiltrados”).

Aquí en el sur de la Florida, la pandilla de Winter Hill tenía profundos vínculos — empezando por el legendario agente del FBI **H. Paul Rico**, quien era amigo del pandillero Stephen “The Rifleman” Flemmi, quien luego sirvió de mano derecha a Bulger y fue un testigo clave en el juicio de Connolly en Miami.

Rico se retiró en 1975 a Miami, donde se hizo jefe de seguridad en World Jai Alai. La pandilla de Winter Hill se involucró más tarde en el negocio del jai alai a través de Callahan, un contador de Boston y aspirante a mafioso quien fungió en cierto momento como presidente de la compañía.

A principios de los 80, el dueño de la compañía, Roger Wheeler, empezó a sospechar que faltaba dinero, que supuestamente había pasado a manos de los pandilleros amigos de Callahan. Callahan pidió a la pandilla de Winter Hill que matara a Wheeler.

Bulger y Flemmi enviaron al asesino a sueldo John Martorano, quien en 1981 mató a Wheeler de un tiro entre los ojos en un campo de golf en Tulsa. Luego, un asociado de Winter Hill, Edward Brian Halloran, fue asesinado en Boston mientras trataba de cooperar con las autoridades con relación a la muerte de Wheeler.

La fiscalía dijo que Connolly, entonces agente del FBI, avisó a Bulger y Flemmi que Callahan, el ex presidente de World Jai Alai, los iba a implicar pronto en la muerte de Wheeler.

Ellos están acusados de enviar a Martorano a Miami a matar a Callahan. El 1 de agosto de 1982, Callahan fue muerto a tiros y escondido en el baúl de su Cadillac plateado. Un empleado de estacionamiento del aeropuerto en el MIA notó el hedor pocos días después.

“Yo me sentí terrible. Yo no quería matar a ese hombre”, testificó Martorano en el juicio de Miami-Dade. “Yo no quería matar a un hombre con el cual me llevaba lo bastante bien como para haber matado por él el año anterior”.

Martorano, quien admitió haber cometido 20 asesinatos como miembro de la pandilla Winter Hill, cumplió 12 años de cárcel y ahora está en libertad. Flemmi está cumpliendo cadena perpetua.

**Load-Date:** June 24, 2011

CASE OF FATAL TIP; MURDER AND THE MOB; A 1982 SLAYING IN MIAMI FRUSTRATED INVESTIGATIONS INTO JAI ALAI AND ITS TIES TO ORGANIZED CRIME. THIS WEEK, A DECORATED F....



**CASE OF FATAL TIP; MURDER AND THE MOB; A 1982 SLAYING IN MIAMI  
FRUSTRATED INVESTIGATIONS INTO JAI ALAI AND ITS TIES TO  
ORGANIZED CRIME. THIS WEEK, A DECORATED FORMER FBI AGENT  
GOES ON TRIAL IN THAT KILLING. AMONG THE MAIN WITNESSES:  
GANGSTERS TIED TO A NEW ENGLAND GANG.**

Hartford Courant (Connecticut)

September 14, 2008 Sunday

3 STARS/FINAL EDITION

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**Section:** MAIN; Pg. A1

**Length:** 1832 words

**Byline:** EDMUND H. MAHONY - Courant Staff Writer

## **Body**

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Three Connecticut investigators working the case of their careers were understandably nervous when they disembarked at Miami International Airport and stepped into a sultry south Florida morning a quarter-century ago.

Then everything fell apart.

The investigators almost stumbled over the body of the witness they had flown south to hunt. Someone had emptied a semiautomatic pistol into John B. Callahan, a financial adviser to one of New England's most dangerous criminal mobs, the Winter Hill Gang. A parking attendant found him leaking from the trunk of his low-mileage Cadillac in an airport garage.

The 1982 slaying was a blow to law enforcement, not only in Connecticut, but also in Massachusetts, Florida and Oklahoma. Detectives lost their best and, it seemed, last opportunity to unravel a string of murders that appeared to grow from a convergence of organized crime, corrupt federal lawmen and the sport of jai alai, then the centerpiece of Connecticut's new, legalized gambling industry.

But this week, in a Miami court, prosecutors are expected to tell a jury that after 26 years, they finally have the evidence to go to trial in the Callahan shooting, one of the country's most frustrating murder mysteries.

Depending on how the case unfolds, it could settle lingering questions about how violent criminals in Boston, supported by corrupt federal agents, tried to win a foothold in what was once a fast-growing segment of the U.S. parimutuel industry.

Prosecutors concede that theirs won't be an easy case to make.



CASE OF FATAL TIP; MURDER AND THE MOB; A 1982 SLAYING IN MIAMI FRUSTRATED INVESTIGATIONS INTO JAI ALAI AND ITS TIES TO ORGANIZED CRIME. THIS WEEK, A DECORATED F....

The man on trial for murder and conspiracy is John J. Connolly, a decorated former FBI agent who was more than 1,000 miles away, in Boston, when Callahan died. The principal witnesses against Connolly will be gangsters who, collectively, have taken credit for about 30 murders.

But the trial could mark the end of a long fall for Connolly. He once was featured in an FBI film produced to teach agents how to recruit mob informants. But for more than a decade he has stood accused of crossing the line, taking nearly \$250,000 in payoffs to protect the criminals he was supposed to be locking up.

In 2002, he was sentenced to 10 years in prison after being convicted in federal court in Boston of racketeering. He faces life in prison if convicted of murder and conspiracy in state court in Florida.

Prosecutors will argue that Connolly tipped leaders of the Winter Hill Gang that investigators were searching for Callahan in an effort to press him to implicate the gang leaders in an earlier jai alai-related killing.

The tip ended Callahan's life, the prosecutors will argue. Rather than a recruiter of informants, they will say Connolly had become one - the Winter Hill Gang's man in the FBI.

#### A 'PRISONER OF WAR'

In letters to friends from his maximum-security prison cell, Connolly has portrayed himself as the victim of a cynical conspiracy by corrupt federal prosecutors, morally bankrupt detectives and gangsters trading perjured testimony for light sentences. Collectively, he says, they have made him a scapegoat for failures in the FBI's organized crime program in Boston.

"I'm a prisoner of war," he was quoted as saying in the September issue of Boston magazine.

Connolly's assertion notwithstanding, prosecutors say they can win their case even if their witness list includes a rogues' gallery of murderers and Connolly's disgraced former FBI supervisor, who himself admitted taking \$7,000 in cash from Winter Hill members. Jury selection began last week. Opening statements are expected this week.

"I've tried lots of cases where jurors have not liked some witnesses personally," said Michael Von Zamft, the Florida prosecutor in Connolly's case. "But that does not make them not believable."

Besides making palatable an unsavory list of witnesses, prosecutors may have to make sense to jurors of a complicated narrative reaching back more than 30 years, some of which has been disclosed through previous legal hearings and trials.

By the 1970s, jai alai, a Basque sport exported to South Florida, had expanded to New England. It is a fast-paced game, a sort of extreme handball. Players use long wicker baskets to sling a hard ball against a towering wall. Gamblers bet on various outcomes of the games. By the 1980s, there were three jai alai frontons, or arenas, in Connecticut.

At roughly the same time jai alai was expanding, Connolly was making a name for himself in Boston as top mob buster.

But information disclosed through a variety of related legal proceedings suggests that he did so by entering into a sordid relationship with the bosses of the Winter Hill Gang, James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi.

Connolly is accused of using his considerable influence in New England law enforcement to protect Bulger and Flemmi from prosecution. The gangsters, in turn, gave Connolly the information he needed to build cases against the Italian mafia - the Winter Hill gang's chief underworld rivals and the FBI's highest-priority target. In internal FBI records, Connolly listed Bulger and Flemmi as informants.

CASE OF FATAL TIP; MURDER AND THE MOB; A 1982 SLAYING IN MIAMI FRUSTRATED  
INVESTIGATIONS INTO JAI ALAI AND ITS TIES TO ORGANIZED CRIME. THIS WEEK, A DECORATED F....

As Connolly's reputation as a crack lawman and the Winter Hill Gang's reputation as untouchable were growing in Boston, the three Connecticut investigators - state police detective Daniel Goslicki and prosecutors Austin McGuigan and Kevin Kane - arrived in Miami in search of Callahan.

They had traveled south with instructions to clean up jai alai. Problem was, the gangsters seemed to have second sight; the mob was always a step ahead of the police in Connecticut and just about everywhere else.

Connecticut investigators had long known about Callahan. In the mid-1970s, he had used his position as a consulting accountant to insert himself as president of World Jai Alai, the company that owned Hartford Jai Alai and several venues in south Florida.

One of Callahan's first hires was H. Paul Rico, another Boston FBI agent. Much later, in 2003, Rico would be charged in a jai alai-related murder. He died in prison before he could be tried.

Years before his arrest, while Rico was employed as World Jai alai's security chief, a Connecticut state police detective described him as "so crooked you could screw him into the ground."

Such suspicions prompted Connecticut authorities to put a tail on Callahan, Rico's boss. In one month, a Connecticut state police detective learned that Callahan met Winter Hill members or their associates 10 times at Boston's Playboy Club.

The surveillance forced Callahan to resign from World Jai Alai. He quickly became a player in efforts to buy the company, but the owners decided to sell to Roger Wheeler Sr., an enormously wealthy Tulsa, Okla., Sunday school teacher with diverse business interests.

Immediately after acquiring the business in 1979, Wheeler began expressing concern to friends about his personal safety and his belief that gangsters from New England had targeted his business. He was shot to death outside his Tulsa country club on May 27, 1981.

Wheeler's death raised concern around the country about the integrity of jai alai.

Detectives in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Tulsa learned a year later, through back channel sources, that a disaffected Winter Hill thug named Edward Brian Halloran was talking to FBI agents in Boston about the Wheeler murder. Halloran was trying to beat a murder charge of his own, and he wanted to be admitted to the federal witness protection program.

Halloran told the FBI that Callahan, Bulger and Flemmi had tried to recruit him to murder Wheeler. Halloran said it was his impression that the three had a financial interest in World Jai Alai. The FBI did not share the information with other police agencies involved in jai alai-related cases, apparently to protect Connolly's ostensible informants, Bulger and Flemmi.

Halloran ultimately was denied entry to the witness program. Five months later, on May 12, 1982, he was cut down in a rifle attack on a South Boston street. Authorities say he was killed by Bulger and other Winter Hill members.

#### 'HE WAS MURDERED'

All of a sudden, Callahan was enormously important. Detectives with an interest in jai alai viewed him as the last best lead in the Wheeler murder. Other, more sanguine detectives were betting on when he would turn up dead. Connecticut investigators suspected that Callahan was laundering money and hoped to use the information to leverage him to talk about Wheeler's death. They were too late.

If Connolly is convicted following what could be a two-month trial in Miami, it will have been through the testimony of the criminals he is accused of protecting.

CASE OF FATAL TIP; MURDER AND THE MOB; A 1982 SLAYING IN MIAMI FRUSTRATED INVESTIGATIONS INTO JAI ALAI AND ITS TIES TO ORGANIZED CRIME. THIS WEEK, A DECORATED F....

In 1995, having realized that the FBI's Boston office was full of leaks when it came to Bulger, Flemmi and the Winter Hill Gang, the Massachusetts State Police and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration finally succeeded in obtaining an indictment without FBI involvement.

According to evidence presented previously in related cases, Connolly managed to learn in advance about the indictment. He tipped Bulger, who in turn tipped Flemmi. Bulger fled immediately and remains a fugitive. He is now on the FBI's 10 Most Wanted list. This month, the Department of Justice increased the reward for his capture to \$2 million.

Flemmi dawdled, and was arrested. Facing as many as 10 murder charges, Flemmi decided that his best defense was to give up Connolly. Others in the Winter Hill gang did the same, among them John Martorano, who has admitted killing 20 people, including his former close friend Callahan.

Martorano has said he and a partner dumped Callahan in the airport garage and left his wallet in Little Havana in an effort to create a false trail for the police.

Flemmi is serving a life sentence. Martorano reached a cooperation agreement with federal prosecutors and is free after serving 12 years. Another gang member, Joseph McDonald, died before he could be charged.

Flemmi previewed his likely testimony against Connolly in a civil deposition in June 2006:

He said Connolly tipped Bulger in 1982 that authorities were zeroing in on Callahan. Connolly warned that Callahan was a weakling who would fold under pressure. When he did, Bulger, Flemmi and Martorano would go to prison. Martorano had been the triggerman in the Wheeler killing.

Bulger arranged a meeting with Flemmi and Martorano in New York. The purpose of the meeting, Flemmi said in the deposition, was to persuade Martorano that he had to kill his friend Callahan.

"We told him that the information came from John Connolly and to make Martorano aware that information came from John Connolly, that Callahan would be a weak link and would involve him, and he wouldn't be able to stand the pressure of going to prison for 20 years or life; and John Martorano also was under the cloud of going to prison for 20 years or life. He [Martorano] was a little reluctant because of his close relationship with John Callahan, but he was convinced he was a threat."

What happened next? Flemmi was asked.

"He was murdered," Flemmi said.

Contact Edmund H. Mahony at [emahony@courant.com](mailto:emahony@courant.com)

## Graphic

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PHOTO 1-3: (b&w) mugs PHOTO 4: (b&w), AP PHOTO 5: (b&w) mug PHOTO 6: (b&w), AP GRAPHIC: color

PHOTO 1: ROGER WHEELER SR. Tulsa, Okla., resident acquired World Jai Alai, parent of Hartford Jai Alai, in 1979, and began to fear gangsters from New England. Two years later, he was killed in Tulsa. PHOTO 2: JOHN J. CONNOLLY Former FBI agent allegedly had close ties to Boston's Winter Hill Gang. Suspected mob figures linked him to the slaying of John Callahan, and he is now on trial in Florida. PHOTO 3: JOHN B. CALLAHAN Preceded Wheeler at helm of World Jai Alai in '70s and became a focus of investigations into the sport's mob ties. A year after Wheeler died, he was slain in Miami. PHOTO 4: POLICE INVESTIGATE the Tula, Okla., scene of the 1981 shooting of Roger Wheeler Sr. Federal authorities believe the killing of Wheeler led, a year later, to the slaying of

CASE OF FATAL TIP; MURDER AND THE MOB; A 1982 SLAYING IN MIAMI FRUSTRATED  
INVESTIGATIONS INTO JAI ALAI AND ITS TIES TO ORGANIZED CRIME. THIS WEEK, A DECORATED F....

John B. Callahan in Miami. The authorities, who were looking to talk to Callahan about Wheeler, eventually arrested John J. Connolly, saying he tipped off mob figures. PHOTO 5: RICO PHOTO 6: JOHN J. CONNOLLY, a former FBI agent, leaves federal court in Boston after he was found guilty of racketeering in May 2002. He was accused of taking payoffs and tipping off members of the Winter Hill Gang. GRAPHIC: JAI ALAI, RACKETEERING AND MURDER

**Load-Date:** September 16, 2008

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End of Document



## *Cash-Filled Garment Bag Could Cost Federal Judge His Black Robe*

The Associated Press

March 11, 1989, Saturday, AM cycle

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**Section:** Washington Dateline

**Length:** 924 words

**Byline:** By MIKE ROBINSON, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** WASHINGTON

### **Body**

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On a crisp October morning, William Borders drove out of a suburban motel parking lot with a garment bag packed with cash and an FBI undercover agent beside him in the front seat.

Minutes later, the high-living and well connected Washington attorney was under arrest and headed down to the road to a five-year prison term. But that was far from the end of the tale.

After seven years, District Judge Alcee L. Hastings of Miami is still waging a stubborn fight to hang onto his black robe as the Senate prepares for his impeachment trial arising from events of that fateful day, Oct. 9, 1981.

If convicted, the 52-year-old Hastings, Florida's first black federal judge, would not face criminal penalties. He was acquitted of conspiracy by a jury in 1983 and he claims that verdict should have settled the matter.

The outspoken Hastings, however, does stand to lose his seat on the bench and his \$\$89,500 salary if the Senate convicts him.

"This isn't some agriculture bill we're talking about," Hastings said in February following a Senate Rules Committee session. "This is my office."

The Senate this week takes up a Hastings move for dismissal of 16 of the 17 charges in the bill of impeachment approved Aug. 3 by the House, 413-3. They say he plotted with Borders to obtain a bribe and lied about it at the 1983 trial. Another count says he improperly divulged data produced by a wiretap and thus torpedoed a federal investigation.

The Senate plans to hear arguments on Wednesday and make its decision concerning dismissal of the charges on Thursday.

Presentation of evidence, if it comes to that, will take place later before a special Senate committee with videotapes of the proceedings available for senators unable to attend the sessions. When that will happen is unclear, but Hastings attorney Terence J. Anderson says it should not happen at all.

## Cash-Filled Garment Bag Could Cost Federal Judge His Black Robe

"The Senate should ask itself, can a trial that is fair be conducted?" Anderson says. "Is it feasible? Is it practical? Is it possible? And if the answer is no, the Senate should just say, we're not going to do it, we're not going to take the time out from our schedule and subject the man to this ordeal."

But both sides are digging in for weeks of skirmishing.

Hastings has been going on Washington radio shows in recent weeks and urging sympathizers to attend the Senate session.

Hastings stands accused of conspiring with Borders to obtain a \$150,000 payoff from brothers Frank and Tom Romano of Miami who had been convicted of skimming more than \$1 million from a Teamsters pension fund loan.

In return, say authorities, Hastings planned to restore to the brothers more than \$1 million they forfeited because of their conviction and guarantee them no prison time.

The Romanos, however, both of whom have since died, had no interest in paying a bribe.

They did send a go-between to a meeting in a Miami paint and body shop with Borders associate William Dredge, a North Miami antique dealer. But the two brothers wanted no part of the proposed fix.

That did not stop the FBI. Dredge, under indictment in a Baltimore narcotics case and eager to please, was persuaded to introduce retired agent **H. Paul Rico** to Borders under the name of Frank Romano.

Soon, Rico, masquerading as Romano, was asking Borders for some gesture that would prove he really was working with the judge. They hit on a deal in which Hastings would appear for dinner in the main dining room of Miami's Hotel Fountainbleu at 8 p.m. on Sept. 16, 1981.

Hastings did appear at the appointed hour but scoffs at the notion that he did so as a signal in a bribe plot.

It is not the only circumstantial evidence. Prosecutors claim Hastings gave a coded signal he was about to fix the case when he said in a wiretapped phone conversation with Borders: "I'll send the stuff to Columbia in the morning." Nonsense, says Hastings.

About the only thing certain is that many of those involved spent hours wandering through the Fountainbleu in the course of the investigation.

At one point, FBI agents acting on a Dredge tip followed Borders to the Fountainbleu lobby where he met with Florida mob boss Santo Trafficante, at the time a defendant in another case before Hastings.

It was more than enough to raise eyebrows. At the time, Borders was a prominent Washington criminal lawyer, a former president of the National Bar Association and a member of the District of Columbia's powerful judicial selection committee.

He also was an effervescent high roller, who seemingly always could arrange a suite at Washington's plush L'Enfant Plaza Hotel and thought nothing of taking his girlfriend to Las Vegas for the Thomas Hearnes-Sugar Ray Leonard fight for her birthday.

"During the term of President Carter," according to a 1987 House Judiciary Committee report, "Borders became a very high political advisor, primarily through the Democratic National Committee."

Indeed, a testimonial dinner topped off by a moonlight boat ride was planned for him on Oct. 9, the day he accepted a garment bag packed with \$125,000 in cash from Rico, still masquerading as Romano.

As Borders pulled out of the parking lot and turned onto Interstate 395, he was surrounded by FBI cars and he told Rico glumly, "We're busted."

## Cash-Filled Garment Bag Could Cost Federal Judge His Black Robe

Hastings, who had checked into the L'Enfant Plaza in advance of the testimonial dinner, received word of the arrest and that FBI agents were searching for him from another guest, Hemphill Pride, a one-time law school classmate.

The judge hastily packed his suitcase and returned to Miami, where he was located later than night and placed under arrest.

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## *Character Witnesses Take the Stand*

The Associated Press

March 27, 1982, Saturday, PM cycle

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**Section:** Domestic News

**Length:** 392 words

**Dateline:** ATLANTA

### **Body**

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The defense in the bribery trial of Washington lawyer William A. Borders Jr. has opened its case by calling six character witnesses, including one who said Border's role on a Carter re-election committee indicated how much he was trusted.

Ben D. Brown, a Washington attorney, testified Friday that as a member of the finance committee of President Jimmy Carter's re-election committee, Borders handled a lot of money and was entirely trustworthy.

"Bill had a key responsibility in the committee," Brown said. "Nearly \$1 million was raised under Bill's leadership. This could not have happened unless many people trusted Bill Borders."

Geri Thompson, the director of the Atlanta Voter Education Project, said Borders was a "man of his word." Ms. Thompson, a former aide to former Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson, said she had known Borders for several years and found him "an extremely honest person."

The prosecution concluded its case Friday, following testimony by an FBI agent who said the federal judge for whom Borders is charged with helping to arrange a \$150,000 bribe left Washington hurriedly to return to Miami after being told the FBI was looking for him.

Agent Dale Byrd testified that U.S. District Court Judge Alcee Hastings of Miami left a hotel, drove 32 miles to the Washington-Baltimore Airport and took the first plane back to Florida after learning of the FBI inquiry on Oct. 9.

Borders is charged with conspiracy to commit bribery and obstruction of justice. Hastings faces the same charges. He is being tried separately.

Prosecutors contend Borders acted as a middleman in soliciting a \$150,000 payoff for Hastings in exchange for the judge's agreement to reduce the prison sentences of two federal felons and order \$845,000 in confiscated money returned to them.

The two felons, Frank and Thomas Romano, were sentenced by Hastings to three years in prison after their 1981 convictions on charges of mail fraud, tax evasion and racketeering. Hastings also ordered \$1.2 million confiscated from the brothers after their convictions.



Character Witnesses Take the Stand

Former FBI Agent **H. Paul Rico** testified earlier that he posed as Frank Romano and paid Borders \$25,000 on Sept. 19 as the first installment on the \$150,000 payoff.

Rico also testified that Borders came to his hotel room on Oct. 9 to receive the final \$125,000 but was arrested before the money exchanged hands.

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## [Charged Ex-FBI Agent to Fight Extradition](#)

Associated Press Online

November 14, 2003 Friday

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**Section:** DOMESTIC NEWS

**Length:** 180 words

**Dateline:** MIAMI

### **Body**

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A former FBI agent charged in Oklahoma with a 1981 mob murder will fight extradition, his attorney told a state court judge Friday.

**H. Paul Rico**, 78, will not voluntarily return to Oklahoma to face charges that helped organize the slaying of Roger Wheeler, attorney Garvin Isaacs told Senior Circuit Judge Gerald Klein.

Wheeler, 55, was the chairman of Telex Corp. and owner of Miami, Fla.-based World Jai Alai.

Klein set an extradition hearing for Dec. 15. Rico will remain jailed without bail until then.

Rico, who retired from the FBI in 1975, served as security chief for World Jai Alai when Wheeler was shot to death at a Tulsa, Okla., country club May 27, 1981.

Investigators say Wheeler was killed because he suspected money was being skimmed from the jai alai business by Boston's Winter Hill gang, an organized crime group.

Wheeler's confessed hit man, John Martorano, implicated Rico in the killing. Rico was arrested after informant Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, who pleaded guilty to federal charges in October related to the killing of Wheeler and nine others, did the same.

**Load-Date:** November 15, 2003



## [Charges may be filed in 1982 Miami jai alai murder](#)

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

March 14, 2001, Wednesday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 676 words

**Byline:** By KELLY KURT, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** TULSA, Okla.

### **Body**

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Prosecutors charged two Boston mobsters and an alleged triggerman with murder Wednesday in the 20-year-old slaying of Tulsa executive Roger Wheeler, who owned Miami-based World Jai Alai.

Oklahoma prosecutors say James "Whitey" Bulger, Stephen Flemmi and John Martorano will also be charged in Florida with the 1982 murder of John B. Callahan, a former World Jai Alai president, whose body was found stuffed in the trunk of a Cadillac at Miami International Airport.

Authorities say Martorano has admitted killing Callahan, a one-time president of World Jai Alai, on Aug. 1, 1982, allegedly to keep him from telling authorities about links between World Jai Alai and Bulger's gang.

Detective Vanessa Cook, a Miami-Dade police spokeswoman, said she could not confirm that charges were imminent. A spokesman for the Miami-Dade state attorney's office said a Boston federal judge has issued a gag order prohibiting any public discussion of the case.

Tulsa District Attorney Tim Harris said he will seek the death penalty against Bulger, who remains at large, and Flemmi, who is in federal custody. Both are charged with first-degree murder.

Martorano, who also admitted shooting Wheeler, agreed to testify against his former mob bosses and will have his murder charge reduced if he cooperates. He is also in federal custody.

"The Wheeler family has suffered greatly for almost 20 years," Harris said. "I am encouraged that Tulsa County will be able to bring these alleged murderers to justice."

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

Investigators have suspected that the killing was tied to Wheeler's ownership of World Jai Alai and his suspicion that organized crime was skimming money from it for the Boston-based Winter Hill gang.

## Charges may be filed in 1982 Miami jai alai murder

Martorano has accused retired FBI agent **H. Paul Rico** of helping him murder Wheeler. Rico and John Connolly, another former FBI agent, served as handlers for Bulger and Flemmi, authorities say.

Harris said the investigation is continuing into the possible involvement of others in the Wheeler case, including the allegations against the FBI agents.

Connolly already has been indicted in Boston for racketeering and obstruction of justice charges for allegedly protecting Bulger and Flemmi and leaking them information about three people who were later murdered.

Martorano has claimed that Rico, who was head of security for World Jai Alai, provided the daily schedule of Wheeler so Martorano could kill him.

Rico, 73, has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing. He was not charged in the Wheeler case.

"Rico has never been to Oklahoma," his lawyer, William Cagney III, said Wednesday. "I'm not too sure I understand what Rico's role could be because he's never been out there."

Wheeler's family had pushed for charges in the long delayed case. His son, David, called the charges "great progress although, Martorano, as everyone knows, cut a deal." He said he was disappointed that Rico had not been charged.

"But it is good Bulger and Flemmi are charged with my father's murder," David Wheeler said.

A federal racketeering case that includes allegations that Bulger and Flemmi were involved in Wheeler's murder has yet to go to trial in Boston. A special Justice Department task force also is investigating allegations of corruption within the FBI's Boston office involving the Winter Hill gang.

Harris said the case likely won't come to trial in Oklahoma until pending federal charges in Boston are resolved.

Under the plea agreement, Martorano would receive a 15-year prison term. Martorano's alleged confession was "the first break" in the languishing case, Harris said. The plea was reached with prosecutors in three states after Martorano admitted to 20 murders.

While noting that the charges are only allegations, Harris said that aggravating circumstances in the case warrant the death penalty.

"We believe there is sufficient evidence beyond a reasonable doubt to present that to a jury," he said.

**Load-Date:** March 15, 2001



## [Church scandal, gay marriage top stories in 2002](#)

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

December 25, 2003, Thursday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 1193 words

**Byline:** By MARTIN FINUCANE, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** BOSTON

### **Body**

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The two top stories of 2003 in Massachusetts marked the end of one saga and the dawning of a new one.

A ruling by the state's highest court that granted same-sex couples the right to marry put Massachusetts at the epicenter of the nation's debate on gay marriage, certain to continue being debated throughout 2004 and beyond.

This year also marked several healing developments in the ongoing church abuse scandal that first erupted nearly two years ago.

A new archbishop, Sean P. O'Malley, arrived on the scene this summer in Boston in the brown robes of a simple friar, dedicated to healing, and quickly forged an \$85 million settlement with more than 500 people who said they had been molested by priests.

And because of the efforts of the man known as "Archbishop Sean," the story of the scandal in Massachusetts churches, which had created a furor worldwide, appeared to be winding down.

Associated Press newspaper and broadcast members were split over which story topped the headlines, but the edge went to the Supreme Judicial Court's gay marriage ruling in mid-November.

Seven gay and lesbian couples sued the state seeking the right to marry. The court's ruling was long-anticipated, and for those looking for the court to break new ground, the justices didn't disappoint.

In the ensuing weeks, advocates for the gay and lesbian community and Massachusetts lawmakers have debated whether the court was ordering the state to allow same-sex couples to marry - or if the court would be satisfied with civil unions.

The ruling was applauded as a civil rights milestone by gay activists. Plaintiffs in the suit were ecstatic, celebrating with immediate proposals of marriage to each other.

But there were plenty of critics, too, starting from the top, with President George W. Bush condemning the ruling and commenting that the court "had overreached its bounds."

## Church scandal, gay marriage top stories in 2002

And it wasn't long before politicians at the Statehouse began to talk about whether the court would be satisfied by the passage of a "civil union" law like that passed in Vermont.

The church abuse scandal made headlines throughout the year. An attorney general's report found that more than 1,000 people had been sexually abused by priests and other church workers over the past six decades. One former priest, convicted pedophile John Geoghan, who had been at the center of the scandal, was murdered in prison in August.

It came a month after O'Malley was installed as archbishop, succeeding Cardinal Bernard Law, who had resigned in December 2002 after mounting criticism of his handling of the sex-abuse crisis.

O'Malley immediately cut a more common-man approach to the archdiocese. He was empathetic in his pronouncements, met with victims, and won widespread praise when he agreed to a settlement that had seemed so elusive. O'Malley put the archbishop's stately residence and 27 acres of property in Boston on sale to help pay for the settlement.

In other top stories of the year, Red Sox madness swept the state as the star-crossed team that has generated so much loyalty and so much disappointment over the decades battled its way through the playoffs.

Many whispered old fears that the "Curse of the Bambino" would raise its ugly head and the ghosts seemed to be present on the field again as the Sox lost to longtime-rival New York Yankees in the 11th inning of the seventh game of the American League Championship series.

A new era was ushered in at the University of Massachusetts when William M. Bulger, who had ruled the state Senate for 17 years and then became president of University of Massachusetts, stepped down from his post.

It came as a congressional committee turned a bright spotlight on his relationship to his notorious older brother, James "Whitey" Bulger, a fugitive mobster on the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted" list, sought in connection with 21 murders.

The story of the Boston mob took two further twists when James Bulger's former partner, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, pleaded guilty to charges under which he will serve life in prison and **H. Paul Rico**, a former Boston FBI agent, was charged with helping Flemmi and Bulger's gang to murder an Oklahoma businessman.

Republican Gov. Mitt Romney took office with a massive \$3 billion gap in the state budget and a determination, shared by the Democratic-controlled Legislature, not to raise taxes.

Human service activists clamored that the vulnerable would be hurt and the state's cities and towns argued that taxes were just being shifted to the local level. But the budget was ultimately balanced through a mix of fee hikes, consolidations, cuts and dipping into the state's rainy day fund.

U.S. Sen. John F. Kerry, D-Mass., using an aircraft carrier as his backdrop, declared his candidacy for president, then watched as former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean cruised ahead of him in the polls to become the front-runner for the Democratic nomination.

Two major Massachusetts financial companies that had been deeply involved in the community announced that they would be acquired by out-of-state companies.

FleetBoston Financial Corp. said it would be acquired by Bank of America for \$47 billion, while John Hancock Financial Services Inc. said it would be acquired by Canada-based Manulife Financial Corp. in a \$10.4 billion stock swap.

Cash-strapped Springfield turned up the volume in the national debate over the cost of prescription drugs by becoming the first city in the nation to turn to cheaper Canadian drugs for its employee health plan.

## Church scandal, gay marriage top stories in 2002

The federal government warned the program was illegal and risky, but other cities and states, including Boston and New Hampshire, moved toward duplicating the program.

Mutual fund investors learned some new terms - "market timing" and "late trading" - but the bottom line was a growing sense that small investors were being ripped off due to questionable practices at mutual funds that once had seemed so staid and reputable.

Putnam Investments was one of the major targets in the spreading scandal and Massachusetts Secretary of State William Galvin was a key player in uncovering the problems.

An unhappy end to a mystery was written when the remains of 16-year-old lifeguard Molly Bish of Warren were found in a wooded area of a nearby town. Bish's disappearance in 2000 had drawn national attention and, despite the discovery of her remains, no one had been charged in her killing by year's end.

Lastly, among the top stories of the year was one that didn't actually happen in Massachusetts but had a deep effect on residents: the nightclub fire in West Warwick, R.I., that killed 100 people - about a third of them from Massachusetts.

The fire, started when a rock band's pyrotechnics display set afire foam used as soundproofing, also injured about 200 people. It was the fourth-deadliest fire in U.S. history.

A Rhode Island grand jury earlier this month indicted the club's owners - former Massachusetts broadcaster Jeff Derderian and his brother, Michael Derderian - as well as Dan Biechele, the tour manager for the band Great White, who set off the fireworks display.

## Graphic

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AP Photos

**Load-Date:** December 26, 2003



## CINTAS NO INCRIMINAN A HASTINGS

El Nuevo Herald

21 enero 1983 viernes

EDICIÓN

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**Section:** FRENTE; Pág. 2

**Length:** 343 words

**Byline:** PETER SLEVIN Redactor de El Herald

### **Body**

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Las cintas grabadas en el Aeropuerto Internacional de Miami sobre el acuerdo furtivo para un soborno entre un agente de la Oficina Federal de Investigaciones (FBI) y un abogado de Washington D.C., fueron escuchadas el jueves por un jurado cuando los fiscales federales comenzaron a documentar su caso de confabulación y soborno contra el juez federal de distrito Alcee L. Hastings.

Pero Hastings, a cargo de su propia defensa en el segundo día de testimonios de la fiscalía, forzó al agente mediante un careo a reconocer que ninguna de las conversaciones grabadas lo inculpaba directamente.

En el estrado de los testigos estaba **H. Paul Rico**, corpulento agente retirado del FBI, ahora director de operaciones para World Jai-Alai. Fue Rico quien se hizo pasar como el extorsionista Frank Romano en el otoño de 1981, después que el FBI obtuvo la pista de que Hastings estaba supuestamente dedicado a lucrar con la justicia.

Rico abandonó su retiro para negociar con William A. Borders Jr., de Washington, abogado y viejo amigo de Hastings, ya condenado por confabulación por exigir un soborno de \$150,000 en el caso. El gobierno sostiene que Borders fue el intermediario que negoció en representación de Hastings.

El jurado en la corte federal escuchó mediante audifonos amarillos las conversaciones de Rico y Borders, en sus reuniones de septiembre y octubre de 1981.

"Creo que puedo ayudarle", dijo Borders a Rico en septiembre de 1981 en el Aeropuerto de Miami.

Rico declaró el jueves que, como señal de que Borders podía "ponerse en contacto con el juez Hastings", el abogado acordó hacer que Hastings fuera a cenar al hotel Fountainebleau Hilton el siguiente miércoles.

"A partir de ese momento, eso le demostrara, será una señal que le demostrara quien soy yo, y que se lo que me traigo entre manos, ¿conforme?", dice Borders en la cinta grabada.



CINTAS NO INCRIMINAN A HASTINGS

Hastings se persono en el restaurante la tarde convenida.

Una semana despues, Rico llevo \$25,000 en billetes de \$100 metidos en un sobre, envuelto en papel periodico, y los dejo en el brazo de un sofa en el aeropuerto.

**Load-Date:** November 30, 2009

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## CITY INCREASES SIZE BY 4 SQUARE MILES

**CITY INCREASES SIZE BY 4 SQUARE MILES**

The Miami Herald

October 22, 2003 Wednesday BROWARD EDITION

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**Section:** BROWARD & STATE; Pg. 3B**Length:** 948 words**Byline:** Herald Staff**Body**

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It's a boundary change, to be sure, but for Hialeah, a city long known as a hodgepodge of zoning irregularities, it is something much larger

A clean slate.

Hialeah on Tuesday took control of nearly four square miles of undeveloped land in far northwestern Miami-Dade - an area the city says will become an upscale suburban enclave. At least several thousand homes are likely to be built there in the coming years.

Hialeah officials hope a well-planned development will attract the young professionals currently flocking to Southwest Broward cities such as Pembroke Pines. In some cases, those professionals left Hialeah, citing reasons such as the city's densely packed neighborhoods and traffic congestion.

Although Hialeah has yet to submit detailed plans for what kind of development it has in mind, the Miami-Dade County Commission Tuesday voted 11-1 to approve the land transfer. Commissioner Katy Sorenson cast the only dissenting vote.

Sorenson voiced concerns with Hialeah's future goal of extending the portion of the land that could be developed. Almost a quarter of the land currently sits outside the county's urban development boundary.

MIAMI

TWO ARRESTED: DRUGS

FOUND IN FAKE CAN

Tip for drug dealers: normal people don't keep Cheez Doodles in their clothes closets.

## CITY INCREASES SIZE BY 4 SQUARE MILES

That's where Miami police say they found a Cheez Doodle can during a raid Tuesday. Upon further inspection, it turned out to be a fake can with a screw-off bottom - and cocaine inside.

"You can buy those legally to hide your jewelry," said Lt. David Magnusson, commander of the crime suppression unit. "But it's like getting a fake hair spray can to hide your jewelry in and then putting it in the freezer. That's not where it would go."

The raid, at 3091 NW 15th St., also netted a press to mold powder cocaine into bricks, and other drug-related items, Magnusson said.

Police have been watching the house for about three months, he said. On Tuesday they arrested Armando Valdez, 38, of 301 NW 28th Ave., leaving the house with more than a pound of cocaine. They then got permission from the owner of the 15th Street house to search it, he said.

At the house, they arrested resident Orlando Morejon, 52.

Both men were charged with trafficking in cocaine.

## MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

## OFFICIALS TACKLE

## SCHOOL CROWDING

Seeking to curb school overcrowding, Miami-Dade County commissioners on Tuesday ordered the creation of a panel of lawmakers, builders and educators to come up with a plan to keep school construction in line with housing starts.

The 15-member "working group" is the brainchild of Commissioner Katy Sorenson, whose district in southern Miami-Dade provides the largest remaining land bank for the building industry.

"Residential development is just exploding," Sorenson said. "But we simply don't have enough schools to accommodate all the kids who are going to be moving into those houses."

Sorenson said she hopes Homestead and surrounding areas can avoid the pitfalls found in West Kendall and other development hotbeds, where school construction lags behind the creation of new homes.

School officials say 104 of the county's 340 public schools are overcrowded, defined as having a student population at 115 percent of classroom capacity or greater. More than half of those are elementary schools.

Sorenson said planners should put schools where they want residential growth to follow so the schools can anchor communities, instead of being an afterthought.

## \* MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

## ARMED ROBBER HITS

## BIRD ROAD BANK

A masked bank robber stormed into a UniBank just before noon Tuesday and fired a warning shot into the air before demanding cash from the tellers, Miami-Dade police said.

No one was injured in the late-morning heist at the bank at 9290 Bird Rd. It's unclear how many customers were inside the branch at the time.

The robber grabbed two bags of money with an undetermined amount of cash and jumped into a waiting vehicle, possibly a black Ford Explorer, police said.

## CITY INCREASES SIZE BY 4 SQUARE MILES

The branch was closed for several hours while police investigated.

## TREATMENT SOUGHT

## FOR JAILED AGENT

An attorney for a former FBI agent charged with his one-time informants in a mob hit said Tuesday that he planned to ask for federal help getting treatment for his client's heart disease.

An extradition hearing set for Tuesday was put off until Friday to allow an Oklahoma attorney to represent 78-year-old **H. Paul Rico**, who is charged with murder in the 1981 shooting death of Oklahoma businessman Roger Wheeler.

William Cagney III, one of Rico's attorneys, said he will seek a federal contempt citation against Miami-Dade County jailers for failing to get Rico anything more than a cursory checkup.

Rico, who retired from the FBI in 1975, was security chief for Wheeler's World Jai Alai when Wheeler was shot to death at a Tulsa, Okla., country club May 27, 1981.

Investigators say Wheeler suspected money was being skimmed from the Miami jai alai business by Boston's Winter Hill gang, an Irish mob that fed information to Rico on its rival New England Mafia.

Wheeler's confessed hit man, John Martorano, implicated Rico in the killing. Rico was arrested after informant Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi did the same and pleaded guilty to federal charges last week in the killing of Wheeler and nine others.

## WEST PALM BEACH

## MAN FOUND SHOT

## TO DEATH AT UNION

A man was found shot to death this morning at the Communications Workers of America union hall at 594 First St., near Southern Boulevard and Jog Road.

Palm Beach County sheriff's deputies and the Eagle helicopter were searching for another man who had fled the area on foot.

Police do not believe the victim or the suspect are connected to the union, said Diane Carhart, spokeswoman for the sheriff's office.

## Notes

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## AROUND SOUTH FLORIDA

**Load-Date:** August 17, 2005



## *CJP building mentioned at Bulger trial*

Jewish Advocate, The

August 2, 2013

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Ethnic NewsWatch

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**Section:** Pg. 1; Vol. 204; No. 31; ISSN: 10772995

**Length:** 1120 words

**Byline:** Ian Thal

**Dateline:** Boston

### **Body**

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#### **ABSTRACT**

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Solimando testified in court that Bulger had put his gun to his face and informed him that he wanted 1400,000 that Callahan had invested in the renovations of 126 High St. According to the testimony, Bulger claimed that the money had been invested by Callahan on their behalf, and Weeks handed Bulger a machine gun that Bulger pointed at Solimando, threatening to kill him if he went to either the police or FBI.

Speaking to the FBI about Bulger's activities was potentially dangerous. FBI agent [John J. Connolly] had so valued Bulger as an informant in his efforts to bring down the Patriarca crime family that he actively used his position to aid the Winter Hill Gang in their crimes, including helping them kill witnesses. In 2008, Connolly was convicted of second-degree murder for his involvement in Callahan's and [Richard Wheeler]'s deaths. It was Connolly's 1994 tipoff that the FBI was closing in on him that caused Bulger to go into hiding.

#### **FULL TEXT**

Testimony reveals 'Whitey' had interest in 126 High St.

James "Whitey" Bulger has a small, but tangible, Jewish connection.

A building in downtown Boston that houses many of the area's key Jewish organizations has recently been mentioned in the news - not for the philanthropic, educational, or advocacy work of its current occupants, but for a

## CJP building mentioned at Bulger trial

brief episode that came to light in the high-profile trial of the man who has become arguably Boston's most notorious figure.

The structure at 126 High St. is an eight-story office building of red brick and gray concrete constructed in 1923. To observers of the institutional life of the city's Jewish community, it is the address of a number of Jewish organizations - most prominently its owner, Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP). CJP's emblem, a stylized menorah, is featured prominently above the entrance to the building, while on either side of the front doors, the Hebrew words "Berakhah" and "Tzedakah" ("Blessing" and "Charity") are inscribed in concrete.

Other occupants include the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of Greater Boston, as well as the Boston regional offices of the American Jewish Committee (AJC), and Taglit-Birthright Israel. Gesher City Boston, a social networking website for young Jews that operates in Washington, D.C., and Denver, also maintains offices in the building but has locally re-branded itself as the "20s & 30s" section of [jewishboston.com](http://jewishboston.com).

According to Gil Preuss, Executive Vice President of CJP, "We purchased the building in 1993 from Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company in Rehabilitation, successor to The Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company, a New Jersey Corporation."

But before CJP or Mutual Benefit, the property was of interest to Bulger's infamous Winter Hill Gang.

During his July 16 testimony in the trial of Bulger - the accused organized-crime boss, former FBI "Most Wanted Fugitive" and former FBI informant - real estate developer and contractor Michael Solimando described being extorted for 1400,000 during 1982. Bulger, the brother of former Massachusetts Senate and University of Massachusetts President William Bulger, is currently on trial for 19 murders.

Solimando had done business with John B. Callahan, whose bullet-riddled body was found in the parking lot of Miami International Airport, stuffed in the trunk of his Cadillac, on Aug. 2, 1982. James Bulger associates Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi and John Martorano have already pleaded guilty to the murder.

It was believed by Bulger and Flemmi - as well as their FBI handler, John J. Connolly - that Callahan would be a witness against them in the murder of Richard Wheeler, an associate of Callahan's and then-owner of World Jai Lai, after he discovered evidence that Bulger and Flemmi were embezzling money from his organization.

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Speaking to the FBI about Bulger's activities was potentially dangerous. FBI agent Connolly had so valued Bulger as an informant in his efforts to bring down the Patriarca crime family that he actively used his position to aid the Winter Hill Gang in their crimes, including helping them kill witnesses. In 2008, Connolly was convicted of second-degree murder for his involvement in Callahan's and Wheeler's deaths. It was Connolly's 1994 tipoff that the FBI was closing in on him that caused Bulger to go into hiding.

Connolly's boss at the FBI, Joe Morris, also confessed to taking 17,000 in bribes from Bulger and Flemmi.

Another former FBI agent, ***H. Paul Rico***, who prior to his retirement had been Connolly's predecessor handling Bulger and Flemmi, was also indicted in the murder of Wheeler. Rico is credited as having originated the embezzlement scheme at World Jai Lai while serving as the sports organization's head of security, but died before he could be tried.

CJP building mentioned at Bulger trial

Solimando later met with Bulger, Flemmi and Weeks with a payment of 120,000 and real estate records that showed that Callahan did not have 1400,000 invested in the High Street property. Bulger, Flemmi, and Weeks dismissed the paperwork and Solimando was forced to hand over 1215,000 from a bank account Callahan kept in Switzerland, and paid the remainder himself.

"It was either that or be killed," Solimando said in his testimony.

Solimando and his business partner, Fred Dellorfano Jr., were financing the renovations through their company, Quansoo Realty Trust. At the time, Quansoo maintained its offices there. The renovations were completed in 1986.

James "Whitey" Bulger has a small connection to 126 High St. in downtown Boston.

By Ian Thai

Special to The Advocate

**Load-Date:** July 23, 2018

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## *CJP building mentioned at Bulger trial*

Jewish Advocate

August 2, 2013

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Ethnic NewsWatch

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**Section:** Pg. 1; Vol. 204; No. 31

**Length:** 1115 words

**Byline:** Thal, Ian

By Ian Thai

Special to The Advocate

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**SIDEBAR**

James "Whitey" Bulger has a small connection to 126 High St. in downtown Boston.

**Graphic**

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Photographs

**Load-Date:** September 8, 2013



## [Claims of jail assault on ex-FBI agent checked](#)

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

January 21, 2004 Wednesday 1 North Pinellas Edition

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**Section:** METRO & STATE; Pg. 4B; DIGEST

**Length:** 648 words

**Series:** AROUND THE STATE

**Dateline:** MIAMI; NICEVILLE

### **Body**

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Jail authorities in Florida are looking into allegations that a former FBI agent was assaulted before his extradition to Tulsa, Okla., where he died last week facing murder charges.

**H. Paul Rico** died at a Tulsa hospital late Friday. Results of an autopsy are pending.

The Miami-Dade County Jail was investigating claims by his attorney that the ailing 78-year-old was assaulted Dec. 5 while in custody, jail spokeswoman Janelle Hall said.

Compiled from Wire Reports

Tulsa County prosecutors said a doctor in Florida found that bruises on Rico came from an incorrect dosage of blood thinner.

Rico was moved to Tulsa by air ambulance on Jan. 8 to face charges that he helped his former mob informers arrange the 1981 slaying of Roger Wheeler, owner of World Jai Alai. Rico was security chief at the Miami parimutuel company at the time. He was arrested at his Florida home Oct. 9.

Woman jailed for alleged "bomb" remark at airport

MIAMI - "Hey, be careful, I have three bombs in here," a woman allegedly told a security screener as she placed her carry-on bag on the belt of an X-ray machine at Miami International Airport.

Asked to repeat herself, Samantha Marson, 21, allegedly made the statement twice more.

Marson, believed to be a British citizen, was arrested Saturday on a charge of making a false bomb report. She remained in the Miami-Dade County Jail Tuesday in lieu of \$5,000 bail.

Marson is from the town of Bridgnorth in Shropshire in western England. She has been in the United States for three months with her American boyfriend and was returning to Britain to renew her visa, the British Press Association said.

## Claims of jail assault on ex-FBI agent checked

"We are beside ourselves with worry," her father, Jim Marson, 75, told the Sun, a British tabloid.

"I'm sure Samantha will accept that it's a silly thing to say but she's the sort of girl who might have thought it would make people laugh."

Missing girl, 15, found;

police question man, 23

NICEVILLE - A missing 15-year-old was found Tuesday at a home in Troy, Ala., and police were trying to determine whether she ran away or was abducted.

An Amber Alert had been issued for Janelle Angelea Adkins, whose parents reported her missing from their home in this Florida Panhandle city Monday morning.

Alex Gonzalez, 23, a former restaurant co-worker of the girl, was detained in Slocomb, Ala., about 75 miles northeast of Niceville. He told investigators where to find her.

Charges, if any, will depend on what the girl tells investigators, police Lt. Jason Fulghum said.

Adkins, a top student and soccer star at Rocky Bayou Christian School, apparently left her bedroom through a window after the screen was cut. Police suspected an abduction because she has no history of running away, was not dressed for the cold and left without her purse and personal items.

Amber Alerts, which are issued to law enforcement agencies and news media and posted on highway message signs, are designed to spread the alert of a possible abduction of a child under 18.

Toddler finds gun in dad's car, shoots self in head

MIAMI - A toddler left alone in a car shot himself in the head with his father's gun.

Travis Jenkins Jr., 3, was in critical condition at Jackson Memorial Hospital early Tuesday, according to family members.

"This appears to be accidental," said Miami police spokeswoman Detective Herminia Salas-Jacobson. "But there are a lot of big questions. Such as why this child was left alone in the car, and why did he have access to a weapon?"

The family said Travis Jenkins Sr., 26, picked up the boy at his mother's house Monday evening, and on his way home stopped for a brief visit with a family friend.

"He was standing at the front door," said Kam Murphy, a cousin of the boy's mother who spoke with both parents. "He had the driver's-side door open. He turned his head for a second, and that's when Travis shot himself."

Salas-Jacobson said the gun was in the center console.

- Wire reports

## Graphic

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PHOTO; Samantha Marson

Claims of jail assault on ex-FBI agent checked

**Load-Date:** January 21, 2004

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## COAST GUARD VESSEL BRINGS IN 5 TONS OF DRUGS

The Miami Herald

November 2, 2003 Sunday FINAL EDITION

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**Section:** METRO & STATE; Pg. 3B

**Length:** 637 words

**Byline:** Herald Staff

### **Body**

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#### MIAMI BEACH

The Coast Guard cutter Decisive docked in Miami Beach on Saturday, unloading almost 10,000 pounds of drugs valued at \$370 million seized in three separate busts in the Caribbean in recent weeks.

The haul, which was turned over to Customs agents, included 1,610 pounds of marijuana, some singed when the accused smugglers attempted to burn it before being arrested. The seven smuggling suspects were turned over to federal authorities.

Coast Guard and Homeland Security officials say that since Sept. 23 they have made 17 busts and netted more than 34,000 pounds of drugs.

#### MIAMI

#### AIRPORT RAISES PARKING RATES

Miami International Airport has raised its long-term parking rates for the first time in six years.

The maximum daily rate increases from \$10 to \$12 in the Dolphin and Flamingo parking garages. The rates for short-term parking remain at \$5 an hour.

#### MIAMI

#### EXTRADITION HEARING DELAYED

A judge has postponed an extradition hearing until Nov. 14 for a former FBI agent charged in Oklahoma with his one-time informants in a mob murder.

**H. Paul Rico**'s hearing was delayed because of health problems.

## COAST GUARD VESSEL BRINGS IN 5 TONS OF DRUGS

He is being treated in the prison wing of Jackson Memorial Hospital, where his blood pressure dropped to "extremely low" levels Friday, said one of his attorneys, Gavin Isaacs.

Rico, who retired from the FBI in 1975, was security chief for Roger Wheeler's World Jai Alai when Wheeler was shot to death at a Tulsa, Okla., country club May 27, 1981.

Investigators say Wheeler was killed because he suspected money was being skimmed from the Miami jai alai business by Boston's Winter Hill gang, an Irish mob that fed information to Rico on its rival New England Mafia.

## HIALEAH

## SUSPECTED KIDNAPPING LEADS TO CHASE

Hialeah police, with the help of other agencies, chased two men in a van into Broward County on Saturday afternoon after an officer thought he saw them kidnap a woman.

The "woman" turned out to be a stolen air compressor. The two men fled because they had just completed a burglary and were stowing their stash in the van when a Hialeah police officer spotted them, Hialeah police spokesman Jose Caragol said.

They took officers from Hialeah, Miami-Dade County police and the Florida Highway Patrol on a chase before eventually running out of gas on Griffin Road in Broward County.

Pedro Lopez, 39, and Danny Valentini, 36, were charged with burglary.

## SURFSIDE

## CAT LOVERS HOLD 'FEED-IN'

A group of 40 Surfside cat lovers held a "feed-in" Saturday morning to protest the city's enforcement of a "do not feed rule." The protesters put out food for cats in defiance of a code that forbids the feeding of feral cats that live on the beach.

In recent weeks, city security officers have been giving out written warnings to the cat feeders, telling them that they will receive citations and \$100 fines if they continue. Officials say feeding the cats will cause the population to grow.

## NORTH MIAMI

## NEXT MANAGER TO EARN MORE

It'll be up to North Miami Mayor Joe Celestin and his council to find candidates for the city manager's position, a job made available when Irma Plummer was fired Sept. 24.

The council decided at its recent meeting to find someone for the post rather than advertise.

To attract higher-caliber candidates, the council also said it will raise the manager's maximum pay from \$155,000 to \$195,000 a year.

## MODEL CITY

## RELOCATION SESSION FAILS

Model City residents forced to move from their homes in 2001 because of area revitalization efforts failed to show up in significant numbers at a session to help them recoup their moving costs or receive rent subsidies.

HUD stopped funding the revitalization project partly because it concluded that there might have been relocation violations by the Model City Community Revitalization District Trust. The area is between Northwest 54th and 62nd streets and 12th and 17th avenues.

COAST GUARD VESSEL BRINGS IN 5 TONS OF DRUGS

## Notes

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AROUND MIAMI-DADE

## Graphic

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photo: Coast Guard crew members haul in seized drugs (a)

**Load-Date:** August 18, 2005

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## [Committee Details F.B.I.'s Reliance on Killers](#)

The New York Times

November 21, 2003 Friday

Late Edition - Final

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**Section:** Section A; Column 4; National Desk; Pg. 22

**Length:** 595 words

**Byline:** By FOX BUTTERFIELD

### **Body**

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A report issued yesterday by the House Committee on Government Reform gave the fullest accounting to date of the F.B.I.'s use of murderers as informants in Boston for three decades and its protection of them even to the point of allowing innocent men to be sentenced to death.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's policy "must be considered one of the greatest failures in the history of federal law enforcement" and had "disastrous consequences," the report said.

More than 20 people were killed by F.B.I. informants in Boston starting in 1965, often with the help of F.B.I. agents, it said, but no F.B.I. agent or official has ever been disciplined.

Separately, it said William M. Bulger, then the president of the University of Massachusetts, gave "inconsistent" testimony to the committee last June about whether the F.B.I. had contacted him in its search for his fugitive gangster brother, James Bulger, who is on the bureau's most wanted list. James Bulger, known as Whitey, headed an underworld gang in Boston and was one of the F.B.I.'s star informants before he fled in 1995 after being tipped off by a bureau agent to a secret indictment against him.

In his testimony in Washington, Mr. Bulger said the F.B.I. never asked him about his brother's whereabouts, though a retired agent later said he tried to speak to Mr. Bulger but was told that Mr. Bulger would not talk.

While critical of Mr. Bulger, the report stopped short of saying he had committed perjury.

And it said there was insufficient evidence to find that Mr. Bulger, during his days as president of the Massachusetts Senate, used his influence to punish those who investigated his brother.

Mr. Bulger's lawyer, Thomas R. Kiley, said the committee's findings were "a total vindication on everything that matters" for Mr. Bulger.

The bureau, in a written statement, said, "While the F.B.I. recognizes there have been instances of misconduct by a few F.B.I. employees, it also recognizes the importance of human source information in terrorism, criminal and counter-intelligence investigations."

## Committee Details F.B.I.'s Reliance on Killers

To avoid future problems, the statement said, "the F.B.I. has taken significant steps in recent years regarding the management and oversight of human sources of intelligence."

The F.B.I.'s policy of using murderers grew out of a belated effort by Director J. Edgar Hoover to go after the Mafia, which Mr. Hoover had earlier denied even existed, the report said. So in the early 1960's the bureau began recruiting underworld informers in its new campaign.

The report focuses heavily on one episode, the 1965 murder of Edward Deegan, a small-time hoodlum, who was killed by Jimmy Flemmi and Joseph Barboza, who had just been recruited by an F.B.I. agent in Boston, **H. Paul Rico**.

The F.B.I. knew the two men were the killers because it had been using an unauthorized wiretap at the headquarters of the New England Mafia in Providence, R.I., and had heard Mr. Flemmi ask the Mafia boss, Raymond Patriarca, for permission to kill Mr. Deegan. A few days later Mr. Deegan was shot to death.

The F.B.I. was so intent on protecting its new informants, the report said, that it passed up a chance to try Mr. Patriarca for his involvement in the killing. Instead, four men who had nothing to do with the killing were tried and convicted, with two sentenced to death and two to life in prison. Two of the men later died in prison, and two had their sentences commuted and were freed after serving 30 years behind bars.

Mr. Hoover was kept fully informed about this murder and the wrongful convictions, the report said.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

**Load-Date:** November 21, 2003

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## [Competency hearing set for ex-FBI agent in World Jai Alai killing](#)

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

January 16, 2004, Friday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 705 words

**Byline:** By KELLY KURT, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** TULSA, Okla.

### **Body**

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A judge put a wide-ranging murder case against a former FBI agent on hold Friday, pending an evaluation to determine if the 78-year-old is competent to stand trial.

Testimony that included reports that **H. Paul Rico**, once head of security for World Jai Alai of Miami, Fla., had visions of snakes in his jail cell and a psychiatrist's finding of competency a month later raised sufficient doubts to warrant the independent exam, Special Judge Carlos Chappelle ruled.

He canceled a Friday preliminary hearing and set a Feb. 6 court date to follow up on an evaluation of Rico by a court-appointed doctor.

The retired agent is accused in the 1981 mob murder of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler. Wheeler, owner of World Jai Alai, was shot in the head May 27, 1981, after playing a round of golf at Tulsa's Southern Hills Country Club.

Prosecutors asked the judge to decide the competency issue, even though Rico's defense had withdrawn an earlier petition that described him as delusional.

Rico's attorney, Garvin Isaacs, said he was disappointed by the judge's decision. He had sought to have his client released on bail, saying Rico was gravely ill and needed to recover to defend his name.

"Mr. Rico is an innocent man and wrongfully accused of crimes he did not commit," Isaacs said. "The Tulsa district attorney's office doesn't want a jury trial."

Rico, who reportedly suffers from heart problems, did not attend Friday's hearing. He had been hospitalized in Tulsa since Wednesday and was moved to a critical care unit Friday afternoon, his attorney said.

District Attorney Tim Harris said prosecutors also were eager to go to trial but that the law required the competency issue to be resolved.

"We didn't raise the issue. They did," he said of the defense.

## Competency hearing set for ex-FBI agent in World Jai Alai killing

Witnesses on both sides of the case testified Friday that Rico appeared mentally fit to stand trial.

Isaacs brought up the issue in filing for a competence determination on Dec. 19, saying Rico was "delusional, paranoid, anxious, agitated and confused" and "talking about snakes on the wall of his cell" after an alleged attack at the Miami-Dade County Jail on Dec. 5.

Prosecutors disputed that Rico was assaulted and said bruising on his body may have come from an incorrect dosage of blood thinning medication.

A psychiatrist hired by the defense to examine Rico in the Tulsa County Jail Sunday found him competent and said he didn't know what caused the earlier delirium.

"I don't believe there is anyone of competence who would find Mr. Rico incompetent," Dr. John Smith said.

Rico's wife, Constance, and two daughters also testified to his competence.

"He was sharp as a tack and he's sharp as a tack now," said M. Joyce Rico, a medical doctor, describing a visit Thursday with her father.

While in custody in Tulsa at the David L. Moss Correctional Center, Rico "knew exactly what was going on and knew what he was doing," said Kathleen Eckenrode, the jail's health administrator.

Testifying for the prosecution, Eckenrode said Rico was manipulative, acting weak and unable to walk but at times picking up his walker and carrying it.

Isaacs pleaded with Chappelle to hold a bail hearing so that Rico could be released into his family's care. Chappelle said the bail hearing was on hold pending the competency exam.

Rico has lost 53 pounds since being taken into custody, suffers from congestive heart failure and is so weak he can no longer lift a cup to his mouth, his daughter said.

Isaacs said he did not know why Rico was placed in critical care on Friday.

Rico was arrested at his Florida home in October and charged with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder.

Investigators say Wheeler suspected that money was being skimmed from his business by Boston gangsters who were informants for Rico when he was an FBI agent. Rico served as security chief at World Jai Alai at the time of the killing.

Reputed New England mobsters James "Whitey" Bulger, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi and John Martorano were charged here in 2001 with murdering Wheeler.

Admitted hit man Martorano pleaded guilty, Flemmi reached a plea agreement to resolve his case, and Bulger has been a fugitive since 1995.

**Load-Date:** January 17, 2004



## [Congress calls ex-agents in FBI crime probe](#)

United Press International

April 30, 2001, Monday

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**Section:** GENERAL NEWS

**Length:** 1072 words

**Byline:** By P. MITCHELL PROTHERO

**Dateline:** WASHINGTON, April 30

### **Body**

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A congressional committee investigating whether the FBI and then-director J. Edgar Hoover allowed innocent men to be sentenced to death -- and ultimately imprisoned for decades -- has subpoenaed two former agents to testify, a committee source said Monday.

The House Government Reform Committee subpoenaed FBI special agents [H. Paul Rico](#) and Dennis Condon to testify at a hearing Thursday on whether the FBI concealed the role of an informer in the 1965 murder of Edward "Teddy" Deegan, a Boston gangster, and instead allowed innocent men to be wrongly convicted.

The case has potentially far-reaching consequences and at its heart raises a disturbing question: In an overzealous effort to defeat the mob, did the FBI in effect become a partner in crime with mobsters in Boston and possibly elsewhere?

Because FBI memos at the time of the murder indicate that the agency knew that the Boston murder was about to be committed, knew who did it -- and still let innocent men be prosecuted -- investigators want additional information about whether irregularities in the use of informants were widespread.

One document that has riveted investigators' attention is a memo to J. Edgar Hoover about the Deegan killing. Dated March 19, 1965, the memo, a copy of which was obtained by United Press International, shows that field agents named different suspects than those ultimately charged and gave vivid details about how the murder was carried out. It said Deegan was lured to an alleyway in Chelsea, Mass., on the pretext of helping commit a burglary, then was shot in the back of the head by one man and immediately thereafter shot from the front by another, "in gangland fashion."

Another key issue is whether the FBI's reliance on -- and protection of -- confidential informants in Boston effectively allowed the informants to seize control and run Boston's organized crime operations for decades under the protection of law enforcement.

The hearing Thursday will examine the 1967 convictions of Peter Limone and Joseph Salvati for the Deegan murder. The men were convicted after evidence that they might be innocent -- which was in the possession of the

## Congress calls ex-agents in FBI crime probe

FBI -- was kept from defense attorneys. FBI documents also indicated that the accusations against them made by the primary witness in the case were fabricated to protect the identity of the real killers.

Four men, including Salvati and Limone, were convicted on the testimony of Joe "The Animal" Barboza, an FBI witness who admitted participating in the killing, and who was granted immunity for testifying. Later exonerated completely for the crime, Salvati and Limone were fingered for the murder by Barboza, allegedly to protect the identity of one of the real killers, Vincent James Flemmi, whose brother Steven was working for the FBI as an informant.

Vincent Flemmi and Barboza were named in the memo to Hoover a week after the murder as among the four "responsible for the killing."

But Limone and Salvati -- who were not among those mentioned in the FBI memo as having been involved -- were convicted and sentenced to death. Their sentences were commuted to life in prison when the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the death penalty in 1972.

After a Justice Department investigation into the Boston FBI office unearthed exculpatory documents kept by the FBI for over 30 years, a motion for a new trial was granted and the district attorney declined in January to pursue the charges. Salvati was released. Limone had been paroled in the mid-1990s.

F. Lee Bailey, the famed criminal defense attorney, represented Barboza, who became the first witness against organized crime to enter the witness protection program, and has also been asked to testify before the committee. Bailey told committee sources that in the 1970s he became aware that Barboza had committed perjury in the Deegan trial; Bailey said he had contacted federal investigators and prosecutors in an effort to get Limone and Salvati released.

In an affidavit dated Oct. 16, 1978, and obtained by UPI, Bailey testified that in 1970 Barboza admitted to fabricating the involvement of Limone and Henry Tameleo in the murder. The affidavit makes no mention of Salvati's involvement or innocence, but Bailey testifies that Barboza told him of pressure from prosecutors to tie the murders to high-profile members of organized crime.

"He told me that Henry Tameleo and Peter Limone were not involved, but he implicated them because he was led to understand by various authorities that in order to escape punishment on charges pending against him, he would have to implicate someone of 'importance,'" Bailey's affidavit says. Tameleo and Limone were affiliated with the Boston and New England organized crime families and were able to link higher-level gangsters, including Raymond Patriarca, who the FBI considered a top official of La Cosa Nostra, or Mafia, to Deegan's murder.

The congressional investigation will examine whether agents actually encouraged perjury on the part of Barboza or simply ignored indications that he was lying about the murder to protect his credibility. There are also outstanding questions about whether FBI agents broke laws or agency policy in an effort to protect the identity of Steven Flemmi, who was working as an FBI informant, or his brother Vincent Flemmi, who might have been doing the same.

Salvati, his wife and his attorney are also expected to testify at the hearing, which is the first in a series that will examine the use of informants in organized crime investigations by the Boston field office over the last thirty years. One FBI informant from 1975 to 1995, James "Whitey" Bulger is accused of parlaying his FBI relationship into control of the Boston underworld. He remains at large.

Steven "The Rifleman" Flemmi -- who became Bulger's partner and continued to work with the FBI throughout the 1980s and 1990s -- goes on trial for a range of charges on May 21. The FBI agent responsible for managing Flemmi and Bulger, John Connolly, is currently in jail awaiting trial on charges stemming from his relationship with Flemmi and Bulger.

Lawmakers also plan to investigate whether it was the actions of a few rogue agents that allowed Bulger and Flemmi to conduct their criminal enterprise -- including at least 20 murders -- with impunity, or whether the agency

Congress calls ex-agents in FBI crime probe

turned a blind eye to the actions of their informants because of the quality of information on other criminals they supplied.

**Load-Date:** May 1, 2001

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## [Congress demands records on Mob probes](#)

The Boston Herald

June 6, 2001 Wednesday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 528 words

**Byline:** By J.M. Lawrence

### **Body**

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A Congressional panel yesterday issued a sweeping request for Justice Department documents related to Mob investigations in Boston and vowed to uncover how Massachusetts officials left two innocent men in prison for more than 30 years.

"Their silence contributed to the coverup," said U.S. Rep. Christopher Shays (R-Conn.), a member of the House Committee on Government Reform.

Committee members have pledged to dissect the 1965 Edward "Teddy" Deegan murder case that brought death sentences against Joseph Salvati and Peter J. Limone.

The two men were exonerated earlier this year after a investigation uncovered hidden FBI documents that would have aided their defense.

"I think the Boston FBI was corrupt and we need to understand how this could happen," Shays said.

FBI Director Louis Freeh apologized to Congress last month for the bureau's handling of the Deegan case.

The House Reform committee demanded Department of Justice records dating back to 1962, including wiretaps of then New England Mob boss Raymond L.S. Patriarca and Boston underboss Gennaro "Jerry" Angiulo. The committee asked Attorney General John Ashcroft to comply with the request by June 19.

Members also want government records related to the FBI's star Mob turncoat Joseph "The Animal" Barboza and his talks with a raft of Boston players in the fight against organized crime in the 1960s.

Those officials include:

- Edward F. Harrington, who was head of the U.S. Attorney's Office Organized Crime Strike Force in the late 1960s and is now a federal judge.



Congress demands records on Mob probes

- Jack I. Zalkind, former assistant Suffolk County District Attorney who won verdicts against Salvati, Limone and four others in the Deegan case.

- Former Boston police officers John Doyle and Frank L. Walsh. Walsh arrested Salvati and later lobbied for commutation of his sentence.

"The wording of the request shows that this committee understands the total ramifications of the evidence they're seeking," said Victor J. Garo, attorney for Salvati.

Committee members also want FBI records on commendations and post-retirement communications with indicted G-man John J. Connolly Jr., who left in 1990, and the FBI duo of **H. Paul Rico** and Dennis Condon.

Rico and Condon allegedly kept silent as Barboza wrongly accused Salvati and Limone of the Deegan killing during the 1968 trial.

Last month, Rico, now 77, appeared before the House committee and admitted that Salvati was wrongly imprisoned but expressed no regrets over his work on the case.

Other documents sought by the committee headed by Indiana Republican Dan Burton are:

- All records on a Nov. 3, 1982, meeting in Tulsa, Okla., on an investigation into the sports betting organization World Jai Alai. The company's owner was allegedly murdered by the Bulger gang in 1981 while former agent Rico served as head of Jai Alai security.

- All records related to the government's decision to recall Rico from retirement to assist in the investigation of former U.S. District Court Judge Alcee Hastings in the 1970s.

- All records related to FBI Mob informants Vincent "The Bear" Flemmi and his brother Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi from 1960 to 1971.

**Load-Date:** June 6, 2001



## [Congress digs deeper in feds' ties to Barboza](#)

The Boston Herald

January 8, 2002 Tuesday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 408 words

**Byline:** By J.M. LAWRENCE

### **Body**

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A senior Boston federal judge and two retired FBI agents must tell Congress in February why they helped mob hitman Joseph "The Animal" Barboza avoid the death penalty in 1971, a House committee said yesterday.

"We are looking at what seems to be a broad and systemic pattern of abuse that goes back decades and this is a significant chapter," said Mark Corallo, spokesman for the House Government Reform Committee.

For the past year, the committee headed by Rep. Dan Burton (R-Ind.) has investigated the FBI's handling of secret informants in Boston, including the government's notorious alliance with fugitive James "Whitey" Bulger. "The committee has uncovered a wealth of evidence that the Barboza case was just the tip of the iceberg in a 30-year period that may be the darkest chapter in federal law enforcement history," the House panel announced.

Blunting the investigation and drawing loud protests from Burton, President Bush invoked executive privilege last month for the first time in his administration to block the committee's access to sensitive documents related to Barboza and Bulger.

U.S. District Court Judge Edward F. Harrington, who was a federal prosecutor, and retired FBI agents Dennis Condon and [H. Paul Rico](#) have been subpoenaed to testify Feb. 7 about Barboza.

Rico's attorney, William Cagney, said yesterday, "He's already told them everything he knows."

Last May, Rico shocked congressmen who viewed him as "callous" toward Joseph Salvati, the Boston man who served 30 years in prison after Barboza lied to a Suffolk jury and implicated him in a 1965 mob murder.

In 1971, Harrington, Rico and Condon went to Santa Rosa, Calif., and helped Barboza avoid the death penalty for the murder of a low-level thief. While in the Witness Protection Program, Barboza killed the man and later won a plea bargain.

Yesterday, Rico's attorney said the Boston G-man helped Barboza on the orders of then-U.S. Attorney General John Mitchell. "He went out there on a direct letter," Cagney said.

## Congress digs deeper in feds' ties to Barboza

Harrington and Condon could not be reached for comment.

The House also subpoenaed Barboza's Sonoma County defense attorney Marteen Miller and local investigators who worked on the California case to testify Feb. 6.

On Feb. 13, the committee plans a hearing titled "Justice Department Misconduct in Boston: Are Legislative Solutions Required?"

Salvati attorney Victor J. Garo has been called to testify as well as others.

**Load-Date:** January 8, 2002

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## [Congress Grills Freeh Over McVeigh Documents.](#)

The Bulletin's Frontrunner

May 17, 2001

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**Length:** 1480 words

### **Body**

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The Los Angeles Times (5/17, Lichtblau, Serrano) reports, "The FBI has unearthed still more documents in the Oklahoma City bombing investigation, despite ordering its agents 16 times in recent years to turn over 'everything and anything' connected to the case, Director Louis J. Freeh disclosed Wednesday." The Times adds, "An embarrassed Freeh, in his first public comments on a controversy that has forced the postponement of Timothy J. McVeigh's execution, told members of Congress that the 'serious error' reflected a management problem for which he bears ultimate responsibility." ABC News (5/16, lead story, Jennings) reported last night, "This is the day that Timothy McVeigh was supposed to be executed. We begin, tonight, with an embarrassed director of the FBI. Louis Freeh got a going-over in the Congress today because his bureau failed to turn over so many documents to McVeigh's lawyers. And with other accusations about FBI behavior, he was probably not surprised to hear his agency referred to as 'a failed one.' This was his first public appearance since the McVeigh execution was delayed." CBS (5/16, story 2, Rather) reported last night, "This was the first day of the rest of Tim McVeigh's life; the day he was scheduled to die for the bombing mass murders in Oklahoma City. The execution is off till at least June 11. And his lawyers said today McVeigh is considering all his legal options in light of the FBI's stunning failure to turn over thousands of pages of potential evidence.

How did the FBI bungle the biggest murder case in US history? That's what Congress wants to know." CBS (Attkisson) added, "For FBI Director Louis Freeh, the embarrassment just keeps on growing. A week after the FBI turned over thousands of pages of documents in the Oklahoma City investigation six years late, Freeh admitted today there may be still more." NBC (5/16, story 4, Williams) reported, "Freeh say even though FBI headquarters pressed all field offices 12 separate times before McVeigh's trial, most failed to turn everything in. How could it happen? Partly, the staggering amount of evidence to keep track of. Freeh revealed today 28,000 interviews, 43,000 leads, over 13 million motel registration records, 3 million Ryder truck rental records and 600,000 airline reservations. And Freeh says McVeigh's lawyers may have already seen some of what's in the newly discovered documents from investigative summaries turned over much earlier. Federal prosecutors insist they were never under any legal obligation to turn over any of the newly discovered FBI material, just an informal understanding with defense lawyers. And court documents reveal that McVeigh's own lead trial lawyer, Stephen Jones, once even suggested that it didn't really count because it wasn't a written agreement. Nonetheless, the FBI's document foul-up has shaken public confidence in the agency." The New York Times (5/17, A1, Johnston) reports, "Freeh said at the House hearing that he had ordered immediate corrective steps, among them a one-day agencywide suspension of all routine FBI functions in order to retrain employees in records management. In addition, he said he had begun a search to hire a 'world-class records expert.'" USA Today (5/17, Johnson) reports, " The FBI director's appearance on Capitol Hill, one of the last before his scheduled retirement next month, was met with much of the political support he has enjoyed during the past eight years, despite his agency's record of stumbling in major cases.

## Congress Grills Freeh Over McVeigh Documents.

Among the few exceptions was Rep. David Obey, D-Wis. , who called the documents snafu 'a pitiful performance.'" Said Obey, "It's a lousy way for you to go out," adding, "You have been failed by the people around you." The Washington Post (5/17, A15, Thompson) reports that Obey " offered yesterday's strongest criticism of Freeh, for mistakes in the McVeigh case and other cases. 'I think we have...something close to a failed agency,' Obey said." The FBI "has acknowledged mistakes in handling the 1992 government siege at Ruby Ridge, Idaho, where federal agents killed the wife and child of separatist Randy Weaver; the 1993 federal raid on the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Tex., that killed 75 people; the discovery of an FBI wiretap tape decades after the 1963 Birmingham church bombing that killed four girls; missteps in the investigation of Richard Jewell for the 1996 Olympics bombing in Atlanta; and the 'gross mishandling' of the investigation of Los Alamos Nuclear Laboratory scientist Wen Ho Lee." Obey "said the bureau has suffered 'chronic, consistent failures' and is 'desperately in need of reform.'" Freeh "defended his agency and said many of the cases were investigations conducted under an 'old FBI.' It was the FBI of 'modern times' that righted the wrongs, he said." The Washington Times (5/17, Seper) reports, "Freeh yesterday assumed responsibility for 'a serious error' in failing to turn over thousands of documents to Timothy McVeigh's attorneys," but he also "told the House Appropriations subcommittee that none of the records had any bearing on McVeigh's guilt or innocence."

Freeh Also Admits FBI Blunder In Salvati Case. The Boston Herald (5/17, Lawrence) reports, "Freeh yesterday acknowledged that the bureau helped send an innocent Boston man to prison for 30 years, but maintained that 'the FBI of modern times' helped free Joseph Salvati. 'That is a very sad chapter in the history of this agency,' Freeh told the House Appropriations Committee yesterday in Washington, DC. Freeh's remarks came under intense questioning from congressmen about recent FBI blunders." Obey "brought up the Salvati case in connection with the bureau's withholding evidence in" McVeigh's case. Salvati's attorney, Victor J. Garo, "called Freeh's statement 'a good first step in total closure of this matter.'" The Herald adds, "In January, a Middlesex Superior Court judge ruled that Boston FBI agents **H. Paul Rico** and Dennis Condon withheld informant reports that would have aided the defense of Salvati and three other men accused of the 1965 murder of Edward 'Teddy' Deegan in Chelsea."

OK State Agencies Receiving Threatening Calls As Execution Day Nears. The Tulsa World (5/17, Hoberock) reports, "The pending execution of Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh spawned a series of threats to various state agencies Monday, the Department of Public Safety has confirmed. 'We have received complaints from several agencies alleging threatening phone calls relating to the Timothy McVeigh execution,' said Christ West, DPS public information officer." The World adds, "The level of anxiety surrounding the original date was illustrated Wednesday when a Texas woman was detained for two hours following a report of a suspicious vehicle near the Oklahoma City National Memorial, which is on the site of the Murrah Building. The woman was later released, but not before police had blocked off some streets leading to a parking lot near the memorial while her truck was searched." Agencies that received 'the threatening calls Monday include the Oklahoma Supreme Court, Oklahoma Military Department, Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, Department of Wildlife Conservation, Oklahoma Transportation Authority, Department of Transportation and state Fire Marshal's Office."

Kennedy Attacks Freeh Over Death Penalty. The Providence Journal (5/17, Mulligan) reports, "U.S. Rep. Patrick J. Kennedy, who ran for Congress on a pro-death penalty platform, angrily attacked FBI Director Louis Freeh's support for executions yesterday, citing the Timothy McVeigh case as evidence that they should be abolished. Kennedy, who quietly switched last year to what he called a more mature position against the death penalty, urged 'moral outrage' at the punishment. He argued that it is disproportionately applied to black people and that innocent people have been wrongly sentenced to death. . 'There has got to be a moral outrage. I can't for the life of me understand why people can sit idly by and see these statistics and not say this is bunk,' Kennedy said. Of McVeigh, Freeh told Kennedy: 'Let me just say this -- there is no danger that an innocent Timothy McVeigh is going to be punished.'"

More Commentary. The New York Times (5/17) editorializes, "We continue to believe that the director of the FBI should be someone familiar with the business of law enforcement and sensitive to the constitutional safeguards that protect the civil liberties of Americans. Mr. Freeh, like several of his predecessors, served as a federal judge before moving to the bureau. But above all, the FBI requires strong, disciplined leadership from someone who knows how to run and reform a large organization." President Bush "has every incentive to find such a person, for the errors of the FBI have a way of haunting the White House and the nation."

Congress Grills Freeh Over McVeigh Documents.

**Load-Date:** May 17, 2001

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## CONGRESS HEARS A SORDID FBI TALE

Hartford Courant (Connecticut)

February 28, 2002 Thursday, 7 SPORTS FINAL

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**Section:** MAIN; Pg. A1

**Length:** 1157 words

**Byline:** EDMUND H. MAHONY; Courant Staff Writer

**Dateline:** WASHINGTON --

### **Body**

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A former chief Connecticut prosecutor, in testimony that at times was taunting and at others dripped with sarcasm, told Congress Wednesday that groundbreaking organized crime investigations were sabotaged by renegade FBI agents.

Austin J. McGuigan, chief state's attorney from 1978 to 1985, described to stunned members of the House Committee on Government Reform how gangsters penetrated the state's fledgling parimutuel gambling industry in the 1970s and '80s, then murdered potential witnesses to throw investigators off the track.

McGuigan's most compelling testimony concerned his belief that corrupt FBI agents working in Boston deliberately withheld evidence from state and local authorities around the country in an effort to destroy investigations associated with the jai alai industry -- and protect the killers, who were their informants.

"It is clear that major organized crime figures operating as informants were permitted to engage in racketeering activities with a wink from, if not the tacit approval of, federal agents," McGuigan said.

Over the past year, committee members have learned during hearings that one of those agents, **H. Paul Rico**, who retired from the FBI in 1975, was hired a year later as vice president and director of security for World Jai Alai of Miami, which operated jai alai frontons in south Florida and Hartford.

During an appearance before the committee last spring, an unrepentant Rico argued with members when confronted with evidence that he helped frame four innocent men for murder. During a second appearance earlier this month, he invoked the Fifth Amendment and declined to answer questions. On Wednesday, McGuigan reserved some of his sharpest sarcasm for Rico, who he said allowed mobsters to be employed by World Jai Alai, contrary to his apparent duties as security director.

"I was somewhat puzzled by that," McGuigan said, adding that "quite frankly, from our perspective, organized crime was being made to feel at home by World Jai Alai."

## CONGRESS HEARS A SORDID FBI TALE

McGuigan and a few other veteran organized crime investigators have spoken privately for years about the bizarre set of circumstances surrounding mob penetration of Connecticut's jai alai industry. But listeners couldn't believe that the FBI, an institution then long judged to be above reproach, was behind it all.

McGuigan said that when three key witnesses in the jai alai cases were murdered in the 1980s, he would have laughed off any suggestion that one day he would be asked to address Congress on the subject.

"We thought the bad guys had won," he said. "To me, today, it is touching that I'm here and that so many people who worked so long to uncover the truth have passed away and have not seen justice done."

After nearly a year of hearings into improper behavior involving FBI agents and their informants, members of the committee gave McGuigan a warm reception.

"I consider these hearings some of the most important hearings that Congress can have," said Rep. Christopher Shays, R-4th District.

Previous efforts to examine the mob penetration of the jai alai industry have sputtered because of the difficulty of keeping track of the wide cast of characters.

As McGuigan, who in 1973 became the first Connecticut prosecutor with statewide jurisdiction over organized crime and corruption, testified about his experience, committee members listened raptly, sometimes goggle-eyed. Chairman Dan Burton, R-Ind., periodically interrupted to demand relevant documents from the Department of Justice.

In a related development, Burton announced late Wednesday that he had reached an agreement with the Bush administration that will allow his committee to review Justice Department documents related to its investigation of FBI misconduct in Boston.

In December, President Bush asserted executive privilege to block the committee from reviewing internal Justice Department documents, sparking a face-off over the constitutionality of congressional oversight. Bush argued that congressional review of deliberative documents could lead to political second-guessing of decisions in criminal matters.

Internal FBI memos and other federal documents the committee and others already have obtained back up McGuigan's central contention -- that mobsters from Boston's Winter Hill Gang tried to take over World Jai Alai in order to skim profits. At the center of the plot were the Winter Hill Gang's co-leaders, James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi.

Bulger and Flemmi were multiple murderers who also served, collectively for decades, as top informants for the FBI's Boston office. Rico was instrumental in recruiting Flemmi as an informant. Recently, a special Justice Department task force indicted Bulger and Flemmi for the three jai alai murders, including that of World Jai Alai owner Roger Wheeler Sr. of Tulsa, Okla.

A compelling body of evidence gathered by the committee and others suggests that some FBI agents in Boston obstructed investigations -- including those involving jai alai -- to protect Bulger and Flemmi from arrest. McGuigan said Bulger and Flemmi were part of a "war on organized crime that went amok."

"Violent crimes, including murders by so-called informants, were ignored at the whim of law enforcement agents who were, apparently, accountable to no one," McGuigan said. "In the name of intelligence-gathering, state and local prosecutions of violent criminals were undermined and investigations were betrayed."

When Connecticut investigators began following organized crime into World Jai Alai, agents in Boston withheld crucial information, McGuigan said. Moreover, he said, they tipped off targets of the investigation. Finally when potential witnesses began being killed, he said, federal authorities in Boston undercut Connecticut investigators.



## CONGRESS HEARS A SORDID FBI TALE

At one point, McGuigan said, Rico, using information from police sources in Boston, tipped off an investigative target to information collected by the Connecticut State Police. The target was John B. Callahan, a reputed Winter Hill associate who became president of World Jai Alai and was later murdered in Florida. Callahan's body was dumped at the Miami airport on the day McGuigan and state police detectives arrived, hoping to persuade him to cooperate.

"They tanked our investigation," McGuigan said. "I realized we weren't playing for the same team."

Rep. William Delahunt, D-Mass., asked if McGuigan began to smell a rat: "Did the smell become more putrid at that point?"

"Yes," McGuigan said. "It was troubling."

McGuigan said charges probably never would have been filed in the jai alai murders if Flemmi had not been arrested in 1995 and used his informant status as a defense.

"These are murders that seemed unsolvable, and it seemed the coverup had succeeded," McGuigan said, "until ... Flemmi decided to claim that he had a free pass on the crime train, because of his status as an FBI informant."

## Graphic

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PHOTO 1: COLOR, Associated Press; PHOTOS 2-5: (b&w) mugs; PHOTO 1: AUSTIN J. MCGUIGAN / FORMER CONNECTICUT CHIEF STATE'S ATTORNEY, LEFT, TESTIFYING WEDNESDAY. PHOTO 2: BULGER; PHOTO 3: CALLAHAN; PHOTO 4: FLEMMI; PHOTO 5: WHEELER

**Load-Date:** February 28, 2002

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## [Congressmen say ex-agent cooperated in FBI probe](#)

The Boston Herald

February 23, 2002 Saturday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 436 words

**Byline:** By J.M. LAWRENCE

### **Body**

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A 79-year-old former FBI agent accused of framing four men in a 1968 mob murder was "fully cooperative" yesterday during a private Boston deposition before two Congressmen.

"The hard questions were asked and the answers were forthcoming," U.S. Rep. William Delahunt (D-Quincy) said after a second day of grilling ex-G-man Dennis Condon.

Emerging from the two-day deposition held at the Boston law offices of Meyer Connolly Sloman & MacDonald, Delahunt and U.S. Rep. Steven C. LaTourette (R-Ohio) declined to answer questions about Condon's statements.

"We'll let the record speak to that," Delahunt said referring to the House Government Reform Committee's upcoming report on the Boston FBI's ties to organized crime.

A Justice Department Task Force is still conducting a criminal investigation into the Boston FBI's mob ties and DOJ officials have repeatedly cautioned the committee not to interfere.

Both Delahunt and LaTourette yesterday described Condon as cooperative in searching his memory about the bureau's plunge into connections to criminal informants.

Delahunt said he did not believe Condon, who retired from the bureau in 1977 and was a state public safety official, would intentionally withhold exculpatory information.

Condon's Washington attorney has not responded to several requests for comment.

A 1965 FBI memo written by Condon's former partner **H. Paul Rico** was never handed over to defense attorneys for six men convicted of Deegan's murder, even though the secret informant report is said to list Deegan's true killers.

The document was uncovered last year and led state judges to overturn convictions against three men in the case.

### Congressmen say ex-agent cooperated in FBI probe

"Rico and Condon know what the truth is. They know who they framed," said attorney John Cavicchi, who represented Louis Greco and Peter Limone, men who spent half of their lives battling convictions in the 1965 murder of Edward "Teddy" Deegan.

Joseph Salvati and Limone spent more than three decades behind bars before being released. The man convicted of shooting Deegan, Wilfred Roy French, was released in December after serving almost 35 years. Greco and Henry Tameleo also were apparently innocent and died in prison.

Subpoenaed for a second time by Congress on Feb. 14, a subdued Rico took the Fifth while LaTourette taunted him by questioning how he slept at night.

Delahunt yesterday said it is likely similar instances of corruption in the FBI have occurred in other cities.

"We're not just trying to reform the FBI. We're trying to save the FBI," he said, calling for an end to the "culture of concealment" cloaking the agency.

**Load-Date:** February 23, 2002



## [Congress rejects immunity for FBI agent](#)

United Press International

May 2, 2001, Wednesday

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**Section:** GENERAL NEWS

**Length:** 1320 words

**Byline:** By P. MITCHELL PROTHERO

**Dateline:** WASHINGTON, May 2

### **Body**

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A former FBI agent subpoenaed to appear before a congressional committee was denied immunity Wednesday for testifying on whether the agency knowingly allowed innocent men to be sentenced to death for a 1965 murder committed by a prominent federal witness, United Press International has learned.

The House Government Reform Committee has subpoenaed FBI special agents ***H. Paul Rico*** and Dennis Condon to testify at a hearing Thursday on whether the FBI concealed the role of an informer in the 1965 murder of Edward "Teddy" Deegan, a Boston gangster, and instead allowed four innocent men to be convicted.

The case has potentially far-reaching consequences, and at its heart raises a disturbing question: In an overzealous effort to defeat the mob, did the FBI, in effect, become a partner in crime with mobsters in Boston and possibly elsewhere?

Because FBI memos at the time of the murder indicate that the agency knew that the Boston murder was about to be committed, knew who did it, and still let innocent men be prosecuted, investigators want additional information about whether irregularities in the use of informants were widespread.

William Cagney, Rico's attorney, said that his client would cooperate with the committee as long as his testimony was protected by an immunity agreement. The lawyer wants immunity for Rico because a special investigator for the Justice Department has convened a grand jury outside Boston to investigate the prosecution of the Deegan murder and other FBI problems with informants and witnesses over the past three-and-a-half decades.

But a staffer for the committee said that Rico would not be granted immunity -- both out of respect to U.S. Attorney John Durham, who is running the probe in Boston, and because Rico's role in the alleged cover-up has not been determined. Without an agreement, most of those involved with the hearing expect the former agents will refuse to testify because they are targets of a criminal investigation.

One document that has riveted investigators' attention is a memo to J. Edgar Hoover about the Deegan killing. The memo, dated March 19, 1965, a copy of which was obtained by United Press International, shows that field agents named different suspects than those ultimately charged and gave vivid details about how the murder was carried

## Congress rejects immunity for FBI agent

out. It said Deegan was lured to an alleyway in Chelsea, Mass., on the pretext of helping commit a burglary, then was shot in the back of the head by one man and immediately thereafter shot from the front by another, "in gangland fashion."

Another key issue is whether the FBI's reliance on -- and protection of -- confidential informants in Boston effectively allowed the informants to seize control and run Boston's organized crime operations for decades under the protection of law enforcement.

The hearing Thursday will examine the 1967 convictions of Peter Limone and Joseph Salvati for the Deegan murder. The men were convicted after evidence that they might be innocent -- which was in the possession of the FBI -- was kept from defense attorneys. FBI documents also indicate that the accusations against them made by the primary witness in the case were fabricated to protect the identity of the real killers.

Four men, including Salvati and Limone, were convicted on the testimony of Joe "The Animal" Barboza, an FBI witness that admitted participating in the killing, and who was granted immunity for testifying. Later exonerated completely for the crime, Salvati and Limone were fingered for the murder by Barboza, allegedly to protect the identity of one of the real killers, Vincent James Flemmi, whose brother Steven was working for the FBI as an informant.

Vincent Flemmi and Barboza were named in the memo to Hoover a week after the murder as among the four "responsible for the killing."

But Limone and Salvati -- who were not among those mentioned in the FBI memo as having been involved -- were convicted and sentenced to death. Their sentences were commuted to life in prison when the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the death penalty in 1972.

After a Justice Department investigation into the Boston FBI office unearthed exculpatory documents kept by the FBI for over 30 years, a motion for a new trial was granted and the district attorney declined in January to pursue the charges. Salvati had been released from prison on parole in 1997, but both men faced either the threat of further custodial action or even prison until the government completely dropped charges in January.

Samantha Martin, a spokesperson for the Boston U.S. Attorneys Office, said that Durham has brought several indictments to the grand jury and is expected to continue his investigation, but would not comment any further on the matter.

The FBI declined to answer questions, citing their long-standing policy of not commenting on ongoing investigations.

F. Lee Bailey, the famed criminal defense attorney, represented Barboza, who became the first witness against organized crime to enter the witness protection program, and has also been asked to testify before the committee. Bailey told committee sources that in the 1970s he became aware that Barboza had committed perjury in the Deegan trial; Bailey said he had contacted federal investigators and prosecutors in an effort to get Limone and Salvati released.

In an affidavit dated Oct. 16, 1978, and obtained by UPI, Bailey testified that in 1970 Barboza admitted to fabricating the involvement of Limone and Henry Tameleo in the murder. The affidavit makes no mention of Salvati's involvement or innocence, but Bailey testifies that Barboza told him of pressure from prosecutors to tie the murders to high-profile members of organized crime.

"He told me that Henry Tameleo and Peter Limone were not involved, but he implicated them because he was led to understand by various authorities that in order to escape punishment on charges pending against him, he would have to implicate someone of 'importance,'" Bailey's affidavit says.

Tameleo and Limone were affiliated with the Boston and New England organized crime families and were able to link higher-level gangsters, including Raymond Patriarca, who the FBI considered a top official of La Cosa Nostra, or Mafia, to Deegan's murder.

## Congress rejects immunity for FBI agent

Bailey refused to comment, and through an assistant explained he did not want to make further public statements until after his testimony.

The congressional investigation will examine whether agents actually encouraged perjury on the part of Barboza or simply ignored indications that he was lying about the murder to protect his credibility. There are also outstanding questions about whether FBI agents broke laws or agency policy in an effort to protect the identity of Steven Flemmi, who was working as an FBI informant, or his brother Vincent Flemmi, who might have been doing the same.

Salvati, his wife and his attorney also are expected to testify at the hearing, which is the first in a series that will examine the use of informants in organized crime investigations by the Boston field office over the last 30 years. One FBI informant from 1975 to 1995, James "Whitey" Bulger, is accused of parlaying his FBI relationship into control of the Boston underworld. He remains at large.

Steven "The Rifleman" Flemmi -- who became Bulger's partner and continued to work with the FBI throughout the 1980s and 1990s -- goes on trial for a range of charges on May 21. The FBI agent responsible for managing Flemmi and Bulger, John Connolly, is currently in jail awaiting trial on charges stemming from his relationship with Flemmi and Bulger.

Lawmakers also plan to investigate whether it was the actions of a few rogue agents that allowed Bulger and Flemmi to conduct their criminal enterprise -- including at least 20 murders -- with impunity, or whether the agency turned a blind eye to the actions of their informants because of the quality of information on other criminals they supplied.

**Load-Date:** May 3, 2001

## CONNOLLY CHARGED IN '82 SLAYINGFLA. CASE LINKS EX-FBI AGENT TO GANGLAND DEATH OF FINANCIER



**CONNOLLY CHARGED IN '82 SLAYING  
FLA. CASE LINKS EX-FBI AGENT TO GANGLAND DEATH OF FINANCIER**

The Boston Globe  
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**Byline:** By Shelley Murphy Globe Staff

## **Body**

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Former FBI agent John J. Connolly Jr., already serving 10 years in federal prison for protecting longtime informants James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, was charged in Florida yesterday with a 1982 gangland slaying that could keep him behind bars for the rest of his life.

The two-count indictment by a Miami-Dade County grand jury charges Connolly, 64, with first-degree murder and plotting with Bulger and Flemmi to kill John Callahan, a Winchester financier and financial adviser to Bulger's Winter Hill gang, after Callahan arrived in Florida for a meeting.

The case hinges on Flemmi's contention that he and Bulger ordered a hit man to kill Callahan after Connolly tipped them off that the FBI was trying to get Callahan to cooperate against them in an investigation into the 1981 slaying of the owner of a Miami-based gaming company.

Connolly has been cleared by a federal jury of involvement in the Callahan killing, and the new state charges in Florida add a stunning turn to the story of a man who retired from the FBI a hero in 1990 only to later be at the center of a national scandal over the agency's handling of informants.

In a telephone interview, Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle said Connolly "didn't pull the trigger, but it was his guiding hand that gave the information" leading to Callahan's slaying.

Rundle acknowledged that all first-degree murder cases in Florida qualify for the death penalty, but she said a decision on what punishment prosecutors would seek would not be made immediately.

Edward Lonergan, who has known Connolly since they were Boston College classmates in 1961 and is one of three lawyers representing him in his effort to get a new federal trial, said, "I have absolutely no question that he's not only not guilty, but that this is contrived."

## CONNOLLY CHARGED IN '82 SLAYINGFLA. CASE LINKS EX-FBI AGENT TO GANGLAND DEATH OF FINANCIER

Callahan's body was found Aug. 2, 1982, in the trunk of a car at Miami International Airport. He had been shot twice in the head. His killers had left a dime on his chest, a warning to underworld figures about what could happen if you "drop a dime" to inform the government.

Flemmi told authorities that Callahan was killed because he could have implicated Flemmi and Bulger in the 1981 slaying of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler, who owned World Jai Alai, a parimutuel wagering company, and who suspected that Bulger's gang was skimming the profits. Callahan, former president of World Jai Alai, was involved in the plot to kill Wheeler, according to Flemmi and Martorano.

Connolly's lawyers reacted angrily to the charges, pointing out that a federal jury in Boston acquitted Connolly in May 2002 of leaking information to Bulger and Flemmi that prompted them to kill Callahan and two FBI informants. The jury convicted Connolly of obstruction of justice and racketeering for warning Bulger to flee on the eve of his January 1995 federal indictment. Bulger, who is charged with killing Callahan and 18 others, remains a fugitive.

But Flemmi struck a deal with prosecutors after Connolly's trial and told them the jury got it wrong: Connolly, he said, had leaked information to Bulger that caused them to kill Callahan and others. Flemmi pleaded guilty to 10 murders, including Callahan's, in exchange for a life prison term.

Flemmi and the man who shot Callahan John Martorano, a hit man-turned-government witness pleaded guilty to state charges in Florida for their roles in the slaying and were spared the death penalty.

Yesterday, Connolly's lawyers accused federal prosecutors, who are assisting in the Florida case, of unfairly targeting him. One, Robert M. Goldstein of Boston, said that the state charges were brought as Connolly's lawyers are about to seek a new federal trial for him based on new evidence.

"We now possess explosive evidence that the government has secured John's conviction and torn him from his family based on perjured testimony," he said.

Goldstein would not comment on the evidence, but in the past he has said Connolly would seek a new trial in the light of the recent perjury indictment of former New England Mafia boss Francis "Cadillac Frank" Salemme for lying about his involvement in another killing. He was one of the key witnesses against Connolly.

Goldstein said Connolly's murder indictment, based primarily on the testimony of Flemmi and Martorano, was "another sad example of a prosecuting agency allowing violent Machiavellian criminals to purchase their way out of responsibility for their own heinous acts."

Yesterday's indictment makes Connolly the second former FBI agent to be charged with murder as a result of their corrupt relationship with Bulger and Flemmi. The other agent, H. Paul Rico, died in jail in January 2004 before he could be tried on charges of helping to kill an Oklahoma businessman.

Kenneth Kaiser, special agent in charge of the FBI's Boston office, said he would not comment on the Florida murder case against Connolly, who retired from the FBI in December 1990. "He's a part of history that unfortunately is a bad part of history," Kaiser said.

Responding to criticism from defense lawyers about his office's involvement in the Florida charges, US Attorney Michael J. Sullivan said his office had an obligation to share information with state officials.

Florida was able to bring charges against Connolly involving the same murder, because it's a separate jurisdiction and the charges are different. In federal court, Connolly was charged as part of a racketeering count; in Florida, he's charged with first- degree murder and conspiring with Bulger, Flemmi, and Martorano to kill Callahan. Participants in a murder can face the same charges as the person who pulls the trigger, because they are considered part of a joint venture.



## CONNOLLY CHARGED IN '82 SLAYINGFLA. CASE LINKS EX-FBI AGENT TO GANGLAND DEATH OF FINANCIER

Asked why she was bringing charges against Connolly in Callahan's slaying three years after federal jurors acquitted him of his involvement, Rundle said, "What we had here was a dead body, and I don't believe he's ever been accountable for that."

She said that accounts of the murder given by Flemmi and Martorano, as well as other evidence, make it clear that Connolly "was indirectly and directly responsible for this death and maybe many others."

Connolly is serving his sentence at a federal prison in North Carolina; his current release date is June 28, 2011. Rundle said prosecutors would ask that Connolly be extradited from North Carolina, but no trial date has been set.

Yesterday morning, Callahan's widow, Mary Jane, and his two children, Patrick Callahan and Kathleen Phelps, were at the federal courthouse in Boston, listening to arguments before the US Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, over whether a lawsuit they filed against the FBI, alleging that the agency's mishandling of Bulger and Flemmi caused Callahan's slaying, should be reinstated.

A district court judge dismissed the family's suit in October, ruling that Mary Jane Callahan, who filed the suit in 2002, knew years earlier that there were allegations that FBI misconduct may have played a role in her husband's murder, but waited too long to file her claim.

Boston lawyer James P. Duggan, who represents the Callahan family, said he hopes that Connolly's indictment yesterday helps the civil suit. He said it's unreasonable to expect the Callahans to have sued earlier when it took Florida officials 23 years to charge Connolly with murder.

## Graphic

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PHOTO

**Load-Date:** May 5, 2005

Connolly had a badge, but Whitey was his real boss



## *Connolly had a badge, but Whitey was his real boss*

The Boston Herald

May 29, 2002 Wednesday

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**Byline:** By Peter Gelzinis

### **Body**

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Did John Connolly join the Bulger Crime Family after he became a member of the FBI?

Or did he become a member of the FBI to join the Bulger Crime Family?

Did the special agent from Southie ever really lose sight of that mythical line separating good and evil? Or did Zip simply move straight down the high-speed lane of manifest destiny?

In the aftermath of Tuesday's bifurcated verdict, one former DEA official who spent frustrated years in pursuit of John Connolly's "top echelon" informants, offered an educated opinion:

"Some people may stay with the idea that John was basically a good cop who went bad," the gentleman said. "That is a load of crap, honestly. John was bad from the get-go. We're not talking garden variety corruption here. We're talking about a career criminal.

"The (FBI) shield John carried became a perfect prop, if you will, because it helped to shield what he was actually doing . . . the role he played for Whitey Bulger and Steve Flemmi," this ex-cop said. "And his part in this (criminal) enterprise was to be the FBI agent."

You may think the gentleman was gloating in the wake of G-man Johnny's conviction. Actually, it was quite the opposite.

"I don't know - maybe I will never know - if those of us in other agencies could have dealt with Connolly directly, back in those days when so much of our work went south, or was compromised," he said. "We certainly should have.

"Everyone, it seemed, had questions about John Connolly. But our answer to the problem was to avoid him if we could, or try to work around him. And that was no solution at all."

Connolly had a badge, but Whitey was his real boss

Curiously enough, this assessment from a career federal agent parallels the words of a career hit man, John Martorano. During his testimony, Martorano recalled the moment when Whitey Bulger told his Winter Hill Gang associates of his interest in starting a relationship with the young and "friendly" FBI agent.

"Whitey said Connolly owed his brother Billy (Bulger) a favor for helping him stay on the straight road, to go to college and not be a rogue," Martorano said.

But a rogue is precisely what John Connolly became. A rogue who wore starched white shirts and finely tailored suits. A rogue who made his way to Boston College on the strength of Billy Bulger's recommendation. A rogue who played a crucial role in clearing the way for Billy's older brother to pull in millions and millions of dirty, tax-free dollars. A rogue who never failed to flaunt the high-voltage connection to his friend and mentor, Senate President Billy Bulger.

In the end, John Connolly was convicted of becoming a spectacular rogue . . . rogue with an FBI shield in his suit pocket.

Or as one local cop put it so succinctly: "John was an undercover bad guy."

Yet without Whitey Bulger, would there even be a John Connolly?

"I got a kick out of John's lawyer talking about his singular talent for developing informants," the DEA official said. "That talent only surfaced when he was transferred home to the Bulgers. Because when he was an agent in New York, he was running background checks on federal employees."

If not for the ties the Bulger family had formed to the Darth Vader of rogue agents, ***H. Paul Rico***; if not for the link Rico's partner, Dennis Condon, had to Steve Flemmi, would G-man Johnny ever have made the so-called miraculous interception of Flemmi's fugitive partner, Francis "Cadillac Frank" Salemme, on a Manhattan street in 1973?

That "arranged arrest," as it's forever known, allowed Connolly the highly unusual move of transferring back home after a few years with the Bureau.

You could say the rest is history. Except in the case, history is the disintegration of the local chapter of the Mafia coupled with the simultaneous rise of the Bulger Crime Family. History is littered with skeletons in unmarked graves, two of whom happened to be Steve Flemmi's girlfriends.

Is it an accident, a coincidence, that Whitey Bulger became the czar of organized crime as John Connolly became the golden boy of the Boston FBI office?

Apparently, the jury didn't think so. In the end, they believed Johnny was faithful to Billy Bulger's ominous request: "Keep my brother out of trouble." Can there be any doubt Zip kept his part of the bargain?

Gaze into Whitey's sinister old eyes on the FBI's Most Wanted List, and you'll see who John Connolly was really working for.

Caption: CRIMINAL: Perhaps John J. Connolly Jr., below left, was in the FBI to help the Bulger family, including James 'Whitey' Bulger, above right with Stephen 'The Rifleman' Flemmi, and UMass President Billy Bulger, above left.

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## *Connolly's autobiography rates as Hollywood make-believe*

The Boston Herald

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**Byline:** By PETER GELZINIS

### **Body**

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It is so dumb and so desperate as to be almost perfect in its sleaziness.

Whitey Bulger's personal FBI agent, John Connolly, wants Jimmy Flynn - a brass knuckle-dragging, Teamster thug - to "sell" the rancid tale of his Southie life and G-man career to Hollywood.

Sort of sounds like Elmore Leonard's "Get Shorty," doesn't it?

Johnny's already been indicted by a federal grand jury and must owe his lawyers at least a million bucks.

As for Jimmy Flynn's many Hollywood "contacts," one by one they are now telling a federal grand jury in Worcester about how Jimmy shook them down or jacked them up whenever they came here to make movies.

Now, just how do you suppose Jimmy Flynn might "interest" a Hollywood slickster in Connolly's fictional account of himself?

Perhaps, Jimmy could kick in the door of the producer's Malibu beach house, strangle his dog, tie up the wife or partner, then force-feed Johnny's story through the top of the guy's head. Yeah, that might work. Or, Connolly himself might take a more sophisticated approach from his Bureau days - like, say, blackmail.

"Let's make a nice movie about me. Or I sell these funny pictures of you to The Enquirer. Whaddya say?"

Of course, the best part of yesterday's story was a description of Connolly and Flynn huddled around a negotiation table with Tom Cruise's people. This pair of Hibernian highwaymen are supposedly providing Hollywood with a taste of the REAL Winter Hill Gang.

"Jimmy's pitching his institutional memory (of the Winter Hill Gang)," according to a source.

That's a hoot. For a while now, the story has made the rounds about Jimmy showing signs of Alzheimer's disease.

Usually, people looking to sell something to Hollywood have something to sell . . . like a book. Or a screenplay.

Connolly's autobiography rates as Hollywood make-believe

If you're Johnny Connolly, you don't write a book. You don't write nothing. Your whole career was built on writing nothing. As for what little went into those 309 reports - that was pure bovine excrement.

Besides, the sordid chapters of Johnny's life are still playing out. Special Prosecutor John Durham wants to take a look at the latest version of betrayal pinned upon the ex-G-man with the manicured pinkies.

Freddie Weichel has done 20 years for the murder of Robert LaMonica in Braintree. Funny thing, on the very night Weichel supposedly killed LaMonica, Johnny Connolly was buying him a beer at a joint called The Exchange.

If truth be told - and that's a huge if - Johnny does have an incredible story to sell Hollywood.

Naturally, it would contain none of those pathetic self-serving bits of fiction he's put into recent crime books. No baloney about trying to seduce Whitey into the rat program during a moonlight rendezvous at Wollaston Beach. How cinematic. How full of bleep.

No, Johnny Connolly's true life-story would contain much better stuff.

How about the story of the slick Southie kid who forms a dark marriage of love and need with a pair of brothers named Bulger?

We would meet an old, morally desiccated FBI agent named **H. Paul Rico** who knew both John Connolly and the Bulgers. This true story might shed light on the devious set of circumstances that helped steer Special Agent John Connolly back to Boston in the early '70s.

In the movie, we'd see how Johnny Connolly helped to speed the creation of a parallel crime universe, infinitely more ruthless and malignant than the Italian Mafia.

It was called the Bulger Group and it owes its life to John Connolly. Yes, it's a great story, so much better than the one Johnny and his henchman buddy are trying to push now.

Problem is, the only way John Connolly could ever enjoy it, would be from the inside of his prison cell.

**Load-Date:** November 20, 2001



## [Connolly's trial to start dark trip](#)

The Boston Herald

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### **Body**

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For a while, he was content to believe what James J. "Whitey" Bulger implied, but never said: John Connolly was "a fed on the pad" - a crooked FBI agent who traded Bureau secrets for Bulger cash.

Then came his moment of epiphany. "We're driving around Southie one day," recalled the associate who shared a wary alliance with Whitey, "when Bulger looks over at me and says, 'You know, we don't have to worry about a goddamn thing. Nothing at all. Do whatever we want. Zip's with us.'"

"I look at him. 'Zip?' I says. 'Who the bleep is Zip?' "

Bulger smiled at his passenger. "You know Zip. He's our friend at the FBI."

There in the car, long before this guy would land in prison, he realized a truth he never acted on: Whitey Bulger was a rat. And Zip was a helluva lot more than some cop on the pad.

It is said there are no angels in hell, only devils with their own dark truths.

Tomorrow, John Connolly, the indicted ex-FBI agent whom Whitey Bulger affectionately referred to as "Zip," faces a judgment day expected to stretch well into the summer.

Along the way, more than a few devils will leave their federal prison cells to take the witness stand. Under oath, they will recount sinister memories of encountering "Zip" on their travels through hell.

Will a jury believe the likes of John Martorano, a contract killer; or Francis P. "Cadillac Frank" Salemme, a betrayed and beleaguered Mafia boss; or Kevin Weeks, the leg-breaking, grave-digging protege of James J. "Whitey" Bulger, that vile old thug who remains at-large thanks to "Zip" Connolly?

This morning, John Connolly has to be a lot less sure . . . a lot less cocky about his chances. On Friday afternoon, a federal jury convicted Michael Flemmi, a retired Boston cop and brother of Whitey's partner, Steve "The Rifleman" Flemmi, on the word of several devils.

## Connolly's trial to start dark trip

Michael was found guilty of concealing The Rifleman's formidable arsenal of rifles and machine guns. It was his nephew, Steve's son, Billy St. Croix, a lowlife pulled from the sanctuary of witness protection, who buried "Uncle Mike." And his testimony was enhanced by the recollections of Kevin Weeks, already destined for a premiere appearance at Johnny's trial.

One week from tomorrow, after a jury is seated, Connolly will answer the government's multiple racketeering charges with a Nuremberg defense: He was only following the orders of his FBI superiors. For J. Edgar Hoover, organized crime had an Italian surname. To bring down the local Mafia, Connolly will argue the FBI needed the help of top echelon gangsters like Whitey Bulger and Steve Flemmi.

Such is the legend Connolly has peddled to anyone who'll listen. What "Zip" does not talk about is how the one strain of organized crime "we took down," was replaced by the even more virulent strain of organized crime he protected.

Reflecting back on it now, one Boston law-enforcement source alluded to a lyric from an old Gershwin tune: "It really had to be too marvelous for words," the cop said. "I mean, there's Johnny getting all these gold stars on his forehead from the Bureau, for jacking up Jerry Angiulo and the Italians.

"Meanwhile, Whitey Bulger's criminal fortunes soar beyond what most of us can imagine."

Connolly has claimed ad nauseam that his "deal" with Bulger and Flemmi only allowed them to pursue their gambling and loanshark activities, as if they were little more than a pair of colloquial bookmakers.

While no street-corner drug dealer could sell junk in South Boston without paying rent to him, Whitey also did business on a corporate scale. A gentleman, now ensconced in a federal prison not very far away, recently described Bulger and Flemmi as dominant partners in an enterprise that imported "shiploads" of cocaine and marijuana.

"At one point," the convict recalled, "I was kicking back between seven and eight million a month to those guys."

Another former Bulger associate winced at the estimate. "Sounds a bit high," he sighed, "I'd say more like three to four million a month."

Could a couple of South Boston gangsters ever have realized such earnings without the "friendship" of "Zip," an FBI agent born and raised on the very same streets?

What John Connolly will answer for this summer are those infamous "tips." Tips that sabotaged State Police and DEA investigations of the organized crime practiced by Whitey Bulger and Steve Flemmi. Tips that allegedly culminated in the murders of potential witnesses like Brian Halloran, Richard Castucci and John Callahan. Tips that allowed Bulger, Flemmi and Salemme to become fugitives. (Flemmi, of course, was too arrogant and too stupid to hit the road when he was told.)

But in reality, the "tips" may well prove to be the most obvious manifestations of a deeper, more fully formed and ingenious strategy, one that was set in motion 30 years ago on the streets of New York.

The legend, as stoked by John Connolly, is that he arrested Frank Salemme after "noticing" the fugitive of an Everett car bombing walking along a street in Manhattan. Reality suggests the lucky pinch was a good deal more involved.

Steve Flemmi, himself a fugitive on the same car bombing case, had been a career informant for FBI agents H. Paul Rico and his partner, Dennis Condon.

Condon was close to Eddie Walsh, once a deputy superintendent with the BPD and cousin to John Connolly. It was Walsh who introduced Condon and Connolly. And it was about this time that Flemmi supposedly told Condon just where Cadillac Frank, his fellow fugitive, could be located in New York.

## Connolly's trial to start dark trip

Condon passed the all-important tip on to John Connolly. As a reward for nabbing Salemme, Connolly was transferred home. Not home to Boston necessarily. But home to Southie. Home to a pair of brothers he'd known since childhood.

One was an ambitious, some say ruthless, rising star on Beacon Hill. The other was a ruthless, rising star in the underworld. To come from South Boston is to know that both William M. Bulger and his older brother, Jimmy, made it to their respective stations in life because they were always thinking 10 steps ahead.

Neither Billy nor Whitey are the kind of people who believe in accidents or coincidence. There is only cause and effect.

When John Connolly chose his career path and needed a person of note to pen a recommendation to the FBI, Billy Bulger was there.

In the book "Black Mass," there is a scene where John Connolly sits in his car at Wollaston Beach "under a harvest moon," rolling over in his mind just how to enlist Whitey Bulger as an informant. The scene is John Connolly's version of reality, as once conveyed to a Boston Globe reporter. It's John imagining Kevin Spacey playing him in the movie. And it's nonsense.

If there was one person in the world who realized all the possibilities of having a family friend - who just happened to be a hungry young G-Man - transferred back to Southie, it was that ambitious Southie hoodlum, Whitey Bulger.

And if there was another gentleman who understood just how comfortable this arrangement could be, it was the politician who became the president of the Massachusetts Senate.

Was it just a coincidence that John Connolly routinely impressed his new bosses by taking them on a private tour of Billy Bulger's palatial State House office? Was it coincidence that "Zip" was the only agent to have such special abilities?

Hopefully, such questions will be answered in the weeks ahead, and we may even come away with a deeper understanding of those hellacious circles in which John "Zip" Connolly once moved with such assurance.

Caption: SHAKY GROUND: Indicted former FBI agent John Connolly, above, has to be a lot less sure about his chances after a federal jury convicted Michael Flemmi, below, a retired cop and brother of Stephen Flemmi. Staff file photo, below, by Kevin Wisniewski

**Load-Date:** May 5, 2002





## **CONVICT MAY GET MURDER HEARING JUDGE MULLS FACTS IN MAFIA SLAYING**

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### **Body**

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CAMBRIDGE - A Middlesex Superior Court judge said yesterday that she will probably order a hearing on new evidence supporting the claim that reputed Mafia associate Peter J. Limone Sr. has been making for 32 years: that he was framed for murder by the FBI, state prosecutors, and one of Boston's most notorious gangland killers.

Limone, 66, is asking the court to overturn his 1968 conviction for the murder three years earlier of fringe underworld figure Edward "Teddy" Deegan in Chelsea. He was originally sentenced to die in the electric chair, but it was later changed to life in prison.

The chief witness against Limone and five other men was Joseph "The Animal" Barboza, a prolific contract killer for the Mafia and a shooter during the infamous McLean-McLaughlin gang war in the 1960s that claimed some 60 lives.

Judge Margaret Hinkle said she favors holding a hearing to assess new evidence that Barboza lied about who the killers were and that both the FBI and Suffolk County prosecutors were aware well before the trial that he and other witnesses were giving false testimony.

Barboza was gunned down in San Francisco in 1976 by members of the Boston Mafia.

Some of the three dozen relatives who attended a status conference in the case yesterday called the news encouraging.

"We feel we're a lot closer now than we've ever been," said Limone's son, Peter Jr., a 41-year-old chef. "Of course, we're not going to be confident until it really happens, until he actually walks."

Limone's attorney, John Cavicchi of East Boston, had asked Hinkle for the hearing two weeks ago. Cavicchi had a statement from another hit man who had become a government witness, John Martorano, who said Barboza told

## CONVICT MAY GET MURDER HEARING JUDGE MULLS FACTS IN MAFIA SLAYING

him that he had killed Deegan and was framing Limone and others because the Mafia "screwed me, and now I'm going to screw as many of them as possible."

Hinkle then asked Suffolk Assistant District Attorney Mark Lee to give Cavicchi access to sealed documents from the Deegan case.

That document review, conducted last week, led to even more revelations about the case, including an indication that another witness, Tony Stathopolous, changed his testimony during the trial.

During the trial, Barboza testified that he was paid \$7,500 by the Mafia to plan and carry out the murder of Deegan. He testified that Limone, reputed Mafia member Henry Tameleo, Louis Grieco, Joseph Salvati, Wilfred Roy French, and Ronald Cassesso had taken part in the scheme.

Salvati's life sentence was commuted by Governor William F. Weld in 1997 and he was released.

Cavicchi and other attorneys have asserted that Barboza carried out the hit himself aided by friends Jimmy "The Bear" Flemmi, brother of gangster Stephen Flemmi, and Romeo Martin and framed Tameleo and Limone to curry favor with the FBI.

Barboza's chief contacts in the FBI were Special Agents H. Paul Rico and Dennis Condon, who have both been investigated in an ongoing Justice Department probe of corruption in the Boston FBI office.

According to trial transcripts, Stathopolous identified Louis Grieco as the armed man he saw the night Deegan was killed.

One of the two new documents, however, indicates that Stathopolous met with a Boston police officer in 1967 and said it was Martin and another man he had seen with guns that night.

Cavicchi also unearthed another Boston police report that appeared to contradict what Barboza described as the motive for the Deegan murder. According to the two-page report, the unnamed informant said Barboza told him that Deegan was killed not on a contract from the Mafia, but because Barboza believed he was on the McLaughlin side in the gang war.

None of the documents had ever been turned over to Limone's defense, a fact which appeared to surprise the judge.

"Why is there such a volume of things that were not turned over to Mr. Limone?" Hinkle asked Lee.

"I honestly can't answer that right now," the prosecutor said.

Hinkle gave Cavicchi another week to review documents and file a motion outlining the possible scope of the evidentiary hearing.

Yesterday, Lee insisted that his office is moving as fast as it "responsibly can" to review Limone's case, but that it may never be fast enough for Cavicchi, whose previous client in the case, Grieco, died in prison.

"I am impatient," Cavicchi said. "But I watched an innocent man die. It's time for someone in the DA's office to stand up and be counted."

**Load-Date:** October 27, 2000



## **COP-KILLER APOLOGIZES AS PART OF PLEA DEAL**

The Miami Herald

December 6, 2003 Saturday BROWARD EDITION

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**Section:** BROWARD & STATE; Pg. 3B

**Length:** 910 words

**Byline:** Herald Staff

### **Body**

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Charles Cowles apologized in court Friday for killing a Miami-Dade police officer, then recanted allegations that James Faurot tried to molest him before the fatal shooting - all in exchange for a guilty plea and four-year prison sentence.

Cowles shot the 52-year-old officer twice in his Homestead house after a 1998 New Year's party, alleging at the time that Faurot attempted to molest him that night and on a previous occasion.

Cowles, who was estranged from his family, was living with Faurot. The officer was found attired only in his underwear in the teen's bedroom on the night of the shooting.

Now 24, Cowles - whose 2000 second-degree murder conviction was overturned because of a judge's mistake - said at Friday's hearing that he and Faurot loved each other like a father and son.

"Words can't express how sorry I am for my anger and overreaction, which caused Jim's death on New Year's Eve almost five years ago," Cowles told Miami-Dade Circuit Judge Dennis Murphy, who was reassigned the case.

"I offer no excuses because I was wrong. Jim did not deserve to die and I fully accept responsibility for my actions, which is why I'm pleading guilty to manslaughter today," Cowles read from a prepared statement.

Faurot had met Cowles at his father's transmission shop in 1996, and shared an interest in auto racing with the teen before inviting him to stay at his home.

Cowles, now married with an 18-month-old son, has been under house arrest since his conviction was overturned. He must surrender on Jan. 9 to authorities.

He will receive credit for the 13 months he was held before and after his 2000 trial, so his prison term will be about three years.

MIAMI-DADE

## COP-KILLER APOLOGIZES AS PART OF PLEA DEAL

## JEWISH INMATES

## GET KOSHER MEALS

A little more than a month after adhering to an inmate's request for kosher meals, the Florida Department of Corrections has said kosher servings will soon be available to Jewish inmates at any state facility, upon request.

According to corrections spokesman Sterling Ivey, the department is finalizing a formal policy that is likely to be in place by the beginning of February.

"We're allowing one inmate the ability to have kosher meals," Ivey said. "So it's only fair to the other inmates to let them practice their faith."

The breakthrough came in late October when the corrections department agreed to prepare kosher meals for convicted killer and Orthodox Jew Allen J. Cotton. Cotton killed a Hialeah housewife in 1966 and has been charged with numerous other felonies.

The state pays \$2.46 a day for regular meals. A kosher request costs about \$15 because meals must be prepared in separate kitchens, with separate utensils.

## TWO ARRESTED

## FOR TAKING BRIBES

Miami-Dade police this week arrested two county parks and recreation department employees for allegedly taking bribes from people who wanted to avoid completing court-ordered community service hours.

Among the charges Alberto Sotolongo, 24, and Tematha Herrington Latimore, 34, face: bribery, grand theft and official misconduct.

Both worked at Amelia Earhart Park in Hialeah.

Investigators say that during the past three years, the pair charged people \$5 an hour for every community service they were supposed to complete. The people would pay, then leave without actually finishing the work, investigators say.

## MIAMI BEACH

## DESIGN LEAGUE TO

## HOLD EVENT

The Miami Design Preservation League will hold an Art Deco Weekend Volunteer Recruitment Tea Party from 4 to 6 p.m. today at the MDPL Center and Art Deco Museum, 1001 Ocean Dr., Miami Beach.

For [info@mdpl.org](mailto:info@mdpl.org) or visit [www.mdpl.org](http://www.mdpl.org).

## CARDENAS, CUBA

## CASTRO CELEBRATING

## ELIAN'S BIRTHDAY

Cuban President Fidel Castro insisted Friday his socialist system will survive him, characterizing as "idiots" those who believe otherwise as he feted Elian Gonzalez on his 10th birthday.

## COP-KILLER APOLOGIZES AS PART OF PLEA DEAL

"This revolution does not depend on one individual, or two, or three," Castro declared in a speech of more than two hours at a birthday celebration in the courtyard of Elian's school in the child's hometown of Cardenas, some 85 miles east of Havana.

Castro described Cuban-American activists and U.S. officials as "that group of idiots [who] would die of bitterness, of frustration and even shock to see how this country has resisted 45 years of blockade."

## WEST MIAMI

## DRAINAGE PROJECT

## GETS UNDERWAY

The City of West Miami is going to begin the first stages of its drainage project - leaving city officials and residents with hopes that the city's famous flooding woes may finally recede into the past.

The city has contracted with Globetec Construction to build two pumping stations to flush out standing water in the streets and empty it into the C-3 (Coral Gables) Canal and the C-4 (Tamiami) Canal.

City officials say construction should start in January and finish by July.

## MIAMI

## FORMER FBI AGENT

## TO BE EXTRADITED

A former FBI agent charged in Oklahoma with a 1981 mob murder has agreed to be extradited for trial, his attorney told a state court judge Friday.

**H. Paul Rico**, 78, who has been held in Miami-Dade County jail since his arrest, has improved enough from heart problems to travel to Oklahoma to face charges that helped organize the slaying of a jai-alai executive, attorney Garvin Isaacs told Senior Circuit Judge Gerald Klein.

Klein signed the extradition order, which gives Oklahoma authorities 30 days to get Rico.

Rico, who retired from the FBI in 1975, served as security chief for Roger Wheeler's World Jai Alai when Wheeler was shot to death at a Tulsa, Okla., country club May 27, 1981.

## Notes

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## AROUND SOUTH FLORIDA

**Load-Date:** August 19, 2005



## **COURT FREES LIMONE AFTER 33 YEARS IN PRISON**

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The Boston Globe

January 6, 2001, Saturday

,THIRD EDITION

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**Section:** METRO/REGION;

**Length:** 756 words

**Byline:** By Ralph Ranalli, Globe Correspondent

### **Body**

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CAMBRIDGE - One arm cradling a bouquet of yellow roses, the other wrapped tightly around his tearful wife, Peter Limone walked out of Middlesex Superior Courthouse yesterday a free man after allegedly being framed for murder by the FBI and spending 33 years in prison, four of them on death row.

"Mr. Limone's long wait is over," said Middlesex Superior Court Judge Margaret Hinkle, prompting applause and tears from a large group of relatives and supporters of Limone in the East Cambridge courtroom.

Hinkle, who said it was "now time to move on," granted a joint motion by defense lawyers and Suffolk District Attorney Ralph C. Martin II's office to give Limone, 66, a new trial and vacate his life sentence.

After spending half his life behind bars for the murder of Edward "Teddy" Deegan in 1965, Limone was freed largely on the basis of secret FBI documents uncovered by a Justice Department task force investigating corruption in the bureau's use of organized crime informants.

The documents, which were never turned over to defense lawyers in the Deegan case, suggest that a onetime FBI informant, Vincent J. "Jimmy the Bear" Flemmi, planned Deegan's murder, not Limone.

The key witness against Limone - hit man-turned-FBI-witness Joseph "The Animal" Barboza - was Flemmi's best friend.

The documents say that an informant told the FBI who the participants in the murder were, and Limone and the three men convicted along with him weren't among them.

The documents also suggest that FBI agents not only covered up evidence that Limone and three other men were wrongly convicted in order to protect Flemmi and his gangster brother, Stephen - an FBI informant for nearly 30 years - but also knew about the Deegan murder plot in advance and did nothing to stop it.

## COURT FREES LIMONE AFTER 33 YEARS IN PRISON

"The conduct of the bureau at the time of the murder of Mr. Deegan and the trial of Mr. Limone tarnishes that agency," said Hinkle, a former assistant US attorney.

Limone had harsh words yesterday for the bureau, particularly former Special Agent **H. Paul Rico**, who was Barboza's FBI handler and is reportedly a target of the Justice Department corruption task force.

"He framed me. He knew what he was doing," the silver-haired Limone said of the agent, who is retired and living in Florida. "He's scum. He set it all up."

Overall, however, the mood of the Limone family was joyful and free of bitterness and rancor.

Flanked by his wife, Olympia, his four children, and six of his eight grandchildren, Limone spoke mostly of his gratitude for the people who stood by him and helped him over the years, particularly his relatives and his attorney, John Cavicchi.

"I just give thanks to the good people I have been involved with," he said. "I am very happy."

Prison, he said, was "very hard, every day in there, knowing I was innocent." His time was made even harder by watching two codefendants, Henry Tameleo and Louis Greco, die in prison while their appeals were rejected by court after court.

Defense lawyers allege that Barboza and the FBI framed Limone, Tameleo, Greco, and a fourth codefendant, Joseph Salvati, in order to settle personal scores and to satisfy a mandate from FBI headquarters to make cases against the underworld.

Tameleo was believed to be a top figure in the Patriarca New England crime family and Limone and Greco were reputed associates.

Salvati, who owed Barboza money, had his life sentence commuted by Governor William F. Weld in 1997. Martin's office also filed motions with Hinkle Thursday to vacate Salvati's sentence and grant him a new trial.

Assistant District Attorney Mark Lee said the newly discovered FBI documents were a key factor - along with other recently uncovered witness statements and evidence indicating Limone and Salvati's innocence - in their decision to drop their opposition to a new trial.

"The documents painted a very compelling picture," Lee said. "What happened here was wrong enough for us to come into court and say that this mandates a new trial."

Publicly, Martin's office had no comment on whether they would pursue a new trial or drop the case, but privately, sources close to the office called it a practical impossibility because of the age of the case, the doubts cast on it by the FBI documents, and the fact that Barboza was murdered in 1976.

Limone and his lawyer said they would wait before considering whether to file a civil lawsuit against the FBI or state prosecutors.

Cavicchi, however, said that based on what has been paid to other wrongfully imprisoned defendants, "\$5 million might be a good starting point."

## Graphic

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PHOTO, 1. Peter Limone was freed yesterday after spending 33 years in prison for a 1965 slaying. FBI documents suggest he may have been framed. / GLOBE STAFF PHOTO/JANET KNOTT 2. FREEDOM - Olympia and Peter Limone leaving Middlesex Superior Court as he was released after 33 years in prison for the murder of Teddy

COURT FREES LIMONE AFTER 33 YEARS IN PRISON

Deegan. Documents suggest he was framed by the FBI. / GLOBE STAFF PHOTO/JANET KNOTT (Photo, Page A1.)

**Load-Date:** January 7, 2001

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End of Document





## *Court hears Wheeler family appeal of lawsuit against FBI*

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

March 4, 2004 Thursday Final Home Edition

Copyright 2004 The Tulsa World

**Section:** NEWS; Tulsa; Crime; Pg. A9

**Length:** 503 words

**Byline:** AP Wire Service

### **Body**

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BOSTON (AP) -- A federal appeals court heard arguments Tuesday on whether to dismiss lawsuits filed by two families who claim that the FBI's corrupt relationship with gangsters James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi contributed to the murders of their loved ones.

The two lawsuits, brought by the families of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler and John McIntyre of Quincy, Mass., were dismissed last year by a federal judge who said they were filed too late.

The suits claim that the FBI contributed to the deaths of Wheeler and McIntyre by giving the two gangsters free rein to commit crimes because they also were federal informants who provided the FBI with information on the Mafia.

Lawyers for the U.S. Department of Justice argued before the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that the families should have known by 1998 that FBI agents might have played a role in the killings because of widespread publicity at the time about the FBI's improper relationship with the gangsters.

But lawyers for the Wheeler and McIntyre families argued that they had no proof because the FBI repeatedly denied any involvement.

The Federal Tort Claims Act requires that claims against the federal government must be filed within two years of the plaintiff's injury or two years after they should have known they were injured.

The McIntyres filed their claim in May 2000, and the Wheeler family filed its claim in May 2001.

Attorney Frank Libby Jr., who represents the Wheelers, argued that former FBI Agent John Connolly Jr. and his supervisor, John Morris, "allowed the Bulger and Flemmi group to operate essentially with impunity."

The freedom to commit crimes without fear of being prosecuted "emboldened" Bulger and Flemmi to arrange Wheeler's killing, Libby said.

Wheeler was shot in 1981 outside Tulsa's Southern Hills Country Club by a hit man for Bulger and Flemmi.

Court hears Wheeler family appeal of lawsuit against FBI

Flemmi, who pleaded guilty in January for his role in 10 murders, including the killings of Wheeler and McIntyre, admitted that Wheeler was killed because he suspected that the Bulger gang was skimming profits from his company, World Jai Alai.

In October, retired FBI Agent **H. Paul Rico** was charged in Oklahoma with helping Bulger and Flemmi arrange Wheeler's murder.

Rico, 78, died in Tulsa shortly after pleading innocent to the charge.

Deputy Assistant Attorney General Jeffrey Bucholtz said the Justice Department was not defending what the FBI did in the Wheeler case.

"Roger Wheeler was an innocent victim of Bulger and Flemmi and Connolly," Bucholtz said. But, he added, statutes of limitations "serve a valid public interest."

McIntyre disappeared in 1984 after giving some information about the Bulger gang's crimes to the FBI. His body was found in a shallow grave in Boston in 2000.

William Christie, an attorney for McIntyre's family, told the three-judge panel that the FBI initially had told the family that McIntyre was alive and living as a fugitive and then later insisted that it had no information on the circumstances surrounding his death.

**Load-Date:** March 5, 2004

Cowboy Whitey must be having a gay old time



## *Cowboy Whitey must be having a gay old time*

The Boston Herald

December 24, 2004 Friday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 006

**Length:** 563 words

**Byline:** By HOWIE CARR

### **Body**

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Whitey Bulger, wanted by the FBI ... and the Village People.

This isn't going to be a long column, because in this case, the picture really is worth a thousand words.

And by the way, this photo was snapped in Provincetown, probably about 20 years ago, which would make Whitey 55 years old. How many 55-year-old hetero males do you know with those kind of washboard abs?

Among the places Whitey is wanted for murder is Tulsa, Okla., and a few years ago, Tulsa police Detective Mike Huff put out a wanted poster that suggested that Whitey might be on the lam in a ``gay nudist camp."

At the time, some people suspected that Huff was taking a cheap shot, if that's possible, at the serial killer. Now it appears Huff was onto something.

Detective Huff, may I suggest a few additions to the next edition of your wanted poster. Throw in at the bottom a few Whitey pick-up lines:

``Got a match, sailor?"

``I have front-row seats for Barry Manilow's debut at the Las Vegas Hilton on Valentine's Day."

This, ahem, side of Whitey is nothing new. He paid for the 1988 funeral of one of his Alcatraz chums who died in prison of AIDS. He loved hanging out in Provincetown, both with his girlfriend Theresa Stanley and his personal FBI agent Zip Connolly.

As late as the early '90s, he would occasionally be spotted at Jacques, the notorious Bay Village gay hangout. Supposedly, as far back as the late 1940s, he was a male hustler in that same area, before he went into the Air Force. According to the stories, Whitey began his career in rough trade after hooking up with a lesbian at a Southie shebeen called the Third Street Cafe. This woman pimped young Whitey out at a couple of the flourishing gay Boston bars of the day - Mario's, also known as Sail Aweigh, as well as at the infamous Punch Bowl.

Cowboy Whitey must be having a gay old time

Some have even suggested that it was at one of these dives that Whitey met FBI agent **H. Paul Rico**, who died while awaiting trial for that same Oklahoma murder.

It's all just another piece of the puzzle as Whitey celebrates 10 years on the run. And here's another riddle: What's up with the new aliases for Whitey that the feds were asked about at their news conference this week.

One of them is Harold Evers, and two other names now also surface: Henson and Boudreau. How long have these names been known, and why are they only now being released to the public?

And how exactly did Whitey get the documentation for these new aliases? I mean, it's easy to run down names when you're a free man. That's what newspaper microfilm at the public library is for, or the Bureau of Vital Statistics. It only takes a few minutes to come up with the names of people with the same birthday as you, preferably ones who are dead.

But if you're on the run, it's a lot tougher. Who performed this valuable service for Whitey?

Whitey always said Christmas was for cops and kids. That must have been a nice early Christmas present for him back in the summer of 1996, to get those new fake IDs, whoever provided them to Bulger. Whoever it was let Cowboy Whitey ride off into the sunset like Randolph Scott, who by the way was also - oh, never mind.

Whitey could not be reached for comment. But I'm guessing he'd want me to leave you with one thought this Christmas Eve.

Greetings from Key West!

Howie Carr's radio show can be heard weekday afternoons on WRKO-AM 680, WHYN-AM 560, WGAN-AM 560, WEIM-AM 1280 and WXTK-FM 95.1.

## Graphic

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RIFLEMAN: In a photo acquired by the Heral, mobster Whitey Bulger poses in Provincetown, probably about 20 years ago.

**Load-Date:** December 24, 2004

Cozy relationship of FBI, mobsters threatens court case Judge's decision could mean others will get out of jail  
jail jail



**Cozy relationship of FBI, mobsters threatens court case Judge's decision could mean others will get out of jail jail jail**

\$%Charleston Gazette (West Virginia) virginia) virginia)

May 17, 1998, Sunday sunday sunday

Copyright 1998 Charleston Newspapers newspapers newspapers

**Section:** News; Pg. P14A P14A P14A

**Length:** 1690 words

**Byline:** Erica Noonan THE ASSOCIATED PRESS press press

## **Body**

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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 crime 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 Administration conference in Georgia?

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

Cozy relationship of FBI, mobsters threatens court case Judge's decision could mean others will get out of jail  
jail jail

informants in New England history?

Yes, Morris told the judge.

The agent testified for hours, then days, bearing witness to the fact that the FBI in Boston had protected some gangsters and sacrificed 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 an Oklahoma businessman, according to testimony. That squealer later took a bullet. A lot of bullets.

---

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.

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

Cozy relationship of FBI, mobsters threatens court case Judge's decision could mean others will get out of jail  
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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 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.

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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.

Cozy relationship of FBI, mobsters threatens court case Judge's decision could mean others will get out of jail jail jail

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.

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 still believe today, saved Gianturco's life and drew Bulger and Flemmi into the FBI fold. An amazing 20 years followed.

---

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



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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.

---

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 a Tulsa, Okla., country club in 1981.

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.

Cozy relationship of FBI, mobsters threatens court case Judge's decision could mean others will get out of jail  
jail jail

With his dying breath, Halloran named the gunman, who was arrested but never convicted.

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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.

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 wiretaps 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

Cozy relationship of FBI, mobsters threatens court case Judge's decision could mean others will get out of jail  
jail jail

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.

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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 faintly and waved back. back. back.

**Load-Date:** May 29, 1998



## *Cozy relationship of FBI, mobsters threatens New England racketeering cases*

The Associated Press

May 16, 1998, Saturday, AM cycle

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**Section:** Domestic News

**Length:** 1705 words

**Byline:** By ERICA NOONAN, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** BOSTON

### **Body**

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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?

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## Cozy relationship of FBI, mobsters threatens New England racketeering cases

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

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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.

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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.

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.

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Cozy relationship of FBI, mobsters threatens New England racketeering cases

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**Load-Date:** May 16, 1998

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End of Document





## *Cozy relationship of FBI, mobsters threatens racketeering cases*

Topeka Capital-Journal (Kansas)

May 17, 1998, Sunday

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**Section:** NEWS

**Length:** 1744 words

**Byline:** ERICA NOONAN

### **Body**

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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.

The Associated Press

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? 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 hours, then days, bearing witness to the fact that the FBI in Boston had protected some gangsters and sacrificed 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.

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**Load-Date:** September 15, 1998



## *Crime:FBI Chastised for New England Mob Links; Other Developments*

Facts on File World News Digest

November 20, 2003

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**Section:** Pg. 1001F1

**Length:** 689 words

### **Body**

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The House Government Reform Committee November 20 issued a report criticizing the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for its handling of organized-crime informants in New England beginning in 1965. The report also cited the Justice Department for failing to cooperate adequately with the committee's investigation. The panel said William Bulger, a former Massachusetts Senate president and University of Massachusetts president, had given "inconsistent" testimony before the committee in June regarding his fugitive brother, reputed mobster James (Whitey) Bulger. However, the report did not accuse William Bulger of perjury, and said there was not enough evidence to show that he had used his political power to punish officials investigating his brother.

The report called the FBI's New England informant operation "one of the greatest failures in the history of federal law enforcement." It cited a 1965 case in which the FBI had knowingly allowed the wrong men to be convicted for a murder committed by two of its informants. Former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover had been aware of the case, the committee found. The panel said that more than 20 people had been killed by informants in Boston since that date, frequently with assistance from the bureau's agents.

James Bulger, a top FBI informant, had eluded capture since 1995, when an FBI agent tipped him off to a pending indictment against him. He had since been charged with racketeering and links to 21 murders, and remained among the FBI's 10 most-wanted fugitives. Bulger had last been seen in London in September 2002, shortly before the FBI discovered safe-deposit boxes linked to him there and in Dublin, Ireland.

In congressional testimony June 19, William Bulger had denied knowing his brother's location, and claimed that the FBI had not sought him for questioning. An agent later said he had attempted to reach William Bulger, but was told he was unwilling to cooperate. Bulger criticized the FBI for a 1988 leak that had revealed his brother's status as an informer, accusing the bureau of wanting him killed rather than captured. Bulger also implied that agents attempted to intimidate him by visiting his home June 10 and asking to question his wife.

#### **Bulger Resigns as U. Massachusetts President**

William Bulger, 69, August 6 announced his resignation as university president, effective September 1, citing pressure from Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney (R) and state Attorney General Thomas Reilly (D). The two had led criticism of Bulger for his House testimony in 2002 and in June, in which he had reportedly given evasive

## Crime:FBI Chastised for New England Mob Links; Other Developments

and combative answers to questions on his brother's whereabouts and the FBI's efforts to locate him. Bulger received a \$1 million severance package from the university.

The state Senate, in a show of support for Bulger, June 5 had voted, 33-6, to reject an education reform proposal by Romney that would have eliminated his university position. The school's trustees June 26 had voted to endorse Bulger's continued presidency.

## Other News

In related organized-crime news:

Boston mobster Stephen Flemmi, a close associate of James Bulger, October 14 pleaded guilty to 17 charges linked to racketeering and 10 murders in U.S. District Court in Boston. Flemmi, 69, would receive life in prison rather than the death penalty in a deal with prosecutors.

Former Boston FBI agent ***H. Paul Rico*** October 9 was arrested for his alleged role in the 1981 murder of Tulsa, Oklahoma businessman Roger Wheeler. Rico had handled Flemmi and other mob informants before retiring in 1975. He then served as chief of security for World Jai Alai, a company that Wheeler had acquired. John Martorano, an admitted hit-man in Bulger's gang, had testified in an earlier trial that Rico had helped to organize Wheeler's slaying. The businessman had apparently discovered that Bulger's gang had skimmed \$1 million a year in profits from World Jai Alai. Flemmi was expected to testify against Rico.

Another Bulger brother, John Bulger, 65, had been sentenced to six months in prison for lying to investigators about communications with James Bulger, it was reported September 4.

**Load-Date:** January 5, 2004



## [Crime; FBI Chastised for New England Mob Links; Other Developments](#)

Facts on File World News Digest

December 18, 2003

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**Section:** Pg. 1001F1

**Length:** 705 words

### **Body**

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Another Bulger brother, John Bulger, 65, had been sentenced to six months in prison for lying to investigators about communications with James Bulger, it was reported September 4.

**Load-Date:** June 24, 2004





## *Crime; News in Brief*

Facts on File World News Digest

February 14, 2004

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**Section:** Pg. 93C3

**Length:** 229 words

### **Body**

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A Los Angeles County, California jury January 30 deadlocked, 6-6, on whether a former Inglewood, California police officer, Jeremy Morse, had used **excessive force** in a July 2002 videotaped encounter with a teenage black suspect. The jury in Morse's initial July 2003 trial had also deadlocked, leading to the second trial. Prosecutors February 6 said they would not seek a third trial. Morse, 26, maintained that the handcuffed suspect had grabbed his testicles, leading him to punch the youth and slam him against a police cruiser. [See 2003 Law Enforcement: FBI Disciplinary Record Faulted; Other Developments]

**H. Paul Rico**, a former Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agent charged with assisting in the 1981 **mob slaying of Oklahoma businessman** Roger Wheeler, January 16 died in Tulsa, Oklahoma after being hospitalized January 14. Rico, 78, had been arrested in Florida in October 2003. As the security chief for one of Wheeler's companies, Rico had allegedly helped his former FBI mob informants from Boston, Massachusetts to kill the businessman after he discovered their graft scheme at the firm. Stephen Flemmi, a Boston mobster and FBI informant involved in the Rico case, January 27 was sentenced to life in prison after pleading guilty in October 2003 to racketeering and murder charges. [See 2003 Crime: FBI Chastised for New England Mob Links; Other Developments]

**Load-Date:** June 24, 2004

Curiously charming Salemme possessed odd kind of honor



## *Curiously charming Salemme possessed odd kind of honor*

The Boston Herald

February 15, 2004 Sunday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 628 words

**Byline:** By Peter Gelzinis

### **Body**

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Whitey Bulger and Stevie Flemmi were never gangsters. They were snakes. Cunning to be sure. Vicious and cold-blooded, without a doubt. But neither ever possessed that particular brand of scruples, otherwise known as "gangster morals."

The term, as coined by Francis P. "Cadillac Frank" Salemme, becomes one of the central threads of a long conversation he had last year with the chief legal counsel of a congressional committee and a federal prosecutor who sent the reptilian ex-FBI agent, John Connolly, to prison for 10 years. The transcript of that conversation became public a few days ago.

"There's a certain amount of honor you have to have even among thugs like us," Salemme tells Jim Wilson, former chief counsel to the House Government Reform Committee.

Salemme was quick to add that gangster morals, as he once knew them, existed in a parallel universe, apart and separate from "legitimate people or real world morals."

Wilson and U.S. Attorney John Durham are part of a small circle of lawyers and law enforcement agents who have debriefed the once star-crossed boss of the local mafia on nearly 50 years of Boston gangland history. To a person, they all seem to come away with the same strange, if grudging respect for a gangster who offers neither apologies nor excuses for who he is, or the life he's lived.

"My partner and I spent almost five hours with him," one law enforcement source told me, "and when we got back in the car we were speechless for a good half-hour. Then, we both just looked at each other and said, 'Goddamn, I kind of liked the guy.'

"He tells you that he chose to enter a life where violence and death were risks you accepted, disloyalty could cost you your life and mistreatment of 'innocents' as he called them, or legitimate people, was forbidden.

"In a lot of ways," the source said, "(Salemme) reminds you of a leader of some military organization. Ultimately, you're repulsed by what he's telling you, but you can't help but be enthralled at the same time. Because you know it

Curiously charming Salemme possessed odd kind of honor

goes beyond the ring of truth. Besides being grim and brutal, the veracity of what he's saying has already been written in blood."

For the first time in 36 years, Salemme offers his version of the grisly crime that came to define his gangster persona . . . the 1968 car bombing of mob lawyer John Fitzgerald. The hit, which cost Fitzgerald most of a leg, was seen as the most brazen attempt by the mob to cross the line and target a "civilian."

Salemme contends it was Fitzgerald who chose to enter the circle of hell. First, by running his client's (Joe "The Animal" Barboza) extortion business while he was in jail, then romancing the girlfriend of another jailed mobster (Jimmie O'Toole) and possibly becoming a potential witness against the head of the New England mob, Raymond L.S. Patriarca.

At Patriarca's request, Salemme admits he agreed to "eliminate" Fitzgerald "my way" and had done some reconnaissance work on the hit. But when his boyhood pal Stevie Flemmi and Larry (Zannino) Baione told him Patriarca wanted Fitzgerald blown up "to set an example," Salemme says he abandoned the plan.

"That (a car bomb) was not my MO at all" Salemme said, "not that violence wasn't." A bomb could not be controlled. Civilians could get killed. It was far messier and more unpredictable than, say, a silencer.

Fitzgerald survived the bombing to create a new life for himself as a judge in the Midwest. Salemme would do 17 years in jail for the crime, made the patsy by Stevie Flemmi and the treacherous old G-man, **H. Paul Rico**, who was also a "friend" of John Fitzgerald. It marked the end of an era.

With that crime, old world gangsters like Salemme were completely devoured by new-age snakes like Bulger and Flemmi.

**Load-Date:** February 15, 2004



## *DA, law officers in feud*

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

July 20, 2003 Sunday Final Home Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Tulsa; Pg. A1

**Length:** 2121 words

**Byline:** ZIVA BRANSTETTER World Projects Editor

### **Body**

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Tulsa County District Attorney Tim Harris says his office's policy on filing criminal charges is not different from those of his predecessors.

Below: Tulsa County District Attorney Tim Harris says his policies "are not any different" from the policies of former district attorneys David Moss, Chuck Richardson and Bill LaFortune. Photos by STEPHEN HOLMAN / Tulsa World

Bottom: Police officers and others wait for court appearances in the law enforcement area of the District Attorney's Office's Victim- Witness Center. AARON SHOWALTER/ Tulsa World

Harris accused of putting budget over prosecutions A simmering feud between Tulsa County District Attorney Tim Harris and law enforcement agencies has boiled over with allegations that Harris' policies are endangering the public.

Police say Harris looks for reasons to reject their cases while complaining about his budget. Harris says his policies are no different from those of past prosecutors.

Police aren't the only ones complaining.

The son of slain Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler said Harris' office suggested that the family should help pay for the cost of prosecuting that 1981 murder case. In another case, the son of a murder victim says Harris' office failed to return his calls and letters and to explain why the district attorney declined to file charges.

Two policies in Harris' new criminal charging policy manual, effective May 1, have been the focus of criticism by law enforcement.

One policy, "Charging Authorization Standard," discusses the burden of proof necessary for prosecutors to file a charge.

"The charging standard can be anywhere from probable cause to beyond a reasonable doubt. This office requires that the fact and evidence viewed in the light most favorable to the state be beyond a reasonable doubt," it states.

## DA, law officers in feud

Harris said the standard is "adaptable" and not meant to be an inflexible rule. In cases involving violent crimes, the standard may be lower, he said.

Harris said the policies "are not any different" from the policies of former district attorneys David Moss, Chuck Richardson and Bill LaFortune.

However, Richardson and Police Chief Dave Been said the charging standard is a definite change.

"It obviously makes our job tougher," said Been, "but the big issue is it makes things less safe for the citizens. Obviously, conviction rates are better if you only take to trial those slam-dunk cases."

Sgt. Mike Huff, supervisor of the Police Department's Homicide Unit, said criminals are aware that standards have changed.

"We get people that get turned back on the street and continue violence, so we're hearing criminals on the street say, 'Hey, I'll be out in a few days.' "

Since May, police have held two meetings with Harris to discuss a variety of concerns, including the charging standard and the process for reviewing shootings by police officers.

Richardson, appointed district attorney when LaFortune resigned in 1998, said the standard for arrests and at preliminary hearings in criminal court is probable cause. Richardson lost the election for the district attorney's position to Harris in November 1998.

"You don't typically have enough information to decide something is provable beyond a reasonable doubt when you first get it into your office."

Jerry Truster, a former chief prosecutor under longtime Tulsa District Attorney Buddy Fallis, said Harris' attitude toward prosecutions is "180 degrees different" from Fallis' attitudes. Truster also worked as an assistant under LaFortune, Richardson and Harris before leaving eight months into Harris' tenure.

"The thing that bothered me most about Tim's administration was a comment he made in a staff meeting that I couldn't believe I was hearing. Tim says to his staff, 'We file way too many criminal charges, and from now on the standard of proof in the office of filing a charge is proof beyond a reasonable doubt.' "

Those in law enforcement said they noticed the change.

"We've learned that the bar has been raised for us," said Jenks Police Detective Don Selle. "They won't file a charge unless it's trial-ready, and we have to live with that."

Selle investigated the drowning of 10-year-old Rachel Clayton of Jenks. No charges have been filed in that case.

Crime in Tulsa has increased about 6 percent since Harris took office in 1999. The number of felony cases filed initially increased but has declined to the same level as 1999: 6,500 last year, according to figures provided by the Court Clerk's Office.

Only about 1 percent of criminal defendants face jury trials in Tulsa County -- less than the 4 percent national average. Last year, 88 jury trials were held in Tulsa County District Court, down from 102 in 1999. No reliable statistics exist on what happens to the other 99 percent of defendants.

Harris said alternatives to incarceration, such as Drug Court and DUI Court, have led to fewer trials. He said his policies ensure that those cases the office takes to trial can be won.

"Over the years, our conviction rate at jury trial has always been 80 percent or above. Last year, it was 85 percent."

## DA, law officers in feud

However, such figures depend heavily on how cases are counted. A trial database kept by the District Attorney's Office contained no reference to at least seven trials since 1999 that resulted in not guilty verdicts, meaning they didn't figure into Harris' conviction rates.

Two trials were counted as guilty verdicts but their results were arguably losses for prosecutors. A defendant who was tried in 1999 on first-degree rape and domestic assault and battery charges was acquitted of the rape charge but sentenced to six months on the assault and battery charge. In another case, a defendant was acquitted of drug possession but given 30 days in jail for two traffic offenses. The database recorded both cases as guilty verdicts.

Policy bans advice: A second Harris policy, "Giving Legal Opinion and Advice," has also come under fire.

"None of the law enforcement agencies works for us or at our direction," it states. "We do not tell them when they have 'probable cause to arrest' or 'probable cause to search and seize.' Those are police decisions. We do not answer hypothetical questions for the police or give legal opinions based upon hypothetical factual situations."

The policy concludes by stating that officers who want to know what the law states must write a request to Harris "precisely detailing the legal question to be answered."

It cites court rulings that found that prosecutors who engage in police functions lose their civil immunity in court and could be held liable.

"That's crap," said Truster when informed of the policy. "My attitude is that if they want to sue me civilly, have at it, because I'm there to serve the law enforcement and get on down the road with this thing."

Been said the policy is a very significant change.

"We need their advice," Been said. "We're not attorneys. I've always considered that was one of their primary functions."

Huff said the advice policy has made it difficult for police officers to do their jobs.

"We're out there in the middle of the night trying to make decisions, and I can't wait for somebody to ponder it and put it in writing. It's an issue sometimes of 'analyze and paralyze.' "

Harris said the Tulsa Police Department and other law enforcement agencies have their own legal advisers to tell them when probable cause to arrest or search and seize exists. Nevertheless, he said he and his assistants do spend a lot of time meeting with law enforcement officials to help guide their investigations.

"The criticism that we don't discuss cases with law enforcement I don't think holds any validity whatsoever."

Tulsa County Sheriff Stanley Glanz said he has no problems so far with the policy. Glanz, a fellow elected Republican county official, relies on Harris' civil staff to defend his office in lawsuits.

"I think it's good that he's put something in writing. For many years we have worked kind of on handshakes," Glanz said. "If there's any questions, I personally go to Tim myself. He's always been open to me."

Cases go unfiled: Authorities say Harris is often unwilling to make tough calls on cases that should be filed but might not be a sure win in court.

"There's been an increasing reluctance on the part of the DA's Office to file cases that our detectives think should be filed," Been said.

Those cases include a key suspect in one of Tulsa's most notorious murders. In late 2001, Huff presented an affidavit seeking charges against ***H. Paul Rico*** and others in the 1981 slaying of Wheeler, who owned the Tulsa-based Telex Corp. Rico, a retired Boston FBI agent, was head of security for World Jai Alai, which Wheeler had bought.

## DA, law officers in feud

Since then, Huff has presented two additional affidavits with new information relating to Wheeler's death, but Harris has not filed charges against Rico. The most recent affidavit is a 28-page document written May 28. It alleges that Rico provided confessed hit man John V. Martorano with details on Wheeler's appearance, whereabouts and a vehicle description.

Harris filed murder charges in 2001 against Martorano and two other figures in the case: James Joseph "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi.

Flemmi is awaiting trial in a string of New England killings and has not appeared in a Tulsa courtroom. Bulger remains a fugitive.

Martorano struck a plea agreement that allows him to serve no time in an Oklahoma prison in exchange for testifying against his co-defendants.

Wheeler's son, David Wheeler, said Harris and others in his office often discussed how expensive the Wheeler case would be to prosecute. Wheeler said that at one point, Assistant District Attorney Larry Edwards asked him whether the Wheeler family would be willing to pay for costs associated with prosecuting the case.

"He said, 'Has Tim asked you for money yet? Well, if he does, just turn him down.' " Wheeler said he was offended by the implication that his family should pay for prosecution.

"You can't give somebody money to prosecute. Everybody should be afforded equal protection under the law. . . . They wanted money. We didn't pay, and the result is obvious."

Edwards, who recently left the District Attorney's Office, said, "I can't remember whether that statement was made or not. . . . I do not think I've ever had that discussion."

When asked whether he thinks charges should have been filed against Rico, Edwards said, "I'm not going to answer that question."

Harris adamantly denied that his office asked the Wheeler family to pay for prosecution costs.

"There's not a scintilla of truth in that," Harris said. "I would never ask a private citizen . . . to assist in the financial costs of prosecution."

David Wheeler said he has asked Harris to turn the Rico case over to the state Attorney General's Office.

"After fighting impossible odds to help bring my father's killers to justice, ultimately winning the battle against both organized crime and a corrupted Boston FBI, it is ironic to find ourselves stopped cold by our own district attorney."

Harris said he is considering Wheeler's request that the Attorney General's Office intervene. He said he could not discuss whether charges would be filed against other people in the case.

"There are other individuals who are being investigated," Harris said.

The son of another Tulsa homicide victim also expressed concerns about his family's treatment by Harris' office. A burglar beat 79-year-old Betty Jo Martin to death in January 1999, stealing a VCR and a few collectible coins.

Police presented their case to Harris, but prosecutors wanted more evidence.

"We thought it was a workable case," Huff said. "Their issue was proof beyond a reasonable doubt, and we didn't meet their standard."

Ken Martin said turnover in the District Attorney's Office resulted in the case being handled by three assistants, one of whom knew nothing about the case.

DA, law officers in feud

"Is my mother not important?" Martin asked Harris in a letter dated Aug. 3, 2000. "Here was a truly good person who was savagely beaten to death for no reason. No, she was not famous. No, she was not wealthy. Is that what it takes?"

Martin said Harris did not respond to the letter. Calls after that to an assistant district attorney were unreturned, he said.

"With about 50 murders a year in the city of Tulsa, I would think they could find time to talk to the family of murder victims."

First Assistant District Attorney Doug Drummond said he believed that a detective assigned to the case had been communicating with the family.

"One of our highest priorities in this office is to communicate and answer questions for the families of victims of violent crimes. If that did not happen in this case, it was my responsibility," he said.

Ziva Branstetter 581-8378 [ziva.branstetter@tulsaworld.com](mailto:ziva.branstetter@tulsaworld.com)

**Load-Date:** July 21, 2003

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DA says he needed Flemmi to go after ex-FBI agent in Tulsa murder



## [DA says he needed Flemmi to go after ex-FBI agent in Tulsa murder](#)

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

October 14, 2003, Tuesday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 614 words

**Byline:** By KELLY KURT, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** TULSA, Okla.

### **Body**

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Cutting a deal with a mob informant gave prosecutors what the hitman in the murder of a Tulsa businessman did not - convincing evidence to use in court against an ex-FBI agent, District Attorney Tim Harris said Tuesday.

The plea deal with Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi allowed prosecutors to charge former FBI Agent **H. Paul Rico** last week in the murder of Roger Wheeler, Harris said.

Flemmi told authorities he had a phone conversation in May 1981 in which Rico confirmed that he and others wanted Wheeler killed, according to an affidavit unsealed Tuesday.

Rico allegedly helped provide personal information about Wheeler to hitman John Martorano, who shot the chairman of Tulsa-based Telex Corp. May 27, 1981, after Wheeler finished a golf game at Southern Hills Country Club.

"It was not until we received this new evidence that I was convinced in my heart that I, in good faith, could present this to a judge and ultimately a jury," Harris said.

Along with Flemmi, Martorano and Rico, fugitive Boston-based White Hill Gang leader James "Whitey" Bulger is charged in the case. Harris said the investigation continues.

He hoped to return Rico, 78, to Tulsa in 10 days to face murder and conspiracy charges. A decision on whether to seek the death penalty would come after a preliminary hearing, Harris said.

Rico was arrested last week in Florida, and his extradition hearing has been postponed until Friday. Harris said he would fight any effort to allow Rico out on bond.

If Rico fights extradition, prosecutors would have a 90-day window to file paperwork through the governors of both states seeking his move to Oklahoma.

Flemmi pleaded guilty Tuesday to racketeering charges that implicated him in 10 murders, including the death of Wheeler. The plea deal calls for him to serve life in a federal prison.

DA says he needed Flemmi to go after ex-FBI agent in Tulsa murder

In exchange for Flemmi's cooperation in the Wheeler case, Harris said he made "a measured and calculated decision" to drop his bid for the death penalty against Flemmi. Florida prosecutors also agreed to remove the death penalty in another mob killing in which Flemmi was charged.

Investigators say Wheeler's slaying was linked to his purchase of Florida-based World Jai Alai and his suspicion that Flemmi and Bulger were skimming money from the company. At the time, Rico was retired from the FBI and the head of security for World Jai Alai.

Martorano admitted pulling the trigger and is awaiting sentencing.

Flemmi told investigators he and Martorano met with Rico in Miami more than a year after Wheeler's killing to discuss money they were promised in the murder. But Flemmi said Rico told him no money was available because a planned purchase of World Jai Alai never happened.

Wheeler's son, David Wheeler, said the fact the trail led to an ex-FBI agent would have been "something beyond my father's comprehension." He called Rico's arrest a milestone in a 22-year quest for justice that had torn his family apart.

"People worked very hard trying to make me out as - well, to put it lightly - a fool, misguided, a misfit," David Wheeler said. "Rico was part of that."

He credited the original police detective on the case, Sgt. Mike Huff, who persisted despite efforts early on by federal authorities to thwart the investigation. Huff had suspected Rico's involvement since 1982.

David Wheeler called Rico's arrest "a moment when the city of Tulsa stood up and said, 'We don't care if you all have more power or have the authority, you're not going to come to this town and kill our citizens.'"

He also urged the government, in light of the FBI's history in the case, to turn over the search for Bulger to federal marshals.

**Load-Date:** October 15, 2003



## *DA stands pat on prosecution*

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

July 9, 2011 Saturday

Final Edition

Copyright 2011 The Tulsa World

**Section:** News; Pg. A19

**Length:** 587 words

**Byline:** BILL BRAUN & NICOLE MARSHALL World Staff Writers

### **Body**

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Tulsa County District Attorney Tim Harris stressed Friday that his office plans to handle the murder prosecution of reputed mob kingpin James "Whitey" Bulger for the 30-year-old slaying of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler. "The Tulsa County District Attorney's Office is going to go ahead and seek justice" for the Wheeler family and the community, Harris said after news reports surfaced indicating that Wheeler family members prefer that the case be tried somewhere other than Tulsa. Wheeler's son, Lawrence "Larry" Wheeler, writing on behalf of his mother and brother, wrote to the U.S. attorney in Boston, Carmen Ortiz, that the local "environment is too corrupt and too self-motivated for a case of this magnitude" to be brought to trial in Tulsa, the Boston Globe reported. Wheeler's letter requested that "appropriate pressure" be applied to move the Bulger's Tulsa County murder trial out of state, the Globe reported.

Bulger, 81, pleaded not guilty Wednesday in Boston to accusations that he participated in 19 murders and committed a host of other crimes. In Tulsa County, he is charged with first-degree murder in the May 27, 1981, killing of Roger Wheeler, chairman of the Tulsa-based Telex Corp., who was fatally shot in his car after playing golf at Southern Hills Country Club. Investigators theorized that the killing was ordered by Boston-based gangsters and linked to Wheeler's purchase of World Jai Alai - a sport in which betting occurs - and his suspicion that money was being skimmed from his company. In 2001, Harris charged Bulger, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi and John Martorano with the murder. Martorano, the hit man, and Flemmi separately made court appearances in Tulsa and pleaded guilty. Bulger, a fugitive for 16 years, was arrested last month in Santa Monica, Calif. In 2003, Harris also charged retired FBI Agent ***H. Paul Rico*** with Wheeler's murder. Harris noted Friday that this marked the first time "any one charged Rico." According to the Boston Globe, Larry Wheeler wrote in his letter that authorities in Oklahoma violated protocol when Rico, 78, died in January 2004 at a Tulsa hospital after being brought to Oklahoma from Florida to face a murder prosecution. Among the irregularities alleged were that contractors - not police officers - were guarding Rico at the Tulsa hospital and that attending physicians were not notified when he died, according to the Globe. A medical examiner ruled that Rico died of natural causes. Sgt. Mike Huff, who recently retired from the Tulsa Police Department's Homicide Unit, said at the time that an autopsy report indicated no sign of any foul play in Tulsa regarding Rico's death. Harris said the Wheeler family has "had to endure tragic circumstances." He said he believes that family members are "very frustrated" and "want to know what happened to their father." Harris said he is doing his "dead-level best" to obtain justice in the case. Huff said Friday that "all the

## DA stands pat on prosecution

corruption between law enforcement happened up there in Boston, not in Tulsa." Huff said he thinks "Tulsa deserves to have a trial here" and indicated that he is dismayed by the Wheeler letter. "I know it was not personal, but I took it personal," Huff said. "I wish them the best. "We had a job to do. We did it. We solved it right here in Tulsa." Bill Braun 918-581-8455 Nicole Marshall 918-581-8459 [bill.braun@tulsaworld.com](mailto:bill.braun@tulsaworld.com) [nicole.marshall@tulsaworld.com](mailto:nicole.marshall@tulsaworld.com) SUBHEAD: A son of a slain Tulsa businessman says authorities here are "too corrupt" to prosecute Whitey Bulger.

**Load-Date:** July 10, 2011

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## [Dead end? Feds search for Whitey's body on Cape beach](#)

The Boston Herald

December 5, 2002 Thursday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 1129 words

**Byline:** By Maggie Mulvihill, Jonathan Wells and J.M. Lawrence

### **Body**

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In a bizarre twist on the eve of congressional hearings, authorities searched a Cape Cod beach yesterday after getting an apparently bogus tip that fugitive crime boss James J. "Whitey" Bulger and his missing moll were buried there.

William Chase, assistant special agent in charge of the Boston FBI office, said the bureau received a call reporting there were bodies buried on Scusset Beach in Bourne.

"The caller said some recent bodies buried there might be Whitey Bulger and Catherine Greig," Chase said. "We went out there with special equipment and dogs and the dogs hit on something. Then we used sonar and the equipment did not detect anything on the beach.

"We are 99 percent sure there isn't anything there," Chase said. "We will look at everything we did (yesterday) and determine if there is anything else to pursue."

The apparently fruitless search on Cape Cod came on the eve of two days of congressional hearings in Boston designed to further scrutinize the FBI's dealings with Bulger and other criminal informants.

Members of the House Committee on Government Reform have subpoenaed Bulger's brother, University of Massachusetts President William M. Bulger, to testify tomorrow. But the former state senate president has given no indication he will appear.

Law enforcement sources told the Herald the search for Whitey Bulger's body was triggered by a call from a Cape Cod man Friday night.

Agents interviewed him and his attorney and decided the tip was worth investigating. The bureau then requested the assistance of the specially trained cadaver dogs from the state police, officials said.

One source said the tipster claimed to have buried the bodies himself. "But we don't think he is credible," the source added.

## Dead end? Feds search for Whitey's body on Cape beach

Chase said the FBI believed the tip was credible because the caller provided specific information about Bulger and Greig.

"We have to run out everything. We have to check everything," he said.

Whitey Bulger, charged with 21 murders, including several victims whose remains were found under Boston-area beaches, has been on the run for nearly eight years.

The last time the FBI put stock in a sighting of Bulger and Greig was 2 1-2 years ago, when the aging on-the-lam lovers were allegedly spotted at a hair salon in Fountain Valley, Calif.

Meanwhile, a lawyer for William Bulger said the leaking of the UMass president's secret grand jury testimony in which he declared his allegiance to his crime boss brother could derail his appearance tomorrow before a congressional panel.

Forcing Bulger to appear without giving him a copy of the testimony "jeopardizes his rights under the law," attorney Thomas R. Kiley said in a letter to the U.S. Attorney demanding a transcript and an investigation.

"I'm truly outraged," Kiley said. "The reality is at some point the material emanated from somebody in an official duty. But in terms of who leaked it, I don't know."

But officials with the House committee said again that Bulger must appear and dismissed the leaked transcript as a "manufactured controversy."

"It's a sideshow to the fact there's a lawful subpoena and Mr. Bulger should come and answer the questions," said the committee's chief counsel, James Wilson, who noted the committee has never had a transcript of Bulger's grand jury testimony.

The congressional panel, chaired by Indiana Republican Dan Burton, begins a two-day hearing this morning in Boston as part of a two-year probe into the FBI's relationships with criminal informants.

If Bulger appears tomorrow, he will not have the same immunity agreement he forged with the government when he told a federal grand jury in April 2001 that he gave legal advice to his gangster brother in January 1995, shortly after he fled to avoid racketeering charges.

Bulger's 1995 conversation with his brother constituted a federal crime punishable by a maximum of three years in prison, according to a federal source. By contrast, state law contains exceptions for immediate relatives who aid a felon, and such cases are rarely prosecuted.

Late yesterday, U.S. Attorney Michael J. Sullivan said he has asked the Department of Justice to conduct an "independent investigation" into the leaking of the grand jury transcript to the Boston Globe.

The proceedings are so secret that records are kept of every person who views transcripts and other documents.

U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (D-Newton) cast doubt on whether Congress has the right to question William Bulger about contact with his fugitive brother. "We're Congress, not prosecutors," said Frank, who raised similar concerns when a panel grilled WorldCom leaders earlier this year.

Today, the committee is scheduled to question the family of one of Whitey Bulger's alleged victims. Two sons of Tulsa millionaire Roger Wheeler, formerly of Reading, who was allegedly murdered by Bulger's hit men in May 1981, will testify.

Hit man John Martorano has testified that a former FBI agent, H. Paul Rico, who worked for Wheeler's World Jai Alai, helped orchestrate Wheeler's murder in order to protect the Bulger group's financial interest in the gaming operation.

## Dead end? Feds search for Whitey's body on Cape beach

Tulsa homicide detective Sgt. Michael Huff, who has spent more than 20 years on the case, is expected to tell the committee today about the Boston FBI's lack of cooperation in the murder investigation.

U.S. Rep. William Delahunt yesterday said the testimony of another witness today, former U.S. Attorney Jeremiah O'Sullivan, is crucial to the committee's probe.

O'Sullivan, who headed the New England Organized Crime Strike Force in the 1980s, has never faced questioning about the role of Bulger and his criminal cohort, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, as informants. A federal judge found O'Sullivan knew about their double lives dating back to 1979.

Also subpoenaed to testify today is attorney Paul Markham, who was U.S. attorney for the state during the 1960s when FBI agents withheld exculpatory evidence leading to the wrongful convictions of four men for a 1965 mob murder. Markham refused to discuss the subject with the Herald. "It was 37 years ago," he said.

Also yesterday, ex-Gov. William F. Weld, who demonized William Bulger in his run for the Corner Office, only to praise him once he won, issued a statement of support, calling the embattled president "a highly able public servant and a man worthy of admiration."

Laurel J. Sweet contributed to this report.

Caption: SEARCH: The FBI searches Scusset Beach in Sandwich yesterday on an apparently bogus tip that James J. 'Whitey' Bulger and his girlfriend, Catherine Greig, are buried there. Photo courtesy WBZ-TV

Caption: ON THE LAM: The whereabouts of Catherine Greig, left, and her fugitive beau, James J. 'Whitey' Bulger, right, are still a mystery. File photos

**Load-Date:** December 5, 2002

Deal that secured Martorano's testimony is defended



## *Deal that secured Martorano's testimony is defended*

The Boston Globe

June 19, 2013 Wednesday

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**Section:** NEWS; Metro; Pg. A,6,62

**Length:** 757 words

**Byline:** By Milton J. Valencia, Globe Staff

### **Body**

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By all accounts, it was a deal with the devil.

John Martorano, who has admitted to killing 20 people, including two teenagers, has strolled into the federal courthouse in South Boston over the past two days a free man, part of an agreement he reached with federal prosecutors in exchange for his testimony about James "Whitey" Bulger and the gangster's corrupt relationship with the FBI.

Tom Donahue, whose father, Michael, was an innocent bystander allegedly gunned down by Bulger in 1982, called the deal "an absolute joke."

But lawyers and law enforcement officials, even if they despise Martorano, say the government's deal with him was a necessary evil to expose the broader history of Bulger's reign of terror, unsolved murders, and FBI corruption.

"They would never have gotten the truth without him," said Anthony Cardinale, a Boston attorney who represented Mafia head Francis P. "Cadillac Frank" Salemme during the 1998 federal court hearings that exposed the secret relationship of Bulger and Stephen Flemmi with the FBI.

"It was a deal with the devil, but in the long run it was the best thing they could do to get to the truth," Cardinale said.

Martorano, a 72-year-old father of five, has turned heads over the past two days in Bulger's racketeering trial with his uncensored testimony as he has described the 20 killings, seemingly without emotion. He implicated Bulger in 11 of the killings when he began cooperating with authorities after Bulger and Flemmi were exposed as informants in 1998.

Serving as the backdrop of his testimony is the controversial deal that has allowed him to remain a free man.

Martorano was sentenced to only 14 years in prison, and served 12 of them, after pleading guilty to racketeering, extortion, and money laundering charges. He admitted to 20 murders, but none of his testimony could be used against him. He was released from prison in 2007.



## Deal that secured Martorano's testimony is defended

In exchange, he agreed to testify about his former cohorts and their relationship with the FBI.

Michael Huff, a retired detective who investigated Robert Wheeler's killing — committed by Martorano allegedly at Bulger's urging — said the deal was the best scenario under the circumstances.

"Nobody likes somebody not being held accountable for their crimes, but this set of circumstances was one that I don't think anybody's ever seen before," he said. "It was a complicated situation, and I think it's very easy for people to Monday morning quarterback a situation where there was just this unheard of set of circumstances, the collusion between a couple of FBI agents and these killers."

During questioning Monday, prosecutors pointed out that Martorano had only faced a sentence of about five years in prison for his original racketeering indictment, before he admitted to the murders. If he did not cooperate, he might have been free anyway.

Martorano's cooperation also opened a floodgate for others to testify against Bulger and Flemmi, leading to charges of murder against Bulger, Flemmi, and Bulger's FBI handler John J. Connolly Jr. Martorano believed that "you can't rat on a rat," as he has testified before in Miami.

Facing new charges, Flemmi ultimately pleaded guilty and agreed to cooperate to escape the death penalty. Connolly was sentenced to 40 years in prison for providing Bulger with information that led him to allegedly kill an informant.

And Martorano helped implicate other law enforcement officers including former FBI agent H. Paul Rico, who died before he could go to trial.

On Wednesday, Martorano is set to testify for the third day in Bulger's trial.

"This was a cost-benefit decision made at the highest levels of the Department of Justice," said attorney Martin Weinberg, who represented Martorano when he first challenged the charges, then agreed to make a deal with prosecutors.

"The decision was made that without Martorano's testimony the FBI's involvement in Boston crime, a matter of huge public importance, would not have been fully illuminated," Weinberg said.

Bulger's lawyers questioned Tuesday whether Martorano was seeking to save himself out of fear that Flemmi could turn and testify against him first. They also accused him of shaping his testimony to favor prosecutors.

The lawyers also asked Judge Denise Casper to give jurors a "cautionary instruction" that would allow them to consider a witness's deal with prosecutors in assessing his or her credibility, which the judge indicated she would do.

Travis Andersen of the Globe staff contributed to this report. Milton J. Valencia can be reached at [mvalencia@globe.com](mailto:mvalencia@globe.com).

**Load-Date:** June 19, 2013



## *Death, deceit, then decades of silence*

The Boston Globe

July 27, 2007 Friday

THIRD EDITION

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**Byline:** Shelley Murphy Globe Staff

### **Body**

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#### FBI CONDEMNED IN LANDMARK RULING

FBI agents listening in on a bug planted in the Providence headquarters of New England Mafia boss Raymond L.S. Patriarca in 1965 overheard two notorious Boston gangsters seeking permission to kill a small-time hoodlum.

Vincent "Jimmy the Bear" Flemmi complained that Edward "Teddy" Deegan had been causing trouble at a Revere nightclub frequented by mobsters, according to FBI reports. He was "an arrogant, nasty sneak and should be killed," Flemmi said, according to the reports.

The don told Flemmi and his fellow assassin, Joseph "The Animal" Barboza, that he would think it over.

Two days later, on March 12, 1965, Deegan was shot to death in a Chelsea alley. The same day, Flemmi officially became an FBI informant, like his brother, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, according to court records.

At the time, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover had ordered the agency to make dismantling the Mafia its top priority, and he had stressed that it was crucial to develop informants among organized crime figures. Both Flemmis were cited in FBI documents as valuable informants against the Mafia.

Deegan's murder remained unsolved until two years later, when FBI agents ***H. Paul Rico*** and Dennis Condon recruited Barboza to become a witness in a series of federal and state trials involving local Mafia leaders. He admitted his role in Deegan's slaying and implicated others, but not Vincent Flemmi.

The FBI turned Barboza over to state prosecutors, who used him as the key witness in a 1968 trial that led to the wrongful convictions of Joseph Salvati, Peter J. Limone, Louis Greco, and Henry Tameleo for Deegan's murder. At the time, Tameleo was the reputed consigliere of the New England mob, and Limone was alleged to be a Boston leader.

Salvati and Greco weren't alleged to be members of the mob but had had previous run-ins with Barboza.

Years went by. Limone and Salvati grew old behind bars. Tameleo and Greco died in prison.

## Death, deceit, then decades of silence

Then in 1997, Stephen Flemmi triggered an FBI scandal by publicly revealing after his arrest that he and fugitive gangster James "Whitey" Bulger were longtime FBI informants, whose corrupt handlers accepted gifts and bribes from them, tipped them to investigations, and leaked to them the identities of informants who were cooperating against them.

A Justice Department task force of FBI agents led by special prosecutor John Durham launched an investigation into the agency's handling of informants stretching back to the 1960s. In 2000, the task force uncovered secret FBI documents that indicated Barboza might have framed Salvati, Limone, Greco, and Tameleo, while protecting one of the killers, Vincent Flemmi.

Durham turned the documents over to lawyers for Limone and Salvati, and in January 2001 a state judge overturned their murder convictions, ruling that the documents probably would have helped them prove their innocence at trial. Greco and Tameleo were exonerated posthumously.

"It was more important for the FBI to protect its murderous informants than it was to protect the lives of innocent men and their families," said Medford lawyer Victor J. Garo, who represents the Salvatis.

While testifying before the congressional committee, Louis Freeh, then the FBI director said the bureau's role in the case was "a very sad chapter in the history of this agency." He called it a "great travesty, a great failure."

Defense lawyers for the four men had not been told that other informants revealed to the FBI that Vincent Flemmi had planned Deegan's slaying and that they identified his accomplices as other men, not Salvati, Limone, Greco or Tameleo. They also weren't told that Barboza and Vincent Flemmi had sought permission from Patriarca to kill Deegan just two days before his slaying, undermining Barboza's contention that Limone had ordered the murder months earlier and that Tameleo had sanctioned it.

In his early debriefings with the FBI, Barboza had warned agents that he wouldn't provide any information that would let Vincent Flemmi "fry" for the murder.

A congressional committee that investigated the FBI's handling of Bulger, the Flemmis, and other informants issued a scathing report in 2003. The organized crime informant program, the report stated, was "one of the greatest failures in the history of federal law enforcement."

The FBI has declined to comment on the case, citing pending litigation.

In an interview with the Globe in April, FBI Director Robert S. Mueller III said, "I think the public should recognize that what happened, happened years ago."

He said the FBI has "put into place mechanisms to prevent this from happening in the future."

The Bulger scandal prompted the Justice Department to adopt new informant guidelines in January 2001 that added more oversight of agents.

Former FBI agent John J. Connolly Jr. was convicted of racketeering in 2002 and sentenced to 10 years in prison for protecting Bulger and Stephen Flemmi from prosecution and leaking information to them while he was an agent. He is scheduled to stand trial in Miami in September on charges that he helped the pair orchestrate a 1982 gangland murder.

Rico, the agent who had cultivated the Flemmis and helped recruit Barboza as a witness, died in 2004 while he was awaiting trial on charges that he helped Bulger and Stephen Flemmi murder a Tulsa businessman in 1981.

SIDEBAR:

COURSE OF WRONGFUL CONVICTIONS

## Death, deceit, then decades of silence

March 12, 1965: Small-time hoodlum Edward "Teddy" Deegan, 35, of Malden is lured to a Chelsea alley on the pretext of burglarizing a finance company, then shot to death.

Spring 1967: Mafia hit man Joseph "The Animal" Barboza is recruited by the FBI to testify against mob figures in exchange for leniency for his crimes. He confesses to killing Deegan and implicates Peter J. Limone, Henry Tameleo, Louis Greco, and Joseph Salvati in the slaying.

Oct. 25, 1967: Suffolk County grand jury indicts Limone, Salvati, Tameleo, and Greco in slaying.

July 31, 1968: A jury convicts all four. Greco, Tameleo, and Limone are sentenced to die in the electric chair; Salvati gets life in prison.

1970s: Terms of Limone, Tameleo, and Greco are reduced to life in prison after the death penalty is abolished in Massachusetts.

1976: Barboza is killed in San Francisco.

1983: Greco appears on defense lawyer F. Lee Bailey's TV show, "Lie Detector," broadcast from prison. A polygrapher tests Greco and finds he is telling the truth when he denied any role in Deegan's killing.

Aug. 18, 1985: Tameleo dies in prison at age 84, after serving 18 years.

Dec. 30, 1995: Greco dies in prison at age 78, after serving 28 years.

March 20, 1997: Governor William F. Weld commutes the sentence of Salvati, 64, and he is freed on parole after serving nearly 30 years in prison.

December 2000: An FBI task force established to investigate the agency's handling of informants amid allegations of corruption involving gangsters James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi uncovers secret FBI reports that indicate Barboza framed the men.

Jan. 5, 2001: Superior Court Judge Margaret Hinkle orders the release of 66-year-old Limone. The judge, citing "a substantial likelihood of a miscarriage of justice," finds that Limone and the three others probably would have been acquitted of Deegan's slaying if jurors had seen the newly uncovered FBI documents.

Jan. 18, 2001: Hinkle vacates Salvati's conviction and all charges are dismissed.

Nov. 20, 2003: The House Committee on Government Reform condemns the FBI for failing to turn over documents that might have helped Salvati, Limone, Greco, and Tameleo prove their innocence in the Deegan slaying.

June 2005: Greco's conviction is posthumously vacated.

November 2006: Trial begins in US District Court in Boston over a suit seeking compensation from the government for the wrongful imprisonment of the four men.

Jan. 19: The Suffolk County district attorney's office moves to vacate Tameleo's conviction posthumously, which is later granted.

Feb. 27: Final arguments are heard in US District Court. Present are three congressmen who were involved in the two-year investigation into the FBI's mishandling of informants and who had condemned the government's handling of the case: Dan Burton, an Indiana Republican; William D. Delahunt, a Quincy Democrat; and Stephen F. Lynch, a South Boston Democrat.

Yesterday: US District Judge Nancy Gertner orders the government to pay a record \$101.7 million to the four men and their families for its role in wrongfully convicting and imprisoning them.

## Graphic

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Joseph Salvati (left) and Peter J. Limone before their convictions.

**Load-Date:** July 27, 2007

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End of Document



## **DEATH OF EX-FBI AGENT RICO STUNS OKLA. CITY**

The Boston Globe

January 19, 2004, Monday

THIRD EDITION

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**Section:** METRO/REGION;

**Length:** 654 words

**Byline:** By Ralph Ranalli, Globe Staff

### **Body**

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The ringing telephone jolted him awake, but the news Tulsa police Detective Sergeant Mike Huff received early Saturday morning was even more jarring - **H. Paul Rico**, the former FBI agent whom Huff had pursued as a murder suspect for more than two decades, had died in jail awaiting trial.

"At first I thought it was a joke," Huff said yesterday, "and a bad one at that."

After a day of paperwork and dealing with the official details of Rico's death, apparently of natural causes, Huff had time to assess his feelings only late at night, when he was back in bed, staring sleeplessly at the ceiling. Over the years, Huff had endured marital difficulties, resistance from the FBI, and law enforcement turf wars so intense that some nearly ended in fisticuffs.

He said it wasn't just the disappointment of seeing 22 years of investigation end without a trial or a conviction that bothered him; the people of Tulsa were robbed of a chance to heal a psychological wound, Huff said, one that had lain open since one of their leading citizens, minerals and technology tycoon Roger Wheeler, was gunned down at midday as children watched from a nearby swimming pool in the spring of 1981.

Rico, 78, died Friday night in a medical unit at David L. Moss Criminal Justice Center in Tulsa while awaiting trial on charges that he had helped his longtime informants, James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, plan and carry out Wheeler's murder. Huff had worked for more than 20 years to show that Wheeler was murdered to prevent him from discovering that organized crime had infiltrated his Miami-based parimutuel gambling company, World Jai Alai, where Rico had worked as an executive after leaving the FBI.

Some of the evidence showed that the conspirators had picked Tulsa over other, perhaps more convenient places to commit the crime, such as Wheeler's vacation home on Nantucket, Huff said.

"They thought they could avoid justice by picking Tulsa. They thought it would never get solved," said Huff, 48. "They chose Tulsa because we were hicks or whatever, but it backfired. In fact it came back to bite them."

## DEATH OF EX-FBI AGENT RICO STUNS OKLA. CITY

Rico's trial, Huff said, would have been a chance for Tulsans to hear "an extraordinary story, one they will never hear again."

A trial in Tulsa is still possible if authorities capture Bulger, a fugitive for nine years, but Rico was the big prize, Huff said.

Rico allegedly was the nexus between corruption in some quarters of the FBI's organized crime program and the East Coast underworld.

Over the weekend, others in Tulsa echoed Huff's sentiments.

"Everyone wanted a trial to bring closure to this case," Tulsa County's District Attorney Timothy Harris said.

Julie DelCour, a writer at the Tulsa World newspaper, said the Wheeler murder, as a "cold-blooded hit, was very unusual."

"Even though we are considered part of the Southwest, our sensibilities here are very Midwestern," DelCour said. Tulsa had its bootleggers during Prohibition and has problems with drug gangs, but the area has been "fairly immune to organized crime."

"And the fact that an FBI agent could have been so deeply involved in a murder was deeply shocking" to the area's sensibilities, she said. Her home is just a few blocks from the 61st Street entrance to the Southern Hills Country Club, where Wheeler was murdered, and even now when she passes it, she said, she gets the feeling that many Tulsans have that they were robbed of their sense of security that day.

While there was little satisfaction in seeing Rico being wheeled into court as an old man hooked up to an oxygen mask, DelCour said, what people wanted most was to "finally have the story told from stem to stern."

Huff said he had been looking forward to facing his old adversary one more time.

"I was lined up for a hell of a fight, and I know he [Rico] was, too," Huff said. "Now here I am, all dressed up with no place to go."

Ralph Ranalli can be reached at [ranalli@globe.com](mailto:ranalli@globe.com).

## Graphic

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PHOTO, Detective Sergeant Mike Huff of the Tulsa, Okla., police investigated the death of Roger Wheeler for 22 years. / PHOTO COURTESY OF TULSA WORLD

**Load-Date:** January 20, 2004

Dec. 25-Jan. 1, and thereafter; Church scandal, gay marriage top stories in 2002



## [Dec. 25-Jan. 1, and thereafter; Church scandal, gay marriage top stories in 2002](#)

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

December 23, 2003, Tuesday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 1193 words

**Byline:** By MARTIN FINUCANE, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** BOSTON

### **Body**

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The two top stories of 2003 in Massachusetts marked the end of one saga and the dawning of a new one.

A ruling by the state's highest court that granted same-sex couples the right to marry put Massachusetts at the epicenter of the nation's debate on gay marriage, certain to continue being debated throughout 2004 and beyond.

This year also marked several healing developments in the ongoing church abuse scandal that first erupted nearly two years ago.

A new archbishop, Sean P. O'Malley, arrived on the scene this summer in Boston in the brown robes of a simple friar, dedicated to healing, and quickly forged an \$85 million settlement with more than 500 people who said they had been molested by priests.

And because of the efforts of the man known as "Archbishop Sean," the story of the scandal in Massachusetts churches, which had created a furor worldwide, appeared to be winding down.

Associated Press newspaper and broadcast members were split over which story topped the headlines, but the edge went to the Supreme Judicial Court's gay marriage ruling in mid-November.

Seven gay and lesbian couples sued the state seeking the right to marry. The court's ruling was long-anticipated, and for those looking for the court to break new ground, the justices didn't disappoint.

In the ensuing weeks, advocates for the gay and lesbian community and Massachusetts lawmakers have debated whether the court was ordering the state to allow same-sex couples to marry - or if the court would be satisfied with civil unions.

The ruling was applauded as a civil rights milestone by gay activists. Plaintiffs in the suit were ecstatic, celebrating with immediate proposals of marriage to each other.



Dec. 25-Jan. 1, and thereafter; Church scandal, gay marriage top stories in 2002

But there were plenty of critics, too, starting from the top, with President George W. Bush condemning the ruling and commenting that the court "had overreached its bounds."

And it wasn't long before politicians at the Statehouse began to talk about whether the court would be satisfied by the passage of a "civil union" law like that passed in Vermont.

The church abuse scandal made headlines throughout the year. An attorney general's report found that more than 1,000 people had been sexually abused by priests and other church workers over the past six decades. One former priest, convicted pedophile John Geoghan, who had been at the center of the scandal, was murdered in prison in August.

It came a month after O'Malley was installed as archbishop, succeeding Cardinal Bernard Law, who had resigned in December 2002 after mounting criticism of his handling of the sex-abuse crisis.

O'Malley immediately cut a more common-man approach to the archdiocese. He was empathetic in his pronouncements, met with victims, and won widespread praise when he agreed to a settlement that had seemed so elusive. O'Malley put the archbishop's stately residence and 27 acres of property in Boston on sale to help pay for the settlement.

In other top stories of the year, Red Sox madness swept the state as the star-crossed team that has generated so much loyalty and so much disappointment over the decades battled its way through the playoffs.

Many whispered old fears that the "Curse of the Bambino" would raise its ugly head and the ghosts seemed to be present on the field again as the Sox lost to longtime-rival New York Yankees in the 11th inning of the seventh game of the American League Championship series.

A new era was ushered in at the University of Massachusetts when William M. Bulger, who had ruled the state Senate for 17 years and then became president of University of Massachusetts, stepped down from his post.

It came as a congressional committee turned a bright spotlight on his relationship to his notorious older brother, James "Whitey" Bulger, a fugitive mobster on the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted" list, sought in connection with 21 murders.

The story of the Boston mob took two further twists when James Bulger's former partner, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, pleaded guilty to charges under which he will serve life in prison and **H. Paul Rico**, a former Boston FBI agent, was charged with helping Flemmi and Bulger's gang to murder an Oklahoma businessman.

Republican Gov. Mitt Romney took office with a massive \$3 billion gap in the state budget and a determination, shared by the Democratic-controlled Legislature, not to raise taxes.

Human service activists clamored that the vulnerable would be hurt and the state's cities and towns argued that taxes were just being shifted to the local level. But the budget was ultimately balanced through a mix of fee hikes, consolidations, cuts and dipping into the state's rainy day fund.

U.S. Sen. John F. Kerry, D-Mass., using an aircraft carrier as his backdrop, declared his candidacy for president, then watched as former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean cruised ahead of him in the polls to become the front-runner for the Democratic nomination.

Two major Massachusetts financial companies that had been deeply involved in the community announced that they would be acquired by out-of-state companies.

FleetBoston Financial Corp. said it would be acquired by Bank of America for \$47 billion, while John Hancock Financial Services Inc. said it would be acquired by Canada-based Manulife Financial Corp. in a \$10.4 billion stock swap.

Dec. 25-Jan. 1, and thereafter; Church scandal, gay marriage top stories in 2002

Cash-strapped Springfield turned up the volume in the national debate over the cost of prescription drugs by becoming the first city in the nation to turn to cheaper Canadian drugs for its employee health plan.

The federal government warned the program was illegal and risky, but other cities and states, including Boston and New Hampshire, moved toward duplicating the program.

Mutual fund investors learned some new terms - "market timing" and "late trading" - but the bottom line was a growing sense that small investors were being ripped off due to questionable practices at mutual funds that once had seemed so staid and reputable.

Putnam Investments was one of the major targets in the spreading scandal and Massachusetts Secretary of State William Galvin was a key player in uncovering the problems.

An unhappy end to a mystery was written when the remains of 16-year-old lifeguard Molly Bish of Warren were found in a wooded area of a nearby town. Bish's disappearance in 2000 had drawn national attention and, despite the discovery of her remains, no one had been charged in her killing by year's end.

Lastly, among the top stories of the year was one that didn't actually happen in Massachusetts but had a deep effect on residents: the nightclub fire in West Warwick, R.I., that killed 100 people - about a third of them from Massachusetts.

The fire, started when a rock band's pyrotechnics display set afire foam used as soundproofing, also injured about 200 people. It was the fourth-deadliest fire in U.S. history.

A Rhode Island grand jury earlier this month indicted the club's owners - former Massachusetts broadcaster Jeff Derderian and his brother, Michael Derderian - as well as Dan Biechele, the tour manager for the band Great White, who set off the fireworks display.

## Graphic

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AP Photos

**Load-Date:** December 24, 2003



## *Defendant taken to hospital*

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

January 15, 2004, Thursday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 364 words

**Dateline:** TULSA, Okla.

### **Body**

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A 78-year-old former FBI agent accused in the mob killing of a businessman remained hospitalized Thursday after officials at the Tulsa Jail decided to gather more complete medical information.

**H. Paul Rico** was transferred from the Tulsa Jail to a hospital on a "nonemergency status" Wednesday evening. A Tulsa County judge has set a hearing Friday on whether to order a mental competency evaluation for Rico.

First Assistant District Attorney Doug Drummond said he was told that jail medical personnel had experienced difficulty in getting Rico's medical records from Florida and wanted "to get a consult."

"It had nothing to do with anything that happened here or something that physically happened to him," said Chris Howard, a Tulsa Jail spokesman.

"We are also demonstrating that he has access to a hospital when he needs to go," Howard said.

Prior to Rico's transfer, defense lawyer Garvin Isaacs said he wanted him to attend Friday's hearing. It was uncertain whether the hearing would proceed if Rico was unavailable.

A Florida resident, Rico was charged in October with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder, stemming from the 1981 shooting of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler.

Defense lawyers have said Rico has severe coronary disease, a pacemaker, underwent bypass surgery 10 years ago, needs nine different medications daily and has lost 53 pounds since his Oct. 9 arrest in Florida.

Prosecutors contend that Rico's mental competency is in question because of prior defense assertions that Rico had been confused, hallucinating, paranoid and disoriented.

Isaacs said Rico's mental health has subsequently improved and that a psychiatrist thinks he is competent.

Investigators say Wheeler suspected that money was being skimmed from his World Jai Alai business by Boston gangsters who were informants for Rico when he was an FBI agent.

Defendant taken to hospital

Reputed New England mobsters James "Whitey" Bulger, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi and John Martorano were charged here in 2001 with murdering Wheeler.

Admitted hit man Martorano pleaded guilty, Flemmi reached a plea agreement to resolve his case, and Bulger has been a fugitive since 1995.

**Load-Date:** January 16, 2004

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End of Document

Defendant taken to hospital



## *Defendant taken to hospital*

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

January 16, 2004 Friday Final Home Edition

Copyright 2004 The Tulsa World

**Section:** NEWS; Tulsa; Pg. A16**Length:** 440 words**Byline:** BILL BRAUN and NICOLE MARSHALL World Staff Writers

### **Body**

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Murder defendant **H. Paul Rico** was transferred from the Tulsa Jail to a hospital on a "nonemergency status" Wednesday evening, while a court hearing on his mental status is still set for Friday.

"It had nothing to do with anything that happened here or something that physically happened to him," said Chris Howard, a Tulsa Jail spokesman.

Howard and First Assistant District Attorney Doug Drummond indicated that jail officials sought more complete medical information regarding the 78-year-old former FBI agent.

Rico reportedly was transported from the jail to Hillcrest Medical Center about 6:30 p.m. Wednesday. He remained at Hillcrest Thursday afternoon.

"We are also demonstrating that he has access to a hospital when he needs to go," Howard said.

Drummond said he was told that jail medical personnel had experienced difficulty in getting Rico's medical records from Florida and wanted "to get a consult."

Tulsa County Special District Judge Carlos Chappelle has set a hearing for Friday to decide whether to order a mental competency evaluation for Rico.

Prior to Rico's transfer to the hospital, defense lawyer Garvin Isaacs said he wanted Rico to attend the Friday hearing.

It was uncertain Thursday whether the hearing would proceed if Rico was unavailable.

A Florida resident, Rico was charged in October with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder, stemming from the 1981 shooting of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler.

Defense lawyers have asserted that Rico has severe coronary disease, a pacemaker, underwent bypass surgery 10 years ago, needs nine different medications daily and has lost 53 pounds since his Oct. 9 arrest in Florida.

Defendant taken to hospital

In pursuing a bail hearing that could give Rico the chance to be released from custody, Isaacs said Wednesday that "I'm concerned he will not survive."

Prosecutors contend that Rico's mental competency is in question because of prior defense assertions that Rico had been confused, hallucinating, paranoid and disoriented.

Isaacs said Rico's mental health has subsequently improved and that a psychiatrist thinks he is competent.

Investigators say Wheeler suspected that money was being skimmed from his World Jai Alai business by Boston gangsters who were informants for Rico when he was an FBI agent.

Reputed New England mobsters James "Whitey" Bulger, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi and John Martorano were charged here in 2001 with murdering Wheeler.

Admitted hit man Martorano pleaded guilty, Flemmi reached a plea agreement to resolve his case, and Bulger has been a fugitive since 1995.

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**Load-Date:** January 17, 2004



***Defense blasts Bulger's accuser; Attacks credibility; defendant is called shooter in '75 death***

The Boston Globe

June 19, 2013 Wednesday

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**Section:** NEWS; Metro; Pg. A,1,21

**Length:** 1146 words

**Byline:** By Shelley Murphy, Globe Staff

## **Body**

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James "Whitey" Bulger's defense moved to shift the jury's focus from the gangster to one of his chief accusers Tuesday, relentlessly attacking the credibility of a hit man-turned-government witness who they say has cast himself as an honorable vigilante.

Under sharp questioning, John Martorano, the first of Bulger's former underworld associates to testify at Bulger's racketeering trial in US District Court, insisted he was not a serial killer or a hit man despite killing 20 people, including a businessman he shot between the eyes.

"Serial killers kill until they got caught or stopped," said Martorano, 72, testifying that he stopped on his own and later confessed to the slayings. "A serial murderer kills for fun; they like it. . . . I didn't like doing any of it. . . . I never had any joy at all."

Henry Brennan, one of Bulger's lawyers, mocked Martorano. With rapid-fire questions laced with sarcasm, Brennan suggested that -Martorano lied when implicating Bulger in 11 slayings in order to -secure a deal with the government. Martorano served 12 years in prison in exchange for his cooperation.

The questioning was part of the defense's strategy to discredit Bulger's accusers, some of whom, like Martorano, -received plea deals.

Martorano, testifying for the second day, said Bulger was one of the triggermen who killed Edward Connors, a local tavern owner, inside a telephone booth on Morrissey Boulevard in -Dorchester in 1975. Martorano said he dropped off Bulger and his partner, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, and waited in the car. He said he heard gunshots, then the two returned and announced, "He's gone."

It was the first murder in which Martorano has identified Bulger as a shooter. He testified that Bulger, a fellow member of the Somerville-based Winter Hill Gang, was involved in 10 other slayings as a driver, accomplice, or part of the team that orchestrated them.

Defense blasts Bulger's accuser; Attacks credibility; defendant is called shooter in '75 death

Martorano said he was -enlisted by Bulger and other gang members to kill two men, one an FBI informant and the other a potential witness, after Bulger was tipped off by corrupt FBI agent John J. Connolly that the pair posed a threat to them.

Bulger, 83, was captured two years ago in Santa Monica, Calif., after more than 16 years on the run. He is charged in 32 counts of a racketeering indictment that alleges he participated in 19 slayings in the 1970s and 1980s; extorted drug dealers, bookmakers, and businessmen; laundered money; and kept an arsenal of illegal guns. Bulger rarely glanced at -Martorano, who testified they last saw each other in 1982.

In an effort to show just how close they once were, prosecutors showed jurors a photo of a smiling Bulger cradling -Martorano's infant son at his christening. Martorano told -jurors that Bulger was god-father to the baby, named James Stephen after Bulger and Flemmi.

But the defense challenged Martorano's credibility.

Brennan cast doubt on -Martorano's claim that in 1968 he accidentally shot two teen-agers who were huddled in a car with Martorano's intended target during a blizzard, noting that Martorano claimed he could not see them because they wore hoods. But police -reports indicated they did not have hoods. Martorano also -asserted that he stabbed one of his victims four times, yet -Brennan said an autopsy -revealed the man had been stabbed about 20 times.

Brennan ridiculed Martorano for depicting himself as a vigilante on "60 Minutes" in 2008. Martorano said a vigilante means "somebody that would hurt somebody that was doing wrong."

"That makes you a vigilante, like Batman?" Brennan said.

Martorano said most of the murders he committed were -favors for people close to him, because he had learned as a child from his parents, priests, and nuns that friends and family come first.

"Is there any honor and -integrity in what you did?" Brennan asked.

"I thought so," Martorano said.

"I always try to be a nice guy," he said. "If somebody was in trouble, I would try to help them."

Martorano said it was -Bulger's idea to kill Tommy King, a South Boston gangster, in 1975 by telling him they were getting together to kill someone else. When King -arrived wearing a bulletproof vest, Martorano said, he shot King in the back of the head, and others buried him.

Martorano said he later learned King's remains were near the Neponset River bridge because whenever they drove over it Bulger joked, "Tip your hat to Tommy."

Martorano testified that the Winter Hill gang decided to kill Richard Castucci, a Revere nightclub owner, after Bulger said Connolly, the FBI agent, warned him that Castucci was an informant who had revealed where a fugitive member of their gang was hiding.

After arranging for Castucci to pick up a gambling debt in December 1976, Martorano said, he walked into a Somerville apartment where Castucci was counting the money and shot him in the temple.

Martorano, who fled Boston in 1978 to evade a federal race-fixing indictment, testified that he was a fugitive in Florida when his friend, John Callahan, a Boston accountant and a "wannabe gangster," asked him to kill a Tulsa businessman.

Callahan, former president of World Jai Alai, feared the company's new owner, Roger Wheeler, would discover he was skimming from the company. Martorano said he agreed to kill Wheeler after Flemmi told him that he and Bulger were "on board" with the plan.



Defense blasts Bulger's accuser; Attacks credibility; defendant is called shooter in '75 death

A retired FBI agent, **H. Paul Rico**, who was director of security for World Jai Alai, provided Callahan with Wheeler's tee time at a Tulsa country club, said Martorano.

As Wheeler climbed into his car in May 1981 after a round of golf, Martorano said, "I opened the door and shot him . . . between the eyes."

Callahan was so happy, said Martorano, he paid him \$50,000. He said he did not kill for the money, noting, "He was a friend of mine. I would have done it for nothing."

The following year, said Martorano, he learned that Bulger had killed Callahan's friend, Edward "Brian" -Halloran, in Boston, after learning Halloran was cooperating with the FBI and had implicated Bulger, Flemmi, and Callahan in Wheeler's slaying.

Martorano said Bulger and Flemmi told him they had to kill Callahan because Connolly had warned them that the FBI planned to question him.

According to Martorano, Bulger said Connolly told him that Callahan "is going to get so much pressure on him he's going to fold . . . if he does fold we're all going to go to jail for the rest of our life." Martorano said he "felt lousy" about killing Callahan, but Bulger and Flemmi insisted.

Martorano said he lured -Callahan to Florida in 1982, picked him up at the airport, then shot him in the back of the head.

The next day, he and -McDonald left Callahan's body in the trunk of his car at Miami International Airport, and spread his wallet and other belongings in the Cuban section of Miami to throw off investigators.

Shelley Murphy can be reached at [shmurphy@globe.com](mailto:shmurphy@globe.com) Follow her on Twitter @shelleymurph.

**Load-Date:** June 19, 2013



**DEFENSE GIVES GLIMPSE AT STRATEGY; MOBSTER'S LAWYERS ATTEMPT TO DISCREDIT WITNESSES BY POINTING TO HISTORY OF POLICE CORRUPTION; BULGER TRIAL**

Hartford Courant (Connecticut)

July 25, 2013 Thursday

FINAL - 5 EDITION

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**Section:** CONNECTICUT; Pg. B1

**Length:** 1058 words

**Byline:** EDMUND H. MAHONY, , [emahony@courant.com](mailto:emahony@courant.com)

**Dateline:** BOSTON

## **Body**

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-- Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi endured more grueling cross examination Wednesday. A lawyer for his old partner, James "Whitey" Bulger, called Flemmi "a rat." And at the end of the day, there was a glimpse of what up to today had been Bulger's largely invisible defense.

There was no answer to the big question: Will Bulger testify? In fact, the defense seemed annoyed to what it described as repeated suggestion by prosecutors that Bulger should testify.

But with its combative questions to Flemmi and argument to U.S. District Court Judge Denise Casper after jurors were excused for the day, the Bulger defense team was basing part of its case on the city's tradition of law-enforcement corruption, much of it allegedly fed by Bulger and his gang.

The defense lawyers argued that the chief witnesses against Bulger -- ex-partners who are also three of the city's most violent, incorrigible and successful criminals -- have learned firsthand that crooked FBI agents and prosecutors can help criminals avoid indictment, or at least ameliorate prison sentences. More significantly, the defense is arguing, the witnesses also have learned that the way to win the support of such agents and prosecutors is to testify the way the government wants, even if it means lying.

The Bulger lawyers have not asserted that his prosecutors are acting improperly. Rather, the defense contends that important government witnesses, beneficiaries for years of corrupt law enforcement practices, did not have to be told how to shape their testimony.

Defense lawyers reflexively accuse cooperating prosecution witnesses -- such as Flemmi -- of shading the truth in return for light sentences or no sentences at all. But Bulger's lawyers put evidence of it before the jury Wednesday.

## DEFENSE GIVES GLIMPSE AT STRATEGY; MOBSTER'S LAWYERS ATTEMPT TO DISCREDIT WITNESSES BY POINTING TO HISTORY OF POLICE CORRUPTION; BULGER TRIAL

Flemmi testified that he personally became involved in a case where corrupt federal law enforcement officials intentionally convicted innocent men of murder in order to protect a cooperating witness. They argued that other cooperating witnesses against Bulger, 83, are aware of and guided by the same case.

"Did it create in your mind the impression that the government could put who they wanted into a murder and keep people out of murders?" Bulger lawyer Hank Brennan asked Flemmi.

The 79-year old Flemmi, rattled after his third day of cross examination and fifth as a witness, didn't rise to the bait.

"I don't know how to answer," he said. "I can't say what is in the government's mind or what power it has about who to prosecute."

The case, which took place in the 1960s, involved the murder of Teddy Deegan, a small-time criminal who happened to be Flemmi's friend. The killers, revealed in court decades later, were Flemmi's brother Jimmy "The Bear" Flemmi and his partner Joseph "The Animal" Barboza.

Discredited FBI agent H. Paul Rico, who died in prison in 2004 awaiting prosecution on an unrelated murder, arranged to have Flemmi's brother and Barboza taken out of the murder and replaced by four innocent men so that Rico could use Barboza as a cooperating witness in a major Mafia prosecution.

The four innocent men were convicted. Two died of old age in prison and two were released after serving about 30 years. A legal team led by Hartford lawyer Austin McGuigan won a \$100 million wrongful imprisonment judgment in the case in 2007.

Brennan was permitted to question Flemmi about Rico and the Barboza case. Flemmi testified that he visited his brother in prison after Rico instructed him to deliver a message: Flemmi's brother should keep his mouth shut about the frame.

"He told me to tell him not to get involved and to mind his own business," Flemmi testified.

Flemmi testified that he had become an informant for Rico at the same time Rico was attempting to frame the four men. Flemmi described his arrangement with Rico as a "quid pro quo." He said the two exchanged information.

Flemmi said he killed two men for Rico in the 1960s and gave Rico a gun that was to be used on a third. Flemmi said Rico warned him in return of his impending indictment for two crimes -- maiming a lawyer in a car bomb attack and shooting to death a man named Edward "Punchy" McLaughlin.

Flemmi said he heeded the warning and "went on the lam" for about five years. He said he returned after Rico told him "the coast is clear."

The defense lawyers have indicated they want to call as a witness former Springfield Mayor Michael Albano to testify that, during his time as a member of the state board of pardons in the 1990s, he was improperly pressured by FBI agents and federal prosecutors when he disclosed that he was going to vote for commutations for the four improperly convicted men.

Bulger lawyer J.W. Carney Jr. said Albano's testimony will show to what lengths the government will go to protect witnesses like Barboza.

"This is central to the defendant's case as to why the government witnesses are not credible," Carney argued.

Carney said cooperating Bulger witnesses like Flemmi, as well as ex-Bulger partners John Martorano and Kevin Weeks, are aware of what the government did for Barboza. He accused them of shaping their testimony to secure the government's cooperation. Martorano served about 12 years after admitting involvement in 20 murders. Weeks served about 5 years after admitting he was an accessory after the fact to five. Flemmi is serving life but was

DEFENSE GIVES GLIMPSE AT STRATEGY; MOBSTER'S LAWYERS ATTEMPT TO DISCREDIT WITNESSES BY POINTING TO HISTORY OF POLICE CORRUPTION; BULGER TRIAL

spared death sentences in Florida and Oklahoma, and has been moved to a relatively more comfortable prison for informants.

Capser was skeptical about Albano's relevance as a witness but reserved a decision.

The defense also said it will continue to argue that Bulger was not an informant, in the face of hundreds of pages of FBI records showing he was. If Bulger's lawyers prevail, they said, they will have shaken credibility of a long line of prosecution witnesses who said both Bulger and Flemmi were informants.

Flemmi's role as an informant continued to be a subject of Brennan's taunting cross-examination Wednesday.

"You don't like that word 'rat,' do you?" Brennan asked Flemmi.

"I don't think anyone likes it," Flemmi said. "I don't think Mr. Bulger likes it either."

"A rat is someone who scurries around in corners and feeds off other people, isn't it?" Brennan asked.

Prosecutor Fred Wyshak objected, but Brennan pressed on.

"So when you use the term 'quid pro quo,' that's just Latin for rat, isn't it?," Brennan asked.

**Load-Date:** July 26, 2013



## [Delahunt sits in on hearings](#)

The Patriot Ledger (Quincy, MA)

May 4, 2001 Friday

ROP Edition

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**Section:** NEWS,

**Length:** 425 words

**Byline:** Douglas Kiker

### **Body**

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Ex-Norfolk prosecutor

dismayed by testimony

Douglas Kiker

For The Patriot Ledger

WASHINGTON - U.S. Rep. Bill Delahunt, D-Quincy, said yesterday that the wrongful 1968 murder conviction of Joseph Salvati has "opened many, many eyes" to possible criminal misconduct by federal agents in New England in the 1960s.

Delahunt and other members of Congress heard testimony from Salvati, who spent more than 30 years in prison for the 1965 murder of Teddy Deegan, an alleged victim of organized crime.

Salvati and his attorney say misconduct by the FBI, including Boston-based agents **H. Paul Rico** and Dennis Condon, led to his conviction.

In 1997, Salvati was released on parole by Massachusetts authorities, and he fought for almost four years to clear his record.

In January, Middlesex Superior Court Judge Margaret Hinkle dropped all charges against Salvati after ruling that Rico and Condon withheld crucial evidence in the case that would have helped his defense.

The House Government Reform Committee, chaired by Rep. Dan Burton of Indiana, is investigating whether the FBI conspired to keep Salvati in prison to protect the identity of some confidential informants, including the man whose testimony led to Salvati's conviction.

Documents released by the FBI last year suggested that the FBI's chief witness at Salvati's 1968 trial, Joseph Barboza, framed Salvati and others.

## Delahunt sits in on hearings

The same documents also indicate that agents were told about the plot to murder Deegan days before it happened and apparently did nothing to stop it.

Although not members of the investigating committee, Delahunt and fellow Massachusetts lawmakers Marty Meehan and Barney Frank were invited to participate by Burton.

Yesterday's hearing included emotional testimony by Salvati and his wife recalling the 30 years he spent in prison, which Delahunt said highlighted the allegations against the FBI.

"One could only begin to feel the pain, the tears, the anguish, that family suffered," Delahunt said. "It was a poignant recitation of a life they did not deserve."

As a Norfolk County prosecutor for 21 years, Delahunt said he was especially disappointed in the allegations made against federal law enforcement officials.

"Is this what justice is about in America? No," he said. Delahunt, a member of the House Judiciary Committee, said yesterday's hearing would not be the end of congressional inquiries in the case.

"This is the first phase of what could be a lengthy investigation, not just by one congressional committee, but by several," Delahunt said.

**Load-Date:** May 13, 2002



## *Design rules for lockups ridiculous*

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

January 23, 2004 Friday Final Home Edition

Copyright 2004 The Tulsa World

**Section:** OPINION; Call the Editor; Pg. A2

**Length:** 902 words

**Byline:** Staff Reports

### **Body**

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The guidelines that require correctional facilities to provide a specified amount of natural light for each inmate are ridiculous. With exercise facilities, TV and three meals a day, most prisoners today live better than those that are free.

Pursuit of Rico worth it Kudos to the Tulsa Police Department and their dogged pursuit of *H. Paul Rico*. Even though he will never be tried by a jury, the former FBI agent died without his honor or his reputation. That is an eternal life sentence.

Bush shows no leadership I wasn't very impressed with President Bush's State of the Union address. I find this man incapable of having any kind of leadership whatsoever. It's either that or he has suffered an awful lot of bad luck.

Bush vowed unity, pushed division I watched the State of the Union address. I was sad that Bush concentrated on wage issues to divide the American people. He has not fulfilled his promise of uniting the American people. He declared himself a uniter and not a divider in the last election.

Democrats' policies unpopular I'm a moderate and would welcome an alternative to George Bush, but it just isn't out there. When will Democrats grasp the idea that Americans don't vote for them because they don't like their party's policies? This is evidenced by the fact that they can't gain a majority in any of the major government entities. The Republicans own the presidency, the House, the Senate, the governorships and the Supreme Court. Is this just coincidental?

NAACP needs to work with police I would like to issue a plea to the Tulsa chapter of the NAACP. Please overcome your resistance to Tulsa's Police Department and help them end the current episode of black-on-black gang violence that's occurring mostly in north Tulsa.

Dem senators acted disrespectful How childish the Democratic senators from New York and Massachusetts were during the State of the Union address. Democrats have shown no respect for the Oval Office and other American traditions. Desperation does not excuse the lengths that they are going to during this election. Democrats should help restore dignity to their party.

## Design rules for lockups ridiculous

Minimum wage insufficient There is no excuse for the minimum wage not being \$7 or more per hour. For everyone who is so appalled that any politician would suggest such a thing, I say shame on you. Live on \$5.15 an hour or even \$6 an hour while trying to raise a family and then tell me how appalling it really is.

Earth is warming; question is why Sen. Jim Inhofe takes a beating in this column about his position on global warming. No one can deny that there is a certain amount of global warming going on. Whether man or the internal combustion engine had anything to do with it is pretty questionable. Global warming has been going on since the last ice age. The first internal combustion engine didn't fire a cylinder until about 1880. It would be pretty hard to convince me that in less than 200 years global warming has suddenly become a huge problem.

Henry falls for every tax I see where Gov. Brad Henry endorses the \$1-a-pack cigarette increase. I don't think Henry ever met a tax he didn't like. I hope all of you, including the chicken fighters, are real pleased with him.

Grocery bad, but strip club good? I don't see how a Wal-Mart store is more threatening than a strip club. Of course, that didn't stop the neighborhood people from putting up a fuss about Wal-Mart being allowed to build there. I guess the strip club turns out to be the lesser of the two evils.

Episcopalians interfering wrongly The Episcopal church is seriously off base by concerning themselves with the consecration of the gay bishop. Personal sex habits and religion are not anyone's business unless they interfere with others.

GOP smearing Dean over speech I know the Tulsa World is Republican, but I'm going to express my opinion anyway. You have got to be kidding me. The Republicans are now making an issue about Howard Dean's pep talk in Iowa. What else could they possibly find to whine about? They are making this an issue and claiming he's out of control. Is there any bottom to the depths they will go to smear anybody that opposes Bush?

Citgo going to the new oil capital Since 1980 or so, Houston has become the nation's oil and gas powerhouse. It is obviously clear to most people and to me that Citgo is going to move to Houston. This will be a blow to Tulsa and a boom for Houston. I think they are delaying the announcement because they want to spare Tulsa another blow.

Tax boost won't stop kids' smoking We have a bunch of morons in this state. Do they honestly think that raising the tax on cigarettes will keep kids from buying them? This won't stop kids from buying them. It will just make them go online, out of state or to Indian smoke shops.

Clinton's gone, quit complaining I can't believe that callers are still complaining about Bill Clinton. My God, the man has been out of office for four years and we're still complaining about him. I know the Tulsa area hates him, but let's be realistic about it. He was a better president than what we've got today.

Call the Editor gives readers a forum to express opinions on a variety of issues. All calls must be limited to one minute, and we reserve the right to edit each call. You can Call the Editor at 581-8499, day or night.

You can also Speak Out! on [www.tulsaworld.com](http://www.tulsaworld.com). Go to the Web site, and join Tulsa's forum by clicking on Speak Out!

**Load-Date:** January 24, 2004





## **DESPITE FLEMMI'S SENTENCING, MOB CASE FAR FROM OVER**

The Boston Globe

January 27, 2004, Tuesday

THIRD EDITION

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**Section:** METRO/REGION;

**Length:** 934 words

**Byline:** By Shelley Murphy, Globe Staff

### **Body**

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Notorious gangster and longtime FBI informant Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi will be sentenced to life in prison today for killing 10 people, but it may not be his last day in court.

If his longtime partner, James "Whitey" Bulger, is ever captured, Flemmi is likely to be a star witness against him. And if the nine-year fugitive remains out of grasp, Flemmi may still take the stand if information he's provided investigators over the past few months leads to charges against others.

"The case is not over," said State Police Colonel Thomas J. Foley, who launched the investigation that led to successive federal indictments against Bulger and Flemmi, the discovery of several unmarked mob graves, and the exposure of a corrupt relationship between the two longtime informants and some of their FBI handlers.

Foley would not speculate about suspects or future charges, but said, "We're going to follow the evidence wherever it leads us."

In October, Flemmi, 69, pleaded guilty in US District Court in Boston to killing eight men and two women and agreed to cooperate with the government in exchange for a recommendation that he spend the rest of his life in prison.

As part of the deal, prosecutors in Oklahoma and Florida agreed not to seek the death penalty against Flemmi for two murders he committed in those states.

One of Flemmi's lawyers, Page Kelley, said Flemmi is being held at an undisclosed prison in witness security, a unit designated for inmates who are cooperating with the government. "Basically at this point he is going to help the government in any way he can," she said.

US Attorney Michael J. Sullivan said Flemmi has provided helpful information, but it's "premature" to conclude whether there will be more indictments.

"If we could make additional prosecutions to tie into the decades of corruption and criminal activity, we certainly want to do that and will do that," he said.

## DESPITE FLEMMI'S SENTENCING, MOB CASE FAR FROM OVER

But, Sullivan said, some of the people Flemmi has implicated have died or been killed and it's impossible to corroborate some information because it's so old. "We're talking about, in some instances, four decades of criminal conduct by a number of individuals," Sullivan said.

Flemmi told investigators that his former handler, retired FBI agent John J. Connolly Jr., leaked information that prompted Flemmi and Bulger to kill two men - Richard Castucci, an FBI informant, and John Callahan, who was being sought for questioning by the FBI and could have implicated Bulger and Flemmi in another murder, according to court documents filed last fall.

But it is unclear whether Connolly could face new charges for those slayings because a jury in May 2002 found that prosecutors failed to prove that Connolly leaked information to his informants about Castucci and Callahan.

Still, Connolly, who was convicted May 2002 and is serving a 10-year prison term on charges of racketeering and tipping off Bulger to his upcoming indictment, remains under investigation, according to law enforcement officials.

Flemmi's cooperation led to the indictment last October of retired FBI agent **H. Paul Rico** on state murder charges in Oklahoma for allegedly helping Bulger and Flemmi kill a Tulsa businessman in 1981 because he suspected the gangsters were skimming money from his company, World Jai Alai. Rico died Jan. 16, just two days after pleading not guilty to the murder of Roger Wheeler.

Flemmi has identified other allegedly corrupt law enforcement officers and has provided an insider's account of dozens of gangland murders dating back to the 1960s, according to officials. While there is no statute of limitation on murder, many federal crimes - including bribery and obstruction of justice - must be prosecuted within five years after they occur.

If the government is unable to bring new charges as a result of Flemmi's cooperation, Sullivan said he would consider calling a special grand jury to conduct an inquest and release a detailed report of its findings to the public, as was done by Attorney General Thomas Reilly in the clergy sexual abuse scandal in the Archdiocese of Boston.

"I think it's important for the public to know what happened over the last three or four decades in the city of Boston and that steps have been taken to seriously reduce the risk of it being repeated," Sullivan said.

Flemmi is being questioned by the same team that has spent more than a decade targeting Bulger's gang: Organized Crime Strike Force prosecutors Fred Wyshak and Brian Kelly; US Drug Enforcement Administration agent Daniel Doherty; and Major Thomas Duffy and State Police Lieutenant Steve Johnson.

It is the same group of investigators that persuaded admitted hitman John Martorano and Bulger deputy Kevin J. Weeks to cut deals with the government.

Those deals led to the discovery of several unmarked graves, containing the remains of six victims of Bulger and Flemmi. In September 2000, Bulger was charged in 19 murders and Flemmi with 10, including his 26-year-old girlfriend and another woman whose mother had lived with Flemmi for decades and had three children with him.

Among those he admitted killing along with Bulger is John McIntyre, who the pair murdered in 1984 after learning from "federal law enforcement contacts" that McIntyre was cooperating with authorities investigating an ill-fated effort by the gangsters to send a boatload of weapons to the Irish Republican Army.

"It's probably a very black mark on Boston history here," said Foley. "There was something very wrong going on for a long time, and the problem was addressed and fixed. It took too long, but now they're being made accountable."

**Load-Date:** January 28, 2004

DETECTIVE: JAI ALAI SLAYING INVESTIGATION STILL ACTIVE; EX-FBI AGENT IS A TARGET OF PROBE,  
OFFICER TELLS CONGRESSIONAL PANEL



**DETECTIVE: JAI ALAI SLAYING INVESTIGATION STILL ACTIVE;  
EX-FBI AGENT IS A TARGET OF PROBE, OFFICER TELLS  
CONGRESSIONAL PANEL**

Hartford Courant (Connecticut)

December 6, 2002 Friday, 7 SPORTS FINAL

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**Section:** MAIN; Pg. A14

**Length:** 1055 words

**Byline:** EDMUND H. MAHONY; Courant Staff Writer

**Dateline:** BOSTON --

## **Body**

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A police homicide investigator from Oklahoma told a congressional panel Thursday that there have been "promising" developments that could lead to the arrest of a former FBI agent in one of the country's most puzzling murder mysteries, the 1981 assassination of World Jai Alai owner Roger Wheeler Sr.

"I do want to say the investigation of the Wheeler murder is still active," said Det. Sgt. Michael Huff, supervisor of the Tulsa homicide unit. "We're seeking murder charges against agent **H. Paul Rico** in Tulsa."

Rico, a retired FBI organized crime investigator from Boston, has consistently refused to discuss the case. Huff did not elaborate, but other sources said the Tulsa County district attorney is reviewing an arrest warrant application.

Huff was one of three witnesses from strikingly different backgrounds who appeared Thursday to share with the U.S. House Committee on Government Reform their beliefs that the Wheeler case may have been one of many murder investigations sabotaged by a cadre of corrupt or indifferent FBI agents.

Two years of investigation by the committee and dozens more by state and local police agencies and federal prosecutors have produced substantial evidence that Wheeler was killed to cover up an attempt by Boston gangsters to infiltrate the U.S. jai alai industry.

Joining Huff before the committee were Wheeler's youngest son David, a computer software designer from Austin, Texas, and Jeremiah T. O'Sullivan, a retired federal mob prosecutor from Boston.

The three had vastly different perspectives on the death of Wheeler, an oilman and electronics manufacturer believed to have been gunned down by Boston gangsters after buying World Jai Alai.

DETECTIVE: JAI ALAI SLAYING INVESTIGATION STILL ACTIVE; EX-FBI AGENT IS A TARGET OF PROBE,  
OFFICER TELLS CONGRESSIONAL PANEL

But their testimony supports the widely held belief that Boston FBI agents, compromised by organized crime figures who were supposed to be informants, have kept the case from being conclusively resolved. Some investigators suspect that at least one agent may have conspired in Wheeler's death.

David Wheeler, struggling occasionally with emotion, said a Boston bank offered to broker the sale of World Jai Alai Inc. to his father as an investment in the 1970s. Gambling then was largely illegal outside Nevada. Jai alai, a parimutuel sport imported from Spain, had been legal in Florida since the 1920s and the industry hoped to expand into the Northeast, including Connecticut.

David Wheeler said that all his father knew about jai alai was its profit potential. But he said his father felt comfortable moving into the business, because many of its most senior employees were retired FBI agents, including Rico. Rico has appeared twice before the committee in the last two years. One time, he acknowledged that one of his informants probably sent four innocent men to prison for life. At his other appearance he invoked his constitutional privilege against self-incrimination.

O'Sullivan received a harsh reception from committee members. At the time of Wheeler's death, he led the U.S. Department of Justice organized crime strike force in New England. In that position he worked with FBI agents who handled the gangster-informants now believed to have arranged the Wheeler killing -- James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi.

In recent years, a number of investigators have suggested that, in the 1980s, O'Sullivan intentionally ignored potentially illegal behavior by Bulger, Flemmi and their FBI handlers because he wanted their assistance in high-profile, local cases. Following that line of questioning, committee members grilled him about his decision to leave Bulger and Flemmi out of a 1970s race-fixing indictment that led to the convictions of virtually all of their fellow gang members. O'Sullivan said that there wasn't enough evidence to prosecute the two, who he had reason to believe at the time were responsible for a number of killings.

O'Sullivan has not testified during previous inquiries because of serious health problems, including a heart attack and two strokes. In his first testimony on the subject Thursday, he denied any wrongdoing. He said that in the 1980s he had wanted to clean up what he suspected were improper dealings between Bulger, Flemmi and FBI agents -- but was powerless against the FBI's formidable institutional strength in Boston.

"I'll tell you that, the FBI, if you go up against them, they will wage a war against you," O'Sullivan said. "They will cause you problems administratively. ... That would have precipitated World War III if I had tried to get into the FBI to deal with their informants. That was the holy of holies."

Huff had the most to say about both the past and future of the Wheeler case, which in the 1970s and 1980s was one of the most intensively investigated criminal inquiries in Connecticut. Wheeler bought a jai alai fronton in Hartford at about the time parimutuel gambling was legalized in Connecticut. Gov. Ella T. Grasso ordered a rigorous investigation of the industry after allegations surfaced that mob payoffs were linked to gambling's legalization. Wheeler was killed in the midst of the investigation.

Huff and O'Sullivan both testified that they concluded there was an improper relationship between Boston gangsters and FBI agents at the time of Wheeler's murder. But they disagreed on some specifics.

Huff said one of the worst experiences in his law enforcement career was a visit he and state police detectives from Connecticut paid to O'Sullivan in July 1982. By then, Huff and the Connecticut detectives he was working with suspected that FBI informants were responsible for the murder.

"I look back to the July meeting in this very building as an end of innocence in my career in law enforcement," Huff told committee members. "I had never been exposed to such a cesspool of dirt and corruption."

Reports filed by Huff and the Connecticut detectives show that O'Sullivan told them he believed that two former FBI agents -- John Connolly and Rico -- were improperly involved with Bulger and Flemmi.

DETECTIVE: JAI ALAI SLAYING INVESTIGATION STILL ACTIVE;EX-FBI AGENT IS A TARGET OF PROBE,  
OFFICER TELLS CONGRESSIONAL PANEL

O'Sullivan said he doesn't remember making the statements.

Connolly was imprisoned for 10 years earlier this year after being convicted of leaking sensitive law enforcement intelligence to Bulger and Flemmi. Huff said his office is investigating Rico as a possible conspirator in the Wheeler slaying.

**Load-Date:** December 6, 2002

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## DETECTIVE'S DOGGED PURSUIT LEADS TO ARREST AFTER 22 YEARS

**DETECTIVE'S DOGGED PURSUIT LEADS TO ARREST AFTER 22 YEARS**

Orlando Sentinel (Florida)

October 20, 2003 Monday, FINAL

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**Section:** LOCAL & STATE; Pg. B5**Length:** 577 words**Byline:** Kelly Kurt, the Associated Press**Body**

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MIAMI SHORES -- The sun had yet to rise over Miami Shores, but the Oklahoma lawman at ***H. Paul Rico***'s front door wasn't going to wait any longer.

His mustache had gone salt-and-pepper in decades of pursuit. His marriage had buckled under the strain. The tangle of false leads, wrecked vacations and outside efforts to thwart the dogged Midwestern cop had finally come undone.

It felt good -- after 22 years -- to interrupt the retired FBI agent's sleep with a knock.

"I'm Sgt. Mike Huff," the detective told Rico before informing him he was under arrest for the 1981 murder of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler.

Trailing Wheeler's murder into the depths of the Boston underworld and its relationship with the FBI, Huff is the first to say he didn't do it alone.

Huff's tenacity, however, has stood out, even as mobsters and corruption stood in the way.

Tulsa police Chief Dave Been thinks Huff and the threat of Oklahoma's death row helped break mob kingpin Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, who pleaded guilty last week in 10 murders, including that of Wheeler.

"Sgt. Huff just kept the pressure and kept the pressure," Been said. "I think that's what made Flemmi roll over."

Spared the possibility of lethal injection, Flemmi is cooperating with investigators and has told them Rico and others wanted Wheeler killed. Confessed triggerman John Martorano said Rico, who denies any involvement in Wheeler's death, aided the hit by providing information about Wheeler.

Children in the pool at Southern Hills Country Club heard the shot from the parking lot that killed Wheeler, 55, the chairman of Tulsa-based Telex Corp. and owner of Miami-based World Jai Alai, in May 1981.

The investigation that the then-25-year-old Huff led went cold at the start. Investigators eventually focused on Wheeler's suspicions that money was being skimmed from World Jai Alai. Rico, who retired from the FBI in 1975, was the company's chief of security.

## DETECTIVE'S DOGGED PURSUIT LEADS TO ARREST AFTER 22 YEARS

In 1982, a member of Boston's Winter Hill Gang was gunned down after reportedly telling the FBI that he had rejected an offer to kill Wheeler. Another person of interest to Huff, World Jai Alai executive John Callahan, was found dead in the trunk of a car.

A year after Wheeler's murder, Huff began to suspect Rico, who had cultivated Flemmi as an informant in 1965 when Rico was a rising star in the Boston FBI's war on organized crime.

As the investigation went on, federal agents accused Huff of jumping to conclusions, he said. Tulsa detectives were led on wild goose chases when Boston FBI reports validated false leads, Huff later learned.

Former FBI Agent John Connolly was convicted last year of protecting gangster informants, including James "Whitey" Bulger, a fugitive since being tipped off to his pending indictment in 1995.

Still, the stress of the unsolved Wheeler case wrapped tighter around him, and Huff's marriage fell apart.

When the 78-year-old Rico opened the door in his underwear Oct. 9, Huff found the moment bittersweet.

"What I was really thinking," he said, "was, 'Can I get past this and reclaim some normalcy?'"

Even with Flemmi's plea and Rico's arrest, the Wheeler murder investigation isn't over. Bulger remains at large, and the detective says without elaborating that Flemmi's confession "has opened a can of worms."

"It always comes down to the last man standing," said David Wheeler, Roger Wheeler's son. "Rest assured, Mike Huff will always be the last man standing."

**Load-Date:** October 20, 2003



***Detective spends 22 years on trail of killer  
Suspect in slaying of businessman is retired FBI agent***

Ventura County Star (California)

October 20, 2003 Monday

Copyright 2003 Ventura County Star

**Section:** News; Pg. A03

**Length:** 895 words

**Byline:** Kelly Kurt ; The Associated Press

## **Body**

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TULSA, Okla. -- The sun had yet to rise over Miami Shores, Fla., but the Oklahoma lawman at **H. Paul Rico**'s front door wasn't waiting any longer. After 22 years, it felt good to interrupt the retired FBI agent's sleep with a knock.

"I'm Sgt. Mike Huff," the detective told Rico before informing him he was under arrest for the 1981 murder of a Tulsa businessman.

After decades of pursuit, neither one needed the introduction.

Huff's mustache had gone salt-and-pepper since he was first assigned the case, and his marriage had buckled under the strain. But the tangle of false leads, wrecked vacations and outside efforts to thwart him had finally come undone that day in early October.

If it hadn't been him, Huff says, some other Tulsa police detective would have trailed Roger Wheeler's murder into the depths of the Boston underworld and its cozy relationship with the FBI.

Huff's tenacity, however, has stood out, even as mobsters and corruption stood in the way.

"Mike was a bulldog," said Robert Fitzpatrick, a former assistant chief of the FBI's Boston bureau. "He never let this go."

Tulsa Police Chief Dave Been believes Huff and the threat of Oklahoma's death row helped break mob kingpin Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, who pleaded guilty last week in 10 murders, including that of Wheeler.

"Sgt. Huff just kept the pressure and kept the pressure," Been said. "I think that's what made Flemmi roll over."

Spared the possibility of lethal injection, Flemmi is cooperating with investigators and has told them Rico and others wanted Wheeler killed. A confessed triggerman said Rico, who denies any involvement in Wheeler's death, aided the hit by providing information about Wheeler.



Detective spends 22 years on trail of killerSuspect in slaying of businessman is retired FBI agent

On May 27, 1981, kids in the pool at a Tulsa country club heard the shot from the parking lot. Wheeler, the 55-year-old chairman of Telex Corp. and owner of Miami, Fla.-based World Jai Alai, had been shot in the head after playing a round of golf.

Huff was 25 and undaunted when his supervisor told him the investigation into that afternoon's murder likely would change everything he'd thought about police work.

"Damn, I wish I hadn't been on duty that day," Huff would later say, after the case had consumed his life.

The investigation Huff led went cold at the start. Investigators eventually focused on Wheeler's suspicions that money was being skimmed from World Jai Alai. Rico, who retired from the FBI in 1975, was the company's chief of security.

In 1982, a member of Boston's Winter Hill Gang was gunned down after reportedly telling the FBI that he'd rejected an offer to kill Wheeler. Another person of interest to Huff, World Jai Alai executive John Callahan, was found dead in the trunk of a car.

"We were chasing leads all over the place," Huff said. "We very naively thought that as far as the Jai Alai angle, the FBI would bring us into the loop."

A year after Wheeler's murder, though, Huff's naivety was wearing off. He began to suspect Rico, who had cultivated Flemmi as an informant in 1965 when Rico was a rising star in the Boston FBI's war on the Mafia.

As the investigation went on, federal agents accused Huff of jumping to conclusions, he said. Tulsa detectives were led on wild goose chases when Boston FBI reports validated false leads, Huff later learned.

Former Boston FBI Agent John Connolly was convicted last year of protecting gangster informants, including James "Whitey" Bulger, a fugitive since being tipped off to his pending indictment in 1995.

Huff delivered 60 pounds of documents in 1995 to East Coast authorities investigating the Winter Hill Gang, warning them they were "stumbling into a load of corruption."

Five years later, he named Flemmi, Bulger, confessed triggerman John Martorano and Rico in an affidavit in Tulsa County. District Attorney Tim Harris brought murder charges against all but Rico, wanting more evidence to take to court.

"When you see somebody who is clearly in your sights, it's very nagging," Huff said of his frustration. "But in retrospect, the case (against Rico) is much better with Flemmi."

Huff interrupted vacations to chase leads. He called Wheeler's son, David, sometimes in the early morning hours. His dedication gave Wheeler's family hope that someone would eventually be brought to justice.

"He defines the word 'relentless,' " David Wheeler said.

Meanwhile, Huff led a homicide division in making arrests in more than 90 percent of Tulsa murder cases, a figure that compares with 62 percent nationwide.

Still, the stress of the unsolved Wheeler case wrapped tighter around him, and Huff's marriage fell apart.

When the 78-year-old Rico opened the door in his undershorts Oct. 9, Huff found the moment bittersweet.

"What I was really thinking," he said, "was, 'Can I get past this and reclaim some normalcy?'"

Rico and Huff, who'd met face to face many times over the years, exchanged words, but Huff won't say what they were.

Detective spends 22 years on trail of killerSuspect in slaying of businessman is retired FBI agent

Even with Flemmi's plea and Rico's arrest on a charge of first-degree murder, the Wheeler murder investigation isn't over. Bulger remains at large, and the detective says without elaborating that Flemmi's confession "has opened a can of worms."

Rico, meanwhile, is being held in Florida and faces an extradition hearing Tuesday. No trial date has been set in Oklahoma.

"It always comes down to the last man standing," David Wheeler said. "Rest assured, Mike Huff will always be the last man standing."

## Graphic

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AP

Tulsa, Okla., police Sgt. Mike Huff investigates the shooting of RogerWheeler at a country club in 1981. Huff spent 22 years on the case beforearresting an ex-FBI agent.

**Load-Date:** October 28, 2003

Did FBI get help 'flipping' Mob killer Barboza?



## [Did FBI get help 'flipping' Mob killer Barboza?](#)

The Boston Herald

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**Section:** NEWS;**Length:** 1010 words**Byline:** By RALPH RANALLI

### **Body**

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Part two of a two-part series

Former FBI Agent [H. Paul Rico](#) flipped Mob "rat" Joseph "The Animal" Barboza, one of Massachusetts' most prolific killers and most legendary Mafia turncoats, in 1967, but did he rely on more than just his legendary charm?

Intriguing questions have been raised by recent revelations at hearings and in court papers in the swirling controversy about the FBI's decades-long relationship with wiseguys Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi and James "Whitey" Bulger.

One of the most burning questions - suggested by the FBI's acknowledgement its recruitment of Flemmi predates its relationship with Barboza - is this: Did Flemmi aid Rico in wooing the Bay State's most prolific killer as a snitch?

That question may be answered at pre-trial hearings scheduled later this month when Rico and other FBI agents and former federal prosecutors will be called as witnesses. U.S. District Court Judge Mark L. Wolf ordered the hearings, as part of the racketeering case against New England Mob boss Francis P. "Cadillac Frank" Salemme, to find whether any laws or policies were violated in the FBI's use of informants and wiretaps.

The Herald reported yesterday that Rico and partner Dennis Condon were the architects of the FBI's controversial relationships with Flemmi, 63, and Bulger, 67. The question of whether Flemmi recruited Bulger has actually been prompted by the confluence of several facts.

First came the revelation that Flemmi began providing information to Rico and Condon as early as 1964 - three years before Barboza flipped. Second, it was revealed in open court this summer that Bulger and Flemmi helped the FBI recruit a "made" Mob soldier, Angelo "Sonny" Mercurio, as an informant. Mercurio helped the FBI accomplish its landmark bugging of a 1989 Mafia induction ceremony in Medford.

Interested observers have put those revelations together with the fact that Flemmi's older brother, Vincent J. "Jimmy the Bear" Flemmi was Barboza's closest friend, to raise the question.

"It's definitely something we'd like to find out," one longtime courthouse observer said.

## Did FBI get help 'flipping' Mob killer Barboza?

Before Bulger and Flemmi were unmasked, Barboza - who admitted killing at least 26 people - was the FBI's most controversial and celebrated underworld turncoat.

Though Barboza was murdered in 1976, the FBI is still facing questions about its relationship with "The Animal." For example, North End native Joseph Salvati - who for 30 years claimed that he was convicted on false testimony from the New Bedford hit man-turned-FBI informant - had his life sentence commuted in February by former Gov. William F. Weld.

Flemmi and Barboza had two important men in common: FBI Special Agent Rico and Flemmi's older brother. Barboza, in his self-titled autobiography, called "Jimmy the Bear" Flemmi his closest friend. Law enforcement and underworld sources also list the elder Flemmi as a driver and gunman for the notorious killer from New Bedford.

Court documents also suggest that Barboza's testimony in the Salvati case may have benefited the Flemmi brothers, and that when he later tried to recant, he was "coerced" into sticking to the story by his federal handlers.

The story of Barboza's alleged attempt to recant is contained in a sworn affidavit filed by prominent attorney F. Lee Bailey of Boston. The affidavit, sworn out four years after Barboza's death in 1976, states that Bailey was contacted in July 1970 and told that Barboza wanted to "set the record straight as to certain perjured testimony he had given in State and Federal courts."

Barboza said it was actually himself and three associates - Roy French, Ronald Cassesso and another man (who was not identified by Bailey) - who killed Edward "Teddy" Deegan in 1965 during the Irish gang war. Sources familiar with the case believe the unidentified man was "Jimmy The Bear" Flemmi.

Barboza wanted to recant his testimony in the Deegan murder, in which he had implicated six men: Salvati, French, Cassesso, Henry Tameleo, Peter Limone and Louis Greco.

The affidavit states that Barboza admitted he falsely implicated Mobsters Tameleo and Limone because the federal authorities insisted he implicate "someone of importance."

Bailey also said Barboza was leery about the severe legal consequences of recanting and feared going back to prison.

"Because he had become a government witness he would not expect to live more than a day if he were committed to the general population at Walpole, as he feared," Bailey wrote. Barboza's fear of being sent to Walpole was soon realized less than a month later, when his parole was revoked after a gun possession arrest in New Bedford.

"Subsequently, he told me that he had been informed by persons in authority, whom he did not name, that Federal agents would arrange for his release provided he discharge me and terminated his efforts to recant his testimony," Bailey wrote.

Bailey said yesterday that he still firmly believes that Barboza was telling the truth when he tried to recant - and that federal authorities "coerced" him into changing his mind. "I am satisfied of that beyond a doubt," Bailey said.

If federal authorities promised to stick by Barboza, Rico and Condon made good on it. They came to Barboza's rescue months later when he was charged with the first-degree murder of an associate in Santa Rosa, Calif.

Barboza claimed self-defense, even though the associate, Clayton Wilson, was shot twice in the head from behind.

Rico and Condon flew West to California to testify on Barboza's behalf. Barboza pleaded guilty to second-degree murder, but after Rico and Condon's intercession, received a sentence of 5 years to life. He served 4 years.

Photo Caption: AS THE MOB TURNS: Questions remain whether, in their efforts to recruit Mobster Joseph 'The Animal' Barboza, left, the FBI was helped by wiseguy Stephen 'The Rifleman' Flemmi, a prized informant. Flemmi may have used Barboza's friendship with Flemmi's older brother, Vincent J. 'Jimmy the Bear' Flemmi, right, to help 'flip' Barboza. Herald file photos

Did FBI get help 'flipping' Mob killer Barboza?

**Load-Date:** August 5, 1997

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**DID HASTINGS LIE AT HIS BRIBERY TRIAL? 14 JUDGES SAY YES,  
EMBATTLED JURIST SAYS NO**

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**Byline:** PETER SLEVIN Herald Staff Writer

**Body**

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The question: Did U.S. District Judge Alcee L. Hastings agree to take a bribe, then lie and fabricate evidence to win an acquittal?

The panel: 14 federal judges.

The unanimous answer: yes.

A secret report based on an unprecedented 3 1/2-year investigation concludes that one of Florida's most dynamic and popular federal judges is corrupt.

In 381 pages of intricate analysis, it declares that "substantial" new evidence exists to demonstrate Hastings' guilt on the bribery charges a jury rejected in 1983.

If another panel of judges agrees with that assessment, the report will be sent to Congress, where the House Judiciary Committee can choose to begin impeachment proceedings.

Even Hastings, a confident orator and shrewd tactician who feels entirely at home in the political arena, is worried.

Losing his \$78,700 job, he said, is "a distinct possibility."

Hastings, Florida's first black U.S. district judge, is barnstorming the country to save his career.

On the road four weekends out of five, exhorting scores of cheering audiences, he invokes themes of politics, race and fairness to convince Congress that he is the wrong man to challenge to a fight.

## DID HASTINGS LIE AT HIS BRIBERY TRIAL? 14 JUDGES SAY YES, EMBATTLED JURIST SAYS NO

His first goal is to stop the damning report from reaching Congress, the sole body empowered to remove a life-tenured federal judge from office. In the past 50 years, only one judge -- Nevada's Harry Claiborne -- has been impeached, and he was a convicted tax dodger.

In a response due Wednesday to the U.S. Judicial Conference, the next group to consider the report, Hastings' attorney will argue that the judges' reasoning is faulty, their efforts misguided, their conclusions incorrect.

To Hastings, the investigation was a "witch hunt." He likened it to the Spanish Inquisition. He said it was fundamentally unfair to have to endure a lengthy, secret investigation into the same charges he was cleared of by a jury.

A specially appointed committee of five judges began sifting details shortly after Hastings' acquittal in 1983. They concluded not that the jury was wrong, but that it was misled by Hastings.

The 14-judge council of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals endorsed that conclusion in a secret resolution adopted Aug. 29.

The case against Hastings fills 298 pages and thousands of pages in appendices. A delicate lattice, the evidence ranges from secretly taped conversations to sworn statements, judicial rulings to telephone message slips.

The case is circumstantial. It rests on detail and nuance and is subject to interpretation. The observer is asked to draw conclusions -- not from one incident or conversation, but from dozens.

The judges found no smoking gun. What they did find were serious new questions without satisfactory answers.

Hastings would not answer those questions. He refused an offer to testify, choosing instead to pursue a series of unsuccessful constitutional challenges to the investigation itself. If there comes a time to testify, he now says, it will be in Congress.

The judicial report remains secret. The Miami Herald pieced together the following synopsis from interviews, court documents and transcripts of the trials of Hastings and his co-defendant, William A. Borders Jr.

\* \* \*

The case of United States vs. Hastings began when an unlikely character, a small-time crook named William Dredge, walked into the federal Strike Force office in Miami one dog-day Friday afternoon in July 1981. He wanted help on a drug charge. He said Alcee Hastings was for sale.

FBI agents followed Dredge's tip to Miami International Airport and watched a tall, heavy-set man step off a flight from Washington. A prosecutor recognized the man as Bill Borders, president of the predominantly black National Bar Association.

The agents trailed Borders to the Fontainebleau on Miami Beach. There he met with Santo Trafficante, Florida's most notorious organized crime boss.

Trafficante faced a fresh racketeering charge in Hastings' court. Borders was one of Hastings' closest friends, an influential supporter of his 1979 appointment to the federal bench.

Dredge told government agents that Borders had spoken to Trafficante about his friend, the judge. Trafficante and two mob associates were willing to pay to fix his case, perhaps as much as \$1 million, the agents heard.

Prosecutors knew Borders had met twice with Trafficante, but they soon realized that they would be unable to infiltrate the negotiations. Needing another approach, they decided on a sting.

They heard of another Hastings case that Borders had tried to work earlier. The defendants were two accused Hallandale racketeers, Frank and Thomas Romano, brothers convicted of bilking hundreds of thousands of dollars from a Teamsters union pension fund.

## DID HASTINGS LIE AT HIS BRIBERY TRIAL? 14 JUDGES SAY YES, EMBATTLED JURIST SAYS NO

The prosecutors decided to employ a retired FBI agent to pose as Frank Romano. He would set a trap. They would see who, if anyone, would take the bait.

\* \* \*

The trap slammed shut on Borders five weeks later, a bag of FBI-issue \$100 bills at his feet.

Miami grand jury 81-1 listened to the evidence and indicted Borders and Hastings as conspirators. The grand jurors said the two men teamed to sell a judicial decision: Hastings tipped Borders to the substance and timing of a ruling; Borders played the go-between.

The two were tried separately. Borders, who never testified, went to prison. Hastings went free.

The Hastings jurors deliberated 17 1/2 hours in February 1983. After praying aloud that they had made the correct decision, they filed quietly into a small courtroom where, one by one, they said, yes, this was their verdict.

Hastings was jubilant -- and embittered. "I feel vindicated," he said. "I received a favorable result from what is obviously an outstanding jury . . . in one of America's most unfair trials."

He charged that federal prosecutors, singling him out for persecution, paid too little attention to the possibility that Borders pulled a scam by claiming influence he didn't have.

The five-judge panel considered that theory -- and rejected it. They worked backward, examining the Justice Department's original justifications for the sting.

Borders had made overtures to the Romanos and to Trafficante well before the government set its trap. Twice, investigators believe, he had correctly predicted Hastings' conduct in 1981 -- once in a court ruling and once on a social occasion in Washington. Was Hastings tipping him in advance?

The Romano case seemed the way to find out.

Hastings had presided over their case in December 1980. In May 1981, he ordered them to surrender \$845,000 and a \$323,000 interest in a Broward seafood restaurant. In July he sentenced them to three years in prison.

Through Dredge, the FBI passed a message to Borders on Sept. 10, 1981, that the "Romanos" were willing to deal.

With the FBI plan in place, Dredge introduced rough-talking undercover agent H. Paul Rico to Borders and bowed out.

Rico, wearing a hidden microphone, met Borders in Miami on Sept. 12, 1981. He listened as Borders promised to get Hastings to return a "substantial amount" of the forfeited money and reduce the Romanos' prison terms. He wanted \$150,000 for his effort.

"Does that, that meet your satisfaction?," Borders asked.

"Well, the, ah, the ultimate goal is, ah, you know, just what I want," the agent replied.

Speaking carefully and writing down key details lest he be overheard, Borders proposed that the undercover agent make the first bribe installment only after Hastings had returned some of the money. "That will be a signal showing you that I'm . . . I know what I'm talking about, right?"

To further convince the agent that he was working with Hastings, Borders offered another sign, apparently patterned after a signal in the aborted Trafficante case.

Borders offered to have Hastings appear for dinner at a restaurant of the agent's choice the following Wednesday. If all went well, the agent would make a \$25,000 down payment the next weekend. The agent settled on the Fontainebleau, main dining room, 8 p.m.



## DID HASTINGS LIE AT HIS BRIBERY TRIAL? 14 JUDGES SAY YES, EMBATTLED JURIST SAYS NO

Shortly before 8 o'clock on Sept. 16, Hastings and a Miami accountant, Essie Thompson, crossed the foyer of the Fontainebleau and walked into the main dining room.

\* \* \*

Hastings later testified that Borders had promised to meet him that night and didn't show. He said it was typical of the man's secretiveness and unreliability.

Thompson testified for the prosecution.

She said Hastings had invited her for dinner the day before. He had not said they would be meeting anyone. He had not mentioned Borders.

The maitre d' seated the couple at a table for four, taking away the extra two settings. Hastings did not protest.

They ordered drinks. Maybe 15 minutes later, Thompson said, the judge got up. A few minutes later, he came back. He said he had been looking "for some friend that he was expecting from D.C."

Prosecutors argued that Hastings had gotten up and walked around to make sure the Romanos knew he was there.

Hastings countered that Borders had tricked him. He said his friend must have been trying to trade on the judge's good name.

On cross-examination, Hastings admitted he had made a dinner reservation for only two.

\* \* \*

While Hastings was dining at the Fontainebleau, Borders was with friends in Las Vegas, gearing up for that night's title fight between Sugar Ray Leonard and Tommy Hearns.

Two days after the fight, he flew from Las Vegas to St. Louis to Washington to Atlanta to Miami, arriving at 2 a.m. He had kept his part of the deal, and he had a \$25,000 appointment with the undercover agent -- the man he thought was Frank Romano.

The next morning, Borders picked up a folded newspaper from an armrest at the airport. Inside, as promised, he found 250 \$100 bills.

\* \* \*

The Hastings dinner appearance was one of several times that Borders correctly predicted Hastings' behavior. The most important was the substance and timing of an Oct. 6, 1981, order returning money to the Romano brothers.

In piecing together the complex case, first the FBI and then the judicial investigators faced two possibilities.

One was that Borders was working alone. If so, he had a remarkable ability to predict the behavior of a busy and mercurial federal judge.

The other was that Borders and Hastings worked together, partners in a clever conspiracy. If so, then the two men must have discussed the developments at crucial moments. The question was when.

The judicial investigators borrowed from earlier FBI files. They pored over thousands of pages of telephone records from offices, homes, hotels and airport concourses. They interviewed witnesses from at least a half-dozen states. They made assumptions.

With no direct proof that Hastings and Borders had discussed soliciting bribes, they had to determine when the two men might have had such discussions.

DID HASTINGS LIE AT HIS BRIBERY TRIAL? 14 JUDGES SAY YES, EMBATTLED JURIST SAYS NO

Months before Dredge introduced Borders to the undercover agent, it turned out, there was telephone traffic between Hastings and Borders. The calls fell on critical days in the Romano case.

Hastings telephoned Borders the day he ordered the Romanos to forfeit the cash and property. He left a message: "Will wait call between 12:00 and 1:00 from you."

One week later, the day the Romanos were scheduled to be sentenced, Hastings phoned Borders at 6:27 a.m.

The next important event in the Romano case was a court hearing. Hastings phoned Borders the day before the hearing and the day after.

Hastings testified that he could not remember what he discussed with Borders those days. He said he was certain the calls had nothing to do with the Romano case.

\* \* \*

Based on an unusual pattern of phone calls and airplane travel, the investigators suspect that Hastings and Borders discussed the Romano case in the first days of the sting.

The night before the Sept. 12 scene-setting meeting between Borders and the undercover agent, Borders flew to Miami and Hastings flew to Washington.

Their schedules would have allowed them more than an hour together at Washington's National Airport.

That day, Hastings was flying to Washington to meet some friends. His flight, Eastern 176, was to leave Miami at 3:48 p.m. Twice the judge called Borders' office from the airport to say the flight would be late. He finally took off at 6, arriving in Washington at 8:04 p.m.

Borders also was to fly that day -- to Miami for a meeting with Rico.

Borders had a reservation on a 7:30 p.m. Air Florida flight, nonstop to Miami. He did not take it. He left instead on an Eastern flight, departing at 9:25 p.m., connecting in Atlanta and arriving in Miami four hours after the original Air Florida flight.

Hastings' accusers theorize that Borders changed his plans when Hastings was delayed, taking a later, less convenient flight to make time to speak with the judge. No one saw them together, though FBI agents looked for Borders that night in the airport.

Hastings denied meeting Borders. He said he had notified Borders of the flight delays because Borders had offered to give him a ride to his hotel and socialize a bit before catching the plane to Miami.

Investigators, however, offered further circumstantial evidence to suggest that Hastings talked with Borders at the airport.

Hastings did not check into his Washington hotel that night until 10:14 p.m. -- two hours and 10 minutes after his plane landed, and 49 minutes after Borders' plane took off.

Why, they asked, did it take so long to go from the airport to the Washington Sheraton?

Hastings testified that he waited 35 to 40 minutes for his luggage. He said two Miami lawyers stood with him, although he never identified them or called them as witnesses.

The judge said the rest of the time evaporated on the way to pick up a friend for a late dinner at the hotel. The cab driver, he recalled, got badly lost.

\* \* \*

## DID HASTINGS LIE AT HIS BRIBERY TRIAL? 14 JUDGES SAY YES, EMBATTLED JURIST SAYS NO

Hastings did speak with Borders the next day, Sept. 12. The encounter is the focus of new evidence discovered by the judicial investigators.

The issue is whether Hastings was surprised to see Borders back in Washington. Hastings said he was. A new witness recalled that Hastings may have been expecting someone.

Borders had spent an hour that morning in Miami, plotting the bribe with the undercover agent. From there he flew to West Palm Beach and drove to a family reunion. He flew from Orlando that evening, arriving at the Baltimore airport at 8:58 p.m.

He knocked on Hastings' hotel room door. Hastings was having drinks with three women and Miami lawyer Jesse McCrary, well after 10 o'clock.

"I answered it," Hastings testified, "and I turned immediately and I said words to the effect, 'Some kind of surprise.' And I was surprised."

The visitor offered no explanation, Hastings testified. After another round of drinks, the group moved downstairs to dinner.

Hastings said there was nothing unusual about eating dinner at 11 p.m. The group of five lost track of time, having drinks and fun, he said.

McCrary also testified that Borders arrived unexpectedly. But one of the women, Pearl Dabreau, who was not a witness at Hastings' trial, remembered otherwise.

Hastings said recently that he no longer recalls the details of that evening in Washington. He does remember clearly a discussion that night or the next day when he and Borders were alone.

Borders, he said, was growing obsessed with helping a mutual friend, Hemphill Pride. Virtually every time the two men talked that summer and fall, Borders bugged him about raising money for Pride, Hastings said.

Pride was to become a crucial, if reluctant, prosecution witness in Hastings' trial. He may be even more important in the current judicial investigation. At times, the evidence pits his word against that of his former roommate, Alcee Hastings.

\* \* \*

Pride was popular and handsome and successful. But some said he was in over his head. A fraud charge landed him in court, and then in prison. He lost his South Carolina law license. He went broke.

Hastings told the Miami jury in the first 10 minutes of his nine hours of testimony that "Hempy," a law school friend at Florida A&M, always needed bailing out. He said he acted like a big brother to him, "perhaps because of frailty of his."

"Because of a frailty?" defense attorney Patricia Williams asked.

"I think he has some character situations," Hastings explained. "Memory, for example, is a difficult thing for him."

Pride conceded on cross-examination that he had "some problems" recalling detail. But he remained quietly firm on a number of points that appeared damaging to Hastings' defense.

Prosecutors pointed out that Pride was in a difficult position. Hastings is the godfather of Pride's eldest son, Hemphill P. Pride III; Pride is the godfather of Hastings' only son, Alcee L. Hastings II.

Clearly uncomfortable in the role of witness, Pride said he was testifying because he had been summoned. He said he wanted and expected help from no one -- certainly not the government.

## DID HASTINGS LIE AT HIS BRIBERY TRIAL? 14 JUDGES SAY YES, EMBATTLED JURIST SAYS NO

"I suppose you've got Pride's version and you've got Alcee's," defense attorney Terence Anderson said recently. "If you ask me, Will I credit a U.S. district judge or a convicted felon who was desperate for money and confronted with the intimidation of the prosecution? -- I've got no doubt in my mind. I'd believe Alcee."

The judicial investigators believed Pride. Hastings, they said, was the liar.

\* \* \*

Pride would become critical later. As the sting gained speed, the focus turned to developments in the Romano case -- particularly Hastings' Oct. 6, 1981, return of \$845,000 of the forfeited cash.

Hastings had ordered the forfeiture in May. In July, after a 60-minute hearing, he reaffirmed his decision, denying a request by the Romanos' attorney for return of the money. He said a short written order would follow.

In early September, one of Hastings' law clerks, Jeffrey Miller, told the judge that a new appellate case went against the July ruling and required the return of the money.

"I said, ' . . . Better give them the money back,' " Miller testified. "And he said, 'Give them the money back.' "

This conversation almost certainly occurred before the Sept. 12 meeting in which Borders promised the undercover agent that Hastings would return a "substantial amount" of property to the Romanos.

Borders told the agent that Hastings would return the property 10 days after the \$25,000 down payment was made. That would have been Monday, Sept. 29.

At 3:10 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 2, Rico called Borders in Washington. He asked about the \$845,000.

Borders' secretary patched him through to another number.

"I'll check into it," Borders replied. "I don't know if I can find out, because of the time."

Borders told the agent to call him at home on Sunday morning.

By 4:50 Friday afternoon, Borders was back in his office. His secretary phoned Hastings' chambers. She was told that the judge had left for the day.

Sunday morning, on cue, the agent telephoned Borders. "I have not, ah, gotten an answer, 'cause I haven't been able to talk to anybody," Borders explained.

He asked the agent to call again Monday afternoon.

That weekend, Hastings' mother took a message for her son from Borders. Borders, she testified, wanted him to call. It had something to do with their friend Hemphill Pride.

\* \* \*

Monday morning, Oct. 5, Hastings spoke with his law clerk, Jeff Miller. "I want the order today," Hastings said. "Do the order."

Miller, now a Fort Lauderdale lawyer, testified that the sudden request surprised him.

The Romano case had been dormant for three months. They had spoken about it weeks before, but Miller had been sidetracked on other business. He had not drafted the ruling.

At 4:22 p.m., Rico again called Borders. He said he was growing anxious about the order.

"Look, I checked on that matter," Borders told him, ". . . and it wasn't in the mails. . . . It hadn't gone out yet."

DID HASTINGS LIE AT HIS BRIBERY TRIAL? 14 JUDGES SAY YES, EMBATTLED JURIST SAYS NO

"Jesus," the agent muttered.

". . . but that's been taken care of," Borders continued. "It was probably today or first thing in the morning. I'm just, I, I, I want to give it a little time. You understand what I'm saying?"

At 5:12 p.m., Hastings phoned Borders long distance. The judge was standing up in his Miami chambers, and in a hurry.

Hastings: I've drafted all those, ah, letters, ah, ah, for Hemp. . . .

Borders: Um-hmm.

H: . . . and everything's OK. The only thing I was concerned with was, did you hear if, ah, hear from him after we talked?

B: Yeah.

H: Oh. OK.

B: Uh-huh.

H: All right, then.

B: See, I had, I talked to him and he, he wrote some things down for me.

H: I understand.

B: And then I was supposed to go back and get some more things.

H: All right. I understand. Well, then, there's no great big problem at all. I'll, I'll see to it that, ah, I communicate with him. I'll send the stuff off to Columbia in the morning.

B: OK.

The afternoon of Wednesday, Oct. 7, the agent telephoned Borders and said, "Nothing has happened yet. . . . It hasn't arrived at the ah. . . ."

Borders interrupted him: "Well, it should. It went out yesterday morning."

Hastings' accusers believe Borders was relaying exactly what Hastings had told him about the "letters" two days earlier.

In fact, because he had not completed the order, Miller took the Romano file home with him Monday. He finished the order Tuesday. The secretary typed it, Hastings signed it and Miller mailed it that evening at 6 o'clock.

\* \* \*

Hastings denied telling Borders anything about the Romano case. He said there was no code. He went further: He said he was so wary of wiretaps that he never would have talked about crime on his office telephones.

During two days of testimony, Hastings described his longtime friend Borders as "cryptic, clandestine and secretive."

He said he figured Borders was talking about raising money to support Pride's attempt to regain his law license. He described his own responses -- "I understand" -- as an "affectation of mine that I would like to get rid of."

Hastings said, in fact, that he did not understand at all.

DID HASTINGS LIE AT HIS BRIBERY TRIAL? 14 JUDGES SAY YES, EMBATTLED JURIST SAYS NO

Besides, he said, he could not have divulged the substance of the ruling because he did not know what the opinion would say until Miller presented it to him Oct. 6.

"I was relying upon him totally with reference to this matter," Hastings told the Miami jury. "And whether it comes off that I was a dodo about not knowing all the particulars or not is irrelevant to me."

To bolster his contention that his conversation with Borders was innocent, Hastings produced three letters he said he had drafted Oct. 5 -- letters to be sent off to Columbia, S.C., in the morning.

The letters were handwritten in large, fluid script on yellow-lined paper. Two are unaddressed masters soliciting money for Pride. The third is addressed to Pride himself.

Hastings never dated the letters and never had them typed. He never sent them off to Columbia. He said he left them in his desk drawer.

Hastings said he "agonized" the night of Oct. 5, finally deciding not to send the letters because of the potential ethical problems of a judge soliciting money.

He said he resolved to "get it straight once and for all" in discussions with Pride and Borders four days later when they were to meet in Washington. There is no testimony that he did so, despite spending more than an hour with each of them that day.

\* \* \*

Hastings said he drafted the letters only because Borders was a "pest." He testified that Borders mentioned Pride's troubles in even the shortest conversations.

Yet Pride said he knew of no effort by either man to help him. He said he never discussed letters or fund-raising with Hastings.

Pride said there was nothing Borders or Hastings could have done at that point to help him regain his law license. He was not eligible for reinstatement for another 19 months.

In one of the letters, Hastings declared: "I have spoken with (Pride) several times regarding this matter."

Pride testified early in the trial. He said no, he had not spoken with Hastings about the matter. The judge testified as the final defense witness. He said yes, he had spoken with Pride.

He identified South Carolina phone numbers at which he reached Pride three times.

Q: And to who was that call placed?

A: I know for a fact that this particular call was placed to Hemphill Pride.

Q: Did you speak with Hemphill Pride?

A: I certainly did.

The judicial investigating committee said those calls were not to Pride at all. Hastings concedes that the committee was right: "It was my mistake."

\* \* \*

The judges suspect the letters are fakes.

They believe Hastings wrote the letters after Borders was arrested, then asked Pride to back him with a plausible story. Pride told prosecutors instead.

## DID HASTINGS LIE AT HIS BRIBERY TRIAL? 14 JUDGES SAY YES, EMBATTLED JURIST SAYS NO

Hastings angrily denied trying to influence Pride's testimony. He said he once suspected that Pride was working with the Justice Department and wearing a hidden microphone.

"If I thought he had on a body wire, would I have said, 'I have these letters and I want you to go and testify that you know that I was going to write some letters?'" Hastings asked. "I would have been a goddamn fool to do that."

Pride wore no microphone.

Another detail may throw the timing of the letters into question: Hastings did not reveal the letters' existence to the Justice Department until 10 months after his attorney delivered boxes of defense evidence to the government.

During his cross-examination of Hastings, Justice Department prosecutor Reid Weingarten demanded to know why Hastings, a federal judge for three years, had not complied with Rule 16 of the criminal code.

Rule 16, usually invoked when a defendant is arraigned, requires the prosecution and the defense to show each other their evidence before the trial to prevent Perry Mason-style surprises.

Hastings said he did not comply because "the real impact of the rule is to cause the defendant to give you all an opportunity to roll all over them, as you tend to do."

Yet it is clear from court documents that Hastings' attorney, Joel Hirschhorn, recognized that the existence of any letters would be critical to a trial defense.

After he listened to the prosecution's tapes, including the Oct. 5 conversation between Hastings and Borders, Hirschhorn made a note of "things to do." His list included "rough drafts and drafts of all letters written for Hemphill Pride."

Three weeks later, Hirschhorn turned over a catalog of defense evidence to the government in compliance with Rule 16. No Oct. 5 letters were listed.

Hirschhorn withdrew from the case 20 days later. He said he had strategy disagreements with Hastings. Hastings testified that he "didn't trust" Hirschhorn.

The judicial investigating committee subpoenaed Hirschhorn, who refused to say what he knew about the letters' existence. He cited attorney-client privilege. A motion to compel his testimony -- on the grounds that Hastings waived the privilege during his trial -- is pending in federal court.

Hirschhorn said he is prepared to go to jail rather than testify. As for the prospect of testifying in an impeachment proceeding, he said: "I'm not looking forward to going to Washington."

\* \* \*

Friday, Oct. 9, was "a horrible day in the life of Alcee Hastings," defense attorney Patricia Williams told the Miami jury.

Hastings flew to Washington that morning. He was to be a sponsor of a testimonial dinner and Potomac River cruise that night for Borders.

Borders picked him up at National Airport at 10:40 a.m. and drove him across the river to the plush L'Enfant Plaza Hotel. At 10:52 a.m., they checked into a suite.

After looking in on Pride and his family, the two men left in Borders' car. Hastings said he had an errand to run, a point disputed by the investigating panel.

Hastings testified in remarkable detail about the events of the morning. He spoke of the turns Borders made as they drove to the courthouse and a liquor store. He remembered the names of a lawyer, a bellhop and a man who loaded five or six cartons of liquor into Borders' trunk.

## DID HASTINGS LIE AT HIS BRIBERY TRIAL? 14 JUDGES SAY YES, EMBATTLED JURIST SAYS NO

Hastings also went to Borders' law office. He speculated that he was in the room while Borders made the 11:46 a.m. call to the undercover agent arranging to collect the final \$125,000 bribe installment.

After stopping at several shops and using a phone, Hastings took a cab back to the hotel, where he ordered sandwiches and clam chowder from room service. When Pride stopped by, he ordered the same thing again, and Pride ordered something.

Bored in the room, they went downstairs to the hotel bar, the Apple of Eve, and had a couple of drinks. They had returned to their rooms when Pride received a phone call.

\* \* \*

Oct. 9 also was a horrible day for Bill Borders.

After leaving Hastings, Borders drove back across the Potomac to the Marriott Twin Bridges, where an undercover agent waited in a room wired with cameras and microphones.

Borders knocked on the door: "Come on. Get it. I want to take a ride."

The two men were driving away, a bag packed with 1,250 \$100 bills at Borders' feet, when they heard the sirens. Borders said to the undercover agent, "We're busted." The agent replied, "I'm afraid so."

\* \* \*

When Pride answered the phone, it was Borders' attorney, John Shorter. He wanted Pride to find Hastings and give him two messages: that Borders was under arrest and that two FBI agents wanted to talk to him.

Shaken, Pride called Hastings and told him to come over. He was waiting by the elevator when Hastings arrived. He relayed the news that Borders had been arrested for "something to do with some kind of bribe in your courtroom." He told Hastings that FBI agents wanted to talk with him.

Pride and Hastings testified differently on what happened next. No issue is more important in the current investigation.

Hastings testified that he returned alone to his room and phoned his mother and his girlfriend, Patricia Williams, while Pride went to his own room. Pride then joined him and they walked to the lobby together, where Hastings caught a taxi.

Pride testified that he was with Hastings from the time they discussed Borders' arrest until Hastings stepped into the taxi. He said Hastings phoned no one.

Neither of the long-distance calls appeared on Hastings' hotel bill. Nor does a third call Hastings said he made earlier to his Miami chambers.

The hotel's comptroller, Albert Blocker, testified that it was "literally impossible" for three long-distance calls not to appear on the bill.

The investigating judges, after hearing from phone company workers, concluded that Hastings lied.

Two recipients of the purported calls -- law clerk Barbara Katzen and Mildred Hastings -- testified to the Miami jury. The jurors considered the details so important that, after deliberating two days, they asked to have the testimony read to them.

Katzen answered the phone on the first call. She said Hastings had told her he was calling from the hotel: "I thought he said he was at the hotel, to the best of my recollection."



## DID HASTINGS LIE AT HIS BRIBERY TRIAL? 14 JUDGES SAY YES, EMBATTLED JURIST SAYS NO

Hastings' mother, Mildred, said her son telephoned, but she was not sure when. She placed it sometime after her nap, which followed the 12:30 p.m. news. Hastings got the news about Borders at roughly 3 p.m.

The recipient of the third call, according to Hastings, was Williams. She was not summoned as a witness in the Miami trial and she refused to testify to the investigating committee on the grounds of attorney-client privilege.

She said Oct. 9 was the day she officially became one of Hastings' attorneys, although she never before had tried a criminal case. Five days later, she wrote to him at his Lauderhill apartment.

"Dear Judge," wrote the woman who once testified that she and Hastings had plans to marry. "I want you to know that I felt pride and joy as well as horror . . . (when) you indicated that you required my legal assistance in confronting allegations of bribery which you had just learned were being directed towards you."

Williams talked four more times with the judge the day he flew home to Florida. She will not discuss those calls, either.

\* \* \*

News of Borders' arrest stunned Hastings.

The two friends -- Pride and Hastings -- sat on a bench outside the elevators discussing what Borders' attorney had reported.

"Repeat it. What did he tell you?" Pride recalled Hastings' saying.

Pride said the judge appeared not to know what to do.

He advised Hastings to go home to Florida and meet his longtime friend, lawyer Andrew Mavrides: "If you've got a problem and if the FBI or somebody in law enforcement wants to interview you, I think that you could best handle this matter in your home court."

Hastings said later that his homebound mother's health was his "priority concern." He said he based his decision to depart on the phone conversation with her -- the conversation his accusers said never happened.

"I have never known her to be as hysterical as she was," he said.

Pride offered to give Hastings a lift to National Airport, within sight of the hotel, four miles away. He said Hastings declined with the words: "No, I don't want you to do that. You are here with your family. You got your own problems; you're on parole and I don't think you should take me."

At that point, Hastings said goodbye and took a taxi to Baltimore-Washington Airport, 34 miles and an hour away.

He did not check out of the hotel. He did not pay for his room-service lunch. He left behind a suit at the hotel cleaners. He testified that he gave Pride a \$100 bill and told him to take care of the bills. Pride said he knew nothing about that.

In going to Baltimore at about 3:30 p.m., Hastings said he was "absolutely certain" that there were no direct flights to Miami from National Airport until 10 p.m. He recalled that there was a Delta flight from Baltimore to Fort Lauderdale at 5:05 p.m.

He did not call any airlines before he left.

Prosecutor Weingarten asked on cross-examination about Eastern Flight 197, leaving National Airport at 4:30 p.m. and arriving at Miami International -- where Hastings had parked his car.

"I didn't know 197 the way I did the other flights," Hastings testified.

## DID HASTINGS LIE AT HIS BRIBERY TRIAL? 14 JUDGES SAY YES, EMBATTLED JURIST SAYS NO

Weingarten then reminded Hastings that 2 1/2 months earlier the judge had taken Eastern 197 on the same day of the week, leaving Washington at 5:30 p.m.

\* \* \*

Hastings said he dozed during the \$50 cab ride to Baltimore.

When he arrived at the airport, he said he immediately tried to call his mother in Lauderdale. On the way to the phone, he decided not to take the 5:05 p.m. Delta flight because it went through Atlanta.

He spoke to his mother at 4:37 p.m. for four minutes. He hung up and called back two minutes later. He said there had been static on the line.

At 5:06, he got through to Williams. He spoke for one minute, then hung up. He said "a little baby was raising holy Cain."

He called back at 5:07.

On cross-examination he admitted that he told Williams to call him back at a different pay phone. She did.

Hastings then told her to go outside, find a pay phone and call him at another number. She did, at 5:22 p.m. He then took her number, moved to a fourth booth and called her again.

"I didn't want anybody overhearing me, and I was hopeful that nobody would be overhearing her," Hastings testified. He said he was afraid Williams' phone had been tapped.

Weingarten: "What was it were you so afraid, Judge Hastings, that the FBI wanted to hear?"

Hastings: "Nothing more than the fact that I wanted to talk with my attorney privately, Mr. Weingarten. You all had done a lot of, in my opinion, wrong things and I wanted to talk to her about what was going on."

\* \* \*

Hastings steadfastly denied that he was running away from the FBI after Borders' arrest.

Yet he said under questioning about the phone booth switches that he felt distinct "paranoia." He thought a man standing nearby was an FBI agent.

At no point did Hastings telephone the FBI, although he knew they wanted to question him. Agents found him at Williams' apartment about two hours after his arrival in Fort Lauderdale.

That night, he told an FBI agent that he drove straight to Williams' house. During the trial, however, he testified that he drove first to check on his upset mother, stayed for 25 to 30 minutes and only then went to Williams' apartment.

Weingarten asked why he told the FBI agent that he did not go home.

Hastings said: "I did not tell him all of the particulars on that particular day and there were . . . I have my reasons."

The judge did not elaborate.

When the defense rested its case, the prosecution called the FBI agent, John Simmons. Shortly before he found Hastings at Williams' home, Simmons and his partner went to the apartment shared by Hastings and his mother.

Mrs. Hastings told them she had neither seen nor heard from her son.

\* \* \*

During closing arguments in the trial, Weingarten made a forceful appeal for conviction. He asked the jurors:

DID HASTINGS LIE AT HIS BRIBERY TRIAL? 14 JUDGES SAY YES, EMBATTLED JURIST SAYS NO

"Was Alcee Hastings' behavior like that of an innocent U.S. district judge or was it the behavior of a man who knew exactly why William Borders had been arrested and wanted time to put his story together?"

Jurors interviewed after the verdict said they were not persuaded of Hastings' innocence. But they were even less persuaded of his guilt.

After 12 hours of deliberation spread over three days, six jurors voted to convict, five to acquit. One abstained. Five and a half hours later, it was over.

"We kept coming back to 'beyond a reasonable doubt.' This is what saved Judge Hastings," juror Barry Kramer said.

With their verdict, the first trial of Hastings ended. With the new secret report, the second trial is just beginning.

Monday: Hastings fights back.

**Load-Date:** November 12, 2009

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End of Document

## DIGEST

**DIGEST**

South Florida Sun-Sentinel

October 18, 2003 Saturday Broward Metro Edition

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**Section:** LOCAL; Pg. 3B; BRIEF**Length:** 591 words**Byline:** STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS**Body**

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## BROWARD COUNTY

## Crash on Sawgrass kills Coral Springs driver, 20

A Coral Springs man, 20, died Thursday night when he lost control of his car on the Sawgrass Expressway in Tamarac, crashed and was thrown from the vehicle, a Florida Highway Patrol spokesman said.

Mauricio Antonio Donado, driving a 1995 Nissan, crashed after encountering some roadwork in the far right lane south of Atlantic Boulevard, Lt. Pat Santangelo said. Donado ran over several cones, hit a construction barrier and then crashed into the guardrail. The cause has not yet been determined.

After the 11:15 p.m. crash, Tamarac Fire-Rescue took Donado to North Broward Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead. His sister, Carol Donado, 18, and a friend, Alberto Falquez, 19, of Parkland, were injured. Donado was in fair condition and Falquez was in good condition Friday, a hospital spokeswoman said.

## OAKLAND PARK

## Homicide detectives take over shooting case

Broward Sheriff's Office homicide detectives on Friday took over the investigation into a double shooting that occurred at an Oakland Park apartment complex Thursday night.

Neither of the victims had died, but Corey Fields, 26, who was shot in the head, was in critical condition, according to a Broward General Medical Center spokeswoman. The other victim, Shenika Breus, 16, was in fair condition.

Both Fields and Breus live at the Crystal Lake Apartments in the 4100 block of Northwest 21st Avenue, according to sheriff's office spokesman Hugh Graf. They were standing out front about 9:15 p.m. when a car pulled up and a man got out and provoked a confrontation. The driver shot both the victims and took off, Graf said.

Detectives released no information about a motive or possible suspects.

## FORT LAUDERDALE

## DIGEST

## Ex-firm's manager convicted of wire fraud

A federal jury in Fort Lauderdale found the manager of a former Deerfield Beach company guilty of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, the U.S. Attorney's Office announced Friday.

Lanette Black conspired to commit a vast telemarketing fraud between two companies, Amansco Credit Services Inc., which she managed, and Franklin Credit Services Inc. The jury agreed with prosecutors that Franklin and Amansco defrauded more than 5,000 customers nationwide in 1997 and 1998 of more than \$2.7 million.

Amansco was shut down by the FBI for telemarketing fraud.

Before Black's trial, eight Franklin sales people pleaded guilty -- including James Michael Christensen, who organized the scheme. Christensen is serving 54 months in federal prison.

## TAMARAC

## Fire-Rescue open house to feature competition

Tamarac Fire-Rescue will have an open house and extrication competition from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. today to wrap up national Fire Prevention Week.

Twelve fire-rescue departments are scheduled to participate in the vehicle extrication contests at 7501 NW 88th Ave.

The event also will feature police and fire equipment exhibits, child-seat safety checks, a fire extinguisher demonstration and children's activities, including a class in "Stop, Drop and Roll."

For more information, call Tamarac Fire-Rescue at 954-724-2436.

## MIAMI

## Extradition hearing of ex-agent postponed

The extradition hearing of a former FBI agent charged in the 1981 murder of an Oklahoma businessman was postponed Friday because the man is ill, according to his attorneys.

**H. Paul Rico**, 78, faces charges in the death of Roger Wheeler, a Tulsa businessman who owned World Jai Alai in Miami. Authorities allege Rico provided a hit man with Wheeler's description, whereabouts and the make, model and license plate number of his car.

**Load-Date:** October 18, 2003



## *Digging in; Committee subpoenas Hub FBI office memos*

The Boston Herald  
September 7, 2001 Friday  
ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 725 words

**Byline:** By J.M. LAWRENCE

### **Body**

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A House committee vowing to unravel "one of the greatest failures of federal law enforcement" in American history issued a sweeping subpoena yesterday for decades worth of FBI memos that might explain why the Bulger gang was not prosecuted until 1995.

"We need these documents to find out what happened in Boston," said James Wilson, chief legal counsel for the House Government Reform Committee.

But the Department of Justice has already refused to hand over the "deliberative documents" under a new blanket policy against sharing with Congress internal paperwork related to any criminal investigation.

Attorney General John Ashcroft is slated to go before the committee Thursday to defend the policy begun by the Bush administration.

Massachusetts Congressman William Delahunt (D-Quincy), who has been asked by reform committee Chairman Dan Burton (R-Indiana) to assist with the probe, said citizens deserve to know how federal agents decided to forge notorious alliances with hit men and gangsters.

"Now it can be told," Delahunt said yesterday. "We need to know why these decisions were made and how they were made."

Members plan to hold a round of hearings later this month on allegations that FBI agents and the Massachusetts U.S. Attorney's Office helped Boston hit man Joseph Barboza avoid the death penalty in California in 1971.

Yesterday, the committee disclosed that its sources say Theodore Sharliss, a Lynn ex-con and former pal of Barboza's who helped set up his assassination in San Francisco in 1976, was himself an FBI informant.

Sixteen years later, Sharliss implicated hit man J.R. Russo as the triggerman who shot Barboza, 43, who died in a hail of bullets after having lunch with Sharliss.

## Digging in; Committee subpoenas Hub FBI office memos

Government deliberations about Sharliss, who entered the witness protection program, "may also shed light on whether the federal government was aware that Barboza was to be killed prior to the murder taking place, and whether they were aware that their own informant was plotting to set Barboza up," the committee said in a statement.

In a detailed list of reasons for hunting down documents related to federal informants and the New England Mafia, the committee raises a litany of questions covering four decades of Hub federal law enforcement.

\*\* On James "Whitey" Bulger, who is under indictment for 19 murders, the committee asks, "Notwithstanding extensive evidence readily available to federal law enforcement authorities, why was Bulger not prosecuted for his many crimes prior to 1995?"

The committee asks the same question of Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, who faces trial next year on 10 counts of murder, but the committee statement credits him with "perhaps well over 20" murders.

\*\* On indicted ex-FBI agent and Bulger handler John Connolly, the committee wants to know if Justice Department officials considered indicting him before 1999.

\*\* On former FBI supervisor John Morris who admitted taking money from the Bulger gang, "Did the Justice Department consider indicting him and, if so, why did it refrain from indicting him?"

\*\* On Barboza, the committee wants to know why the government helped defend the hit man in Santa Rosa where he killed a man while in the witness protection program, and why the FBI supported his false testimony in Boston in the 1965 Edward "Teddy" Deegan murder case that sent four innocent men to prison.

\*\* On hit man Jimmy "The Bear" Flemmi, the committee recounts previously released FBI memos showing the government knew he had killed several men, including Deegan, but did not prosecute him.

"Why was Flemmi not prosecuted, and why did the FBI allow Joseph Salvati to spend 30 years in prison for a crime that was committed by two - and possibly three - of their informants?" the committee asks.

\*\* On former FBI agent **H. Paul Rico**, who handled Barboza, the committee wonders if DOJ ever considered action against Rico when a Rhode Island judge ruled he suborned perjury in another murder case.

\*\* On former New England Godfather Raymond Patriarca, the committee questions whether officials in DOJ knew about an illegal bug placed in Mafia headquarters in the early 1960s.

\*\* On Mob boss Frank Salemme, the committee wants to know why Salemme was prosecuted for the 1968 bombing of Hub attorney John Fitzgerald's car but his partner Stephen Flemmi was not.

**Load-Date:** September 7, 2001



## **DINNER'S ON HOUSE AT MIAMI JAI-ALAI FOR NON-DRINKERS**

The Miami Herald  
January 31, 1985 Thursday  
FINAL EDITION

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**Section:** LOCAL; B; Pg. 1

**Length:** 217 words

**Byline:** EDNA BUCHANAN Herald Staff Writer

### **Body**

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In a first in Florida's war on drunk driving, a driver who comes in a group and agrees not to drink will dine free at Miami Jai-Alai.

The program starts Friday. **H. Paul Rico**, Miami Jai-Alai general manager, heard that some New England businesses are serving only soft drinks to designated drivers in groups of patrons.

"They're going all out to curtail drunk driving. I liked the idea," Rico said Wednesday.

His is the state's first plan to reward abstaining drivers with free meals, "complete from appetizer to dessert."

"It will drive our accountants crazy," Rico said. "But we hope it will cause people to think that they should have a designated driver when they go out."

The free meal, at the fronton's CourtView Club Restaurant, is served with the stipulation that the designated driver may not consume any alcoholic beverage that evening at Miami Jai- Alai.

Here is how the program works: Upon arrival, any member of a party of four or more can volunteer to be the designated driver to the maitre d'.

The designated driver wears a white lapel pin, eats a free dinner and is the person handed the car keys by the valet when the group leaves.

"It's a step in the right direction," Rico said. If the program is even "modestly successful," he said, it also will be implemented at the Tampa Jai-Alai fronton.

**Load-Date:** October 29, 2009



DINNER'S ON HOUSE AT MIAMI JAI-ALAI FOR NON-DRINKERS

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## *Dismissal in Wheeler suit upheld*

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

May 11, 2004 Tuesday Final Home Edition

Copyright 2004 The Tulsa World

**Section:** NEWS; Tulsa; Pg. A13

**Length:** 406 words

**Byline:** Staff and Wire Reports

### **Body**

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BOSTON -- A federal appeals court has upheld the dismissal of the federal government as a defendant in a lawsuit brought by the family of slain Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler.

At the same time, the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Monday that a similar lawsuit that had been filed by the family of another alleged victim of gangsters and FBI informants James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi can go forward.

That lawsuit, filed by the family of John McIntyre of Quincy, Mass., claims that the FBI's corrupt relationship with Bulger and Flemmi led to his murder.

It and the Wheeler case were dismissed last year by U.S. District Judge Reginald Lindsay, who said the lawsuits were filed too late.

The McIntyre and Wheeler lawsuits claim that the FBI contributed to the men's deaths by giving the two gangsters free rein to commit crimes because they also were federal informants who gave the FBI with information about the Mafia.

Wheeler was shot to death in May 1981 as he sat in his car at Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa.

McIntyre disappeared in 1984 after giving some information about the Bulger gang's crimes to the FBI. His body was found in a shallow grave in Boston in 2000.

The McIntyres filed their claim in May 2000, and the Wheelers filed theirs in March 2002. The Federal Tort Claims Act requires that claims against the federal government must be filed within two years of the plaintiff's injury or two years after they should have known that they were injured.

Lawyers for the U.S. Department of Justice had argued before the appeals court that the families should have known by 1998 that FBI agents might have played a role in the killings because of widespread publicity at the time about the FBI's improper relationship with the gangsters.

Dismissal in Wheeler suit upheld

But lawyers for the Wheeler and McIntyre families argued that they had no proof because the FBI repeatedly denied any involvement.

Flemmi pleaded guilty in January for his role in 10 murders, including the killings of Wheeler and McIntyre, and has been sentenced to life in prison for the 1982 killing of a World Jai Alai executive, John Callahan, in Miami, Fla.

Flemmi reached a plea deal after implicating his former FBI handler, **H. Paul Rico**, in the 1981 murder of Wheeler, a Tulsa businessman who had bought World Jai Alai.

Rico died in a Tulsa hospital before he could be tried.

Bulger fled in 1995 and remains a fugitive, wanted in connection with 21 murders.

**Load-Date:** May 12, 2004

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## *Disorders of the justice system*

The Washington Times

May 18, 2001, Friday, Final Edition

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**Section:** PART A; COMMENTARY; Pg. A16

**Length:** 855 words

**Byline:** Paul Craig Roberts; THE WASHINGTON TIMES

### **Body**

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Our country's premier law-enforcement agency, the FBI, is proving to be an unreliable element in the criminal justice system. Waco and Ruby Ridge displayed a militarized agency willing to use deadly force against women and children, and subsequent cover-ups showed an agency determined not to be held accountable.

Confidence in the FBI received another blow when a whistleblower revealed that the fabled crime lab often fabricated evidence to help prosecutors obtain convictions.

Now it has come to light that FBI agents intentionally concealed evidence and kept an innocent man in prison on a murder charge for 30 years. One of the FBI agents responsible, ***H. Paul Rico***, showed no contrition whatsoever when he replied to questioning from the House Government Reform Committee on May 3: "Would you like tears or something?" It was enough to cause Rep. Christopher Shays, Connecticut Republican, to say: "I think you should be prosecuted. I think you should be sent to jail."

The following week the FBI was forced to admit that it failed to turn over to Timothy McVeigh's defense attorneys 3,000 pages of documents, photographs, tapes and other materials. This withholding of evidence is being called a "slip-up."

With the federals providing this kind of example, are things better at the state and local level? Unfortunately, the answer is no.

Virginia Commonwealth Attorney Robert Horan will not release DNA evidence for testing that could substantiate the claim of innocence by convicted rapist James Harvey. Harvey's case has been taken by Barry Scheck, Peter Neufeld and their colleagues at the Innocence Project sponsored by the Benjamin Cardozo School of Law in New York City.

Instead of cooperating in righting a possible wrongful conviction, the Commonwealth attorney is appealing U.S. District Judge Albert Bryan's court order to release the evidence for testing.

Mr. Horan's response to possible injustice is all too typical of the criminal justice system. In their recently published book, "Actual Innocence," lawyers Scheck and Neufeld tell the stories of innocent persons wrongfully convicted by

## Disorders of the justice system

mistaken identification, false confessions, crime lab fraud, jailhouse snitches, lying "expert witnesses," incompetent or uninvolved defense attorneys, and police frame-ups.

Ever since the von Liszt experiment in 1902, criminologists have known that eyewitnesses are as likely to be wrong as right. Despite the undeniable fact that an eyewitness is no better than a flip of a coin, police, prosecutors and juries put great weight on eyewitness evidence even in cases where suspects have unshakable alibis.

False confessions arise from any number of known reasons. Yet, once police get a confession - even one they invent - prosecutors take for granted the reliability of the confession.

When it recently came to light that Fred Salem Zain, serologist for West Virginia's crime laboratory, had been convicting innocents for years with fabricated "scientific evidence," the state quietly made some million-dollar settlements hoping to keep the lid on the large number of wrongful convictions. Mr. Zain intentionally convicted innocents with false testimony, and West Virginia intentionally tried to suppress the extent of the injustice.

The American public, especially "law and order" conservatives, must come to grips with the fact that our criminal justice system increasingly serves causes other than justice. Finding a suspect and convicting him is more important to many police and prosecutors than getting the right man. Anyone who doubts the sad truth of this will be shaken by the case histories in "Actual Innocence."

Wrongful conviction has become so prevalent that a number of law schools sponsor pro-bono innocence projects. In rape cases and other cases where DNA evidence can play a role, there is hope for the wrongfully convicted. But for a large number of offenses, all hope ends with conviction.

The ease with which innocents can be railroaded is scary enough. But the obstructions that prosecutors raise to the release of inmates known to be innocent reveals an inhumanity that is frightening. For example, the 26 innocent adults framed by a crazed detective and corrupt Child Protective Service officers in the Wenatchee child sex abuse witch hunt had to be pried loose one by one from the claws of prosecutors.

The justice system is loaded against the wrongfully convicted. In sex offender cases, the system will not admit to any possibility of wrongful conviction. A person who maintains his innocence cannot qualify for parole.

Consequently, the wrongfully convicted serve longer terms than the guilty. "Getting tough with crime" has encouraged a results-oriented culture among police and prosecutors that leads to wrongful convictions. Redressing this wrong requires an alliance between conservatives and liberals. Will the Federalist Society lend its weight to the effort to spring exculpatory DNA evidence from the Virginia Commonwealth Attorney's lock box?

Paul Craig Roberts is a columnist for The Washington Times and is nationally syndicated.

## Graphic

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Cartoon, NO CAPTION, By H. Payne/Detroit News, 2001

**Load-Date:** May 18, 2001



## *Dogged detective's 22-year hunt leads to ex-FBI agent*

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

October 19, 2003, Sunday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 926 words

**Byline:** By KELLY KURT, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** TULSA, Okla.

### **Body**

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The sun had yet to rise over Miami Shores, Fla., but the Oklahoma lawman at *H. Paul Rico*'s front door wasn't going to wait any longer.

His mustache had gone salt-and-pepper in decades of pursuit. His marriage had buckled under the strain. The tangle of false leads, wrecked vacations and outside efforts to thwart the dogged midwestern cop had finally come undone.

It felt good - after 22 years - to interrupt the retired FBI agent's sleep with a knock.

"I'm Sgt. Mike Huff," the detective told Rico before informing him he was under arrest for the 1981 murder of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler.

After years of pursuit, neither one needed the introduction.

If it hadn't been him, Huff says, some other Tulsa police detective would have trailed Wheeler's murder into the depths of the Boston underworld and its relationship with the FBI. He's the first to say he didn't do it alone.

Huff's tenacity, however, has stood out, even as mobsters and corruption stood in the way.

"Mike was a bulldog," said Robert Fitzpatrick, a former assistant chief of the FBI's Boston bureau. "He never let this go."

Tulsa Police Chief Dave Been believes Huff and the threat of Oklahoma's death row helped break mob kingpin Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, who pleaded guilty last week in 10 murders, including that of Wheeler.

"Sgt. Huff just kept the pressure and kept the pressure," Been said. "I think that's what made Flemmi roll over."

Spared the possibility of lethal injection, Flemmi is cooperating with investigators and has told them Rico and others wanted Wheeler killed. A confessed triggerman said Rico, who denies any involvement in Wheeler's death, aided the hit by providing information about Wheeler.

## Dogged detective's 22-year hunt leads to ex-FBI agent

On May 27, 1981, Huff was 25 and too energetic to be daunted when his supervisor told him, almost prophetically, that the investigation into that afternoon's murder likely would change everything he'd thought about police work.

"Damn, I wish I hadn't been on duty that day," Huff would say later in a gentle Tulsa twang after the case had consumed his life and those of his wife and children.

The kids in the pool at Southern Hills Country Club heard the shot from the parking lot that killed Wheeler, the 55-year-old chairman of Tulsa-based Telex Corp. and owner of Miami, Fla.-based World Jai Alai.

The investigation Huff led went cold at the start. Investigators eventually focused on Wheeler's suspicions that money was being skimmed from World Jai Alai. Rico, who retired from the FBI in 1975, was the company's chief of security.

In 1982, a member of Boston's Winter Hill Gang was gunned down after reportedly telling the FBI that he'd rejected an offer to kill Wheeler. Another person of interest to Huff, World Jai Alai executive John Callahan, was found dead in the trunk of a car.

"We were chasing leads all over the place," Huff said. "We very naively thought that as far as the Jai Alai angle, the FBI would bring us into the loop."

A year after Wheeler's murder, though, Huff's naivety was wearing off. He began to suspect Rico, who had cultivated Flemmi as an informant in 1965 when Rico was a rising star in the Boston FBI's war on the Mafia.

As the investigation went on, federal agents accused Huff of jumping to conclusions, he said. Tulsa detectives were led on wild goose chases when Boston FBI reports validated false leads, Huff later learned.

Former FBI Agent John Connolly was convicted last year of protecting gangster informants, including James "Whitey" Bulger, a fugitive since being tipped off to his pending indictment in 1995.

Huff delivered 60 pounds of documents in 1995 to East Coast authorities investigating the Winter Hill Gang, warning them they were "stumbling into a load of corruption."

Five years later, he named Flemmi, Bulger, confessed triggerman John Martorano and Rico in an affidavit in Tulsa County. District Attorney Tim Harris brought murder charges against all but Rico, wanting more evidence to take to court.

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"He defines the word 'relentless,' " David Wheeler said.

Meanwhile, Huff led a homicide division in making arrests in more than 90 percent of Tulsa murder cases, a figure that compares with 62 percent nationwide.

Still, the stress of the unsolved Wheeler case wrapped tighter around him, and Huff's marriage fell apart.

When the 78-year-old Rico opened the door in his undershorts Oct. 9, Huff found the moment bittersweet.

"What I was really thinking," he said, "was 'Can I get past this and reclaim some normalcy?'"

Rico and Huff, who'd met face to face many times over the years, exchanged words, but Huff won't say what they were.

## Dogged detective's 22-year hunt leads to ex-FBI agent

Huff and the other investigators allowed Rico to dress, and his wife fixed him a light breakfast so he could take his medication. Then, they took him to jail.

Even with Flemmi's plea and Rico's arrest, the Wheeler murder investigation isn't over. Bulger remains at large, and the detective says without elaborating that Flemmi's confession "has opened a can of worms."

"It always comes down to the last man standing," said David Wheeler. "Rest assured, Mike Huff will always be the last man standing."

## Graphic

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AP Photos

**Load-Date:** October 20, 2003

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End of Document





## *Dogged detective's 22-year hunt leads to ex-FBI agent*

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

October 17, 2003, Friday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 926 words

**Byline:** By KELLY KURT, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** TULSA, Okla.

### **Body**

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## Graphic

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AP Photos

**Load-Date:** October 18, 2003

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## [DOJ Appeals \\$100M Wrong Conviction Order](#)

Associated Press Online

February 16, 2008 Saturday 2:52 AM GMT

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**Section:** DOMESTIC NEWS

**Length:** 290 words

**Byline:** By MATT PITTA, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** BOSTON

### **Body**

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The Justice Department appealed a \$101.7 million judgment Friday awarded last year to two men who spent decades in prison and the families of two others who died there for a murder they didn't commit.

A federal judge found the FBI responsible in July for framing the men for the slaying of Edward "Teddy" Deegan, a small-time thug who was shot in an alley in 1965.

Joseph Salvati, Peter Limone and the families of Henry Tameleo and Louis Greco sued the federal government for malicious prosecution, winning a nearly \$102 million combined in a ruling from U.S. District Judge Nancy Gertner last July.

In the notice filed four days ahead of the appeal deadline, the Justice Department did not spell out its reasons for challenging the ruling. Department spokesman Charles Miller declined to comment.

Greco and Tameleo died behind bars for the killing. 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.

**H. Paul Rico**, one of the agents blamed in the case, denied during a congressional hearing that he and his partner helped frame an innocent man for Deegan's death, but he acknowledged that Salvati wrongly spent 30 years in prison.

Salvati's attorney, Vincent Garo, said Friday that the government still refuses to recognize any wrongdoing.

"It was more important for the FBI to protect their murderous informants than it was for them to protect innocent men who had young families," he said.

Salvati is now 75, and Limone is 73. 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.

DOJ Appeals \$100M Wrong Conviction Order

**Load-Date:** February 16, 2008

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## [DOJ Argues FBI Had No Duty to Disclose Evidence of Perjury](#)

TalkLeft the Politics of Crime

May 8, 2009 Friday 7:42 AM EST

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Newstex Web Blogs

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**Length:** 673 words

**Byline:** TChris

### **Body**

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May 8, 2009 ([TalkLeft: the Politics of Crime](#) delivered by Newstex) --

As TalkLeft [noted in 2002](#), Joseph Salvati had good reason to sue the FBI. The nation's premier law enforcement agency encouraged false testimony against Salvati at his state court murder trial because it knew the murder had actually been committed by FBI informants. Protecting its informants became a higher FBI priority than protecting the liberty of innocent people.

In its defense of Salvati's lawsuit, the Justice Department attempted to convince District Court Judge Nancy Gertner that the FBI didn't know Salvati's accuser would commit perjury, and that even if it did it had no duty to disclose evidence of Salvati's innocence because Salvati was being prosecuted in a state court. As TalkLeft [noted in 2007](#), Judge Gertner rejected those arguments and awarded \$101.7 million to Salvati and three others who were wrongly convicted of the murder.

Salvati is still waiting to collect. He's 76 years old, living with his wife in a one bedroom apartment. They get by on Salvati's social security benefit and his wife's small pension. The FBI should have apologized and written a check years ago. Instead, the Justice Department [continues to insist](#) that the FBI did nothing wrong. [more ...]

The FBI appealed Judge Gertner's decision. This week a Justice Department lawyer told a panel of First Circuit judges that the evidence before Judge Gertner failed to support her findings. Given the deference that appellate courts give to a district judge when she decides what the evidence does or doesn't prove, that argument is usually a loser. It's an even tougher sell when the judge writes a [detailed decision](#) (pdf) pointing to the specific evidence she accepts as true.

Judge Gertner's summary of her findings tells a chilling story:

## DOJ Argues FBI Had No Duty to Disclose Evidence of Perjury

The plaintiffs were convicted of Deegans murder based on the perjured testimony of Joseph "The Animal" Barboza ("Barboza"). The FBI agents "handling" Barboza, Dennis Condon ("Condon") and **H. Paul Rico** ("Rico"), and their superiors -- all the way up to the FBI Director -- knew that Barboza would perjure himself. They knew this because Barboza, a killer many times over, had told them so -- directly and indirectly. Barbozas testimony about the plaintiffs contradicted every shred of evidence in the FBI's possession at the time -- and the FBI had extraordinary information. Barboza's testimony contradicted evidence from an illegal wiretap that had intercepted stunning plans for the Deegan murder before it had taken place, plans that never included the plaintiffs. It contradicted multiple reports from informants, including the very killers who were the FBI's "Top Echelon" informants.

And even though the FBI knew Barbozas story was false, they encouraged him to testify in the Deegan murder trial. They never bothered to tell the truth to the Suffolk County District Attorneys Office. Worse yet, they assured the District Attorney that Barboza's story "checked out."

Nancy Gertner is an extraordinarily capable judge. Her carefully written, 224 page decision should easily withstand the Justice Department's assertion that she got the facts wrong.

Appellate challenges to a judge's legal reasoning are usually more productive than attacks on a judge's fact-finding, but the Justice Department isn't likely to persuade the court of appeals that Salvati's prosecution by state authorities for a state crime in a state court created no duty for the FBI to disclose evidence of his innocence.

Judge Juan R. Torruella, a member of the three-judge Appeals Court panel, noted that the FBI played a key role in the trial. "The state had no case until you provided Barboza," he said.

Salvati would like to see the FBI and the Justice Department get on the side of justice.

"They just don't care," he said. "That's the bottom line. They'll never say they're sorry."

Salvati should win the appeal. The only question is whether he'll live long enough to collect his share of the damages.

Newstex ID: 34766637

## Notes

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**Load-Date:** May 8, 2009



## [Dukakis testifies he was urged to reject clemency for Limone - Correction Appended](#)

The Boston Globe

December 14, 2006 Thursday

THIRD EDITION

### Correction Appended

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**Section:** METRO; Pg. B5

**Length:** 661 words

**Byline:** Shelley Murphy Globe Staff

### **Body**

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Former governor Michael S. Dukakis testified yesterday that he carefully considered every inmate's request for clemency in the 1980s, even reviewing case files at home at night before deciding whether the inmates should be set free.

But Dukakis said he recalled only one instance when the state's top federal prosecutor weighed in on a clemency petition - in 1983, when then US Attorney William F. Weld urged him to reject Peter J. Limone's bid for freedom.

Considering how unusual it was to get such a letter, Dukakis said he gave substantial weight to Weld's warning that Limone would "assume charge of the day-to-day operations of organized crime in this area" if released.

Dukakis said he urged the governor's council not to commute the life sentences of Limone and his codefendant, Louis Greco, in the 1980s, but would have felt differently if he knew the men had been wrongfully convicted of the 1965 gangland slaying of petty thief Edward "Teddy" Deegan in Chelsea.

Dukakis, who served two terms as governor, was called to the stand in a civil trial in which Limone, Joseph Salvati, and the families of Greco and Henry Tameleo, who are both dead, are seeking more than \$100 million from the government for falsely imprisoning the men.

Later, on his way out of the courthouse, Dukakis said it was "disgraceful" that two Italian-American members of the Parole Board were investigated by the FBI for alleged ties to organized crime after they voted to commute Limone's sentence in 1983.

"Now that we know what was going on in the [FBI] office, we were all deceived," said Dukakis, referring to the racketeering conviction of former FBI agent John J. Connolly Jr. for his handling of longtime informants James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi and to the murder indictment of former FBI agent **H. Paul Rico**, who died in jail while awaiting trial.



## Dukakis testifies he was urged to reject clemency for Limone - Correction Appended

"In fact, the bureau itself was betrayed."

Limone and Salvati spent more than 30 years in prison before they were exonerated five years ago after the revelation that secret FBI reports, never turned over at their 1968 trial, indicated they had been framed by the government's key witness, Mafia hitman Joseph "The Animal" Barboza. Tameleo and Greco died in prison.

Dukakis acknowledged he knew nothing about allegations that then-FBI agent Dennis Condon was aware Barboza was lying and yet vouched for his credibility during the trial.

But on the stand, Dukakis defended the integrity of Condon, who served as public safety commissioner during his administration.

He later told reporters, "There really wasn't a better public servant walking the earth, in my opinion."

Barboza testified during the 1968 trial that Limone, who allegedly had ties to organized crime, paid him \$7,500 to kill Deegan and that Tameleo, the mob's reputed consigliere, sanctioned the hit. Barboza, who was given leniency for his cooperation, contended Salvati and Greco participated in the slaying.

In earlier testimony yesterday, former defense attorney F. Lee Bailey testified that Barboza told him two years after the convictions that he wanted to recant and confided that Rico was part of a plot to frame the four men.

Bailey said Barboza asserted that Rico told him the FBI wanted to prosecute high-profile organized crime figures and suggested he implicate Tameleo and Limone in Deegan's slaying.

"He said he was told [by Rico] to give us two and you can name two," said Bailey, adding that Barboza added Salvati and Greco because he disliked them.

Bailey said Barboza admitted that he protected one of the true killers, his close friend Vincent "Jimmy" Flemmi, who was also an FBI informant. Flemmi, who died in prison in 1979, was the brother of Stephen Flemmi.

Barboza changed his mind about recanting and was gunned down by another mobster in 1976 in San Francisco.

Rico died in January 2004, in jail, awaiting trial on charges that he helped Bulger and Stephen Flemmi orchestrate the 1981 slaying of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler.

## Correction

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Because of an editing error, a story in yesterday's City & Region section about former governor Michael S. Dukakis testifying in a civil trial in federal court incorrectly said Dukakis served two terms. He served three terms.

**Correction-Date:** December 15, 2006

## Graphic

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Former governor Michael S. Dukakis (right), with CBS4 News reporter Dan Rea, entered the federal courthouse yesterday to testify in a civil trial. Dukakis said he recalled only one time when the state's top federal prosecutor weighed in on a clemency petition - in 1983, when William F. Weld, then US attorney, urged him to reject Peter J. Limone's bid for freedom. B5 (PHOTO RAN ON PAGE B1.) Peter J. Limone, leaving court Nov. 16, is among the plaintiffs seeking some \$100 million from the government for false imprisonment.

Dukakis testifies he was urged to reject clemency for Limone - Correction Appended

**Load-Date:** December 15, 2006

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## *Editorial; Setting right the wrongs*

The Boston Herald

July 27, 2007 Friday

ALL EDITIONS

Copyright 2007 Boston Herald Inc.

**Section:** EDITORIAL; Pg. 020

**Length:** 328 words

### **Body**

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When the "good guys" turn out to be not so good and the "bad guys" turn out to be not so bad, then justice is turned on its head. And someone should be held accountable. Someone should pay.

Yesterday in a federal courtroom, Judge Nancy Gertner made that abundantly clear. The federal government will have to pay some \$101 million to Peter Limone, Joseph Salvati and the families of two former co-defendants who died in prison in connection with their wrongful conviction for the 1965 killing of Teddy Deegan.

"No lost liberty is dispensable," Gertner said yesterday. "We have fought wars over these principles."

Salvati and Limone were exonerated in 2001 after FBI memos came to light showing they were framed for the crime by hitman Joseph "The Animal" Barboza with the full knowledge of FBI agents who encouraged the perjury and withheld that evidence for more than three decades.

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

Astonishingly a Justice Department lawyer had argued that federal authorities should not be held accountable for the outcome of state prosecutions and that the FBI had no duty to share their information with state officials.

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

Just how absurd is abundantly clear from the FBI documents forwarded to Washington back in 1968 crowing about the work of agents H. Paul Rico (who died in custody while awaiting trial for other offenses) and Dennis Condon (best remembered for recruiting "Whitey" Bulger as an informant).

"Both agents testified reflecting great credit on FBI," the memo to the director said.

Well, that was then.

The local office of the FBI has spent years trying to live down the infamy of those days. The Justice Department's efforts in federal court to deny the significance of that wrongdoing simply managed to magnify the disgrace.

Yesterday Judge Gertner attempted to set things right - and \$101 million is a good start.

**Load-Date:** July 27, 2007

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End of Document



## *Editorial; Airing FBI's dirty laundry*

The Boston Herald

May 3, 2001 Thursday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** EDITORIAL;

**Length:** 376 words

### **Body**

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Today on Capitol Hill some of the FBI's very old and very dirty linen will be aired before a congressional committee.

One of its victims, Joseph Salvati, who spent 30 years in prison for a murder he did not commit in large part because of FBI misconduct, will get to tell his story. So too could former FBI agents *H. Paul Rico* and Dennis Condon - that is, if they decide to do so, rather than invoke their Fifth Amendment rights.

All of this may seem like ancient history, but it's a history that the bureau must not be allowed to repeat. And the time could not be better for Congress to shed light on what happens when the FBI is allowed to run amok, to make its own rules, to shield its informants even if that means piling lie upon lie and damaging the very criminal justice system they are supposed to be a part of.

Current FBI Director Louis Freeh, who announced Monday he was leaving before the expiration of his term in 2003, was not in charge during the time when these hideous miscarriages of justice in Boston took place. In fact, Freeh seems to have done a decent job of attempting to restore a measure of credibility to the agency. But his departure should allow Congress to question at length and in some detail whoever Freeh's successor will be about just how the FBI intends to deal with confidential informants.

Before she left, Attorney General Janet Reno finally issued new guidelines on the handling of confidential informants by the FBI, guidelines designed to prevent the abuses that became so obvious in Boston. But in a recent meeting with Herald editors and reporters, Boston's outgoing U.S. attorney, Donald Stern, conceded that those guidelines were only as good as the intentions of those in Washington to enforce them and those in Boston to abide by them.

FBI agents such as the now-indicted John Connolly laughed at similar guidelines issued back in 1976 by then-Attorney General Edward Levi just before he left office. Those guidelines too prohibited FBI agents from concealing crimes by their informants. Seemed like a good idea at the time.

And it still is.

Today's hearing by the House Committee on Government Reform ought to be merely a prelude to making sure this sorry bit of FBI history isn't repeated.

**Load-Date:** May 3, 2001

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End of Document



## **Editorial; FBI's skeletons rattling**

The Boston Herald

October 11, 2003 Saturday

ALL EDITIONS

Copyright 2003 Boston Herald Inc.

**Section:** EDITORIAL;

**Length:** 209 words

### **Body**

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No one around these parts would shed any tears over the thought that 78-year-old **H. Paul Rico** might end his days on death row.

Of course, if arrogance and cruelty were crimes the former FBI agent would already be a goner. His "What do you want from me, tears?" remark when accused by Rep. Christopher Shays (R-Conn.) of feeling no remorse for his role in the conviction of four innocent men tells us all we need to know about the character of the man.

No one can ever give those years back to Joe Salvati and Peter Limone (the other two, Henry Tameo and Louis Greco died in prison). But the thought of Rico at long last on trial, accused of murder and conspiracy to murder in the 1981 killing of an Oklahoma businessman ought to bring a measure of satisfaction. But this is far more than a decades old murder case, more than ancient history.

Salvati lawyer Victor Garo said of Rico, "He was the inside man of the Boston office of the FBI in dealing with informants like Steve Flemmi and others. I would imagine that right now many people are concerned about what he knows and what he will say. . . . He knows about all the skeletons in the closet."

Now Rico's in a Miami jail awaiting extradition and the skeletons are rattling like crazy.

**Load-Date:** October 11, 2003



## **Editorial; Mobster math: 20 bodies, 14 years**

The Boston Herald

June 25, 2004 Friday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** EDITORIAL; Pg. 026

**Length:** 275 words

### **Body**

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It's no one's fault, really. It's the way the system works - 20 bodies, 20 cold-blooded killings, 14 years in federal prison.

By 2007 John Martorano, a hit man for the Winter Hill gang for decades, will likely be a free man.

In pronouncing the sentence, U.S. District Court Judge Mark Wolf said, "You can tell your family when you're coming home. But you denied that ability to at least other 20 other men."

He called the man who did much of James "Whitey" Bulger's dirty work, "a calculating opportunist."

And that he was. In federal custody since 1995, Martorano saw his opportunities and he took 'em. In doing so he helped put fellow mobster Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi away for life for his role in 10 murders. He helped in the recovery of six bodies that otherwise might never have been found. But most of all he confirmed an astonishing level of corruption in the Boston FBI and helped send former agent John Connolly to federal prison.

He might have done the same for former agent **H. Paul Rico**, who was indicted in connection with the murder of Oklahoma businessman Roger Wheeler, had not death claimed Rico before he could come to trial.

The families of those other victims weren't happy with the sentence, within the 12 1/2-to-15 year range recommended by prosecutors, but many understood it.

"I can never forgive him [Martorano] for what he has done, but I do recognize it is he, rather than the FBI, that has come forward and told the truth," said David Wheeler, son of Roger Wheeler.

That lady with the blindfold isn't holding those scales for nothing. But there are days - like this one - when her arm must truly grow weary of the burden.

**Load-Date:** June 25, 2004



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End of Document



## *Editorial; Same old, same old at FBI*

The Boston Herald

February 22, 2004 Sunday

ALL EDITIONS

Copyright 2004 Boston Herald Inc.

**Section:** EDITORIAL;

**Length:** 273 words

### **Body**

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New Englanders have developed a fairly skeptical attitude toward the once-revered Federal Bureau of Investigation - for a lot of well-founded reasons. John Connolly and the late *H. Paul Rico* were hardly credits to their profession.

But an internal report prepared by the FBI in 2000 and just made public this week - only through the efforts of Rep. Charles E. Grassley (R-Iowa) - shows a pattern that goes well beyond the misconduct of a few "rogue agents."

The report found that from 1986 to 1999 the FBI dismissed more than 70 agents for any number of serious offenses, many of them criminal.

"The shocking report is a laundry list of horrors," Grassley said in a letter to the FBI, "with examples of agents who committed rape, sexual crimes against children, other sexual deviance and misconduct, attempted murder of a spouse, and narcotics violations."

Just last week a former internal affairs specialist with the FBI was sentenced to 12 years in prison in Texas for child molestation. If the service can't trust its own internal affairs unit, who can it trust?

The study's own analysis found the errant agents averaged more than 10 years on the job and that 65 percent had engaged in "long-term misconduct."

All of this would be so much ancient history, of course, had the facts been gathered and then released in a timely fashion. But it took THREE YEARS the FBI to hand over the report, and it was only through Grassley's tireless efforts that it finally saw the light of day. FBI officials here and in Washington talk and talk about changing the culture. But the more things change the more . . . well, you know.

**Load-Date:** February 22, 2004



## *Editorial; Who should be judged?*

The Boston Herald  
May 5, 2001 Saturday  
ALL EDITIONS

Copyright 2001 Boston Herald Inc.

**Section:** EDITORIAL;

**Length:** 215 words

### **Body**

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On the word of one man, disputed by all six others who were there, a vocal segment of the American left is howling for the prosecution of former Sen. Bob Kerrey for an alleged war crime in Vietnam, something Kerrey himself has called an atrocity and for which he has expressed much remorse.

A former FBI agent, ***H. Paul Rico***, appears to have helped send two men to prison for 30 years for a murder they had no hand in.

Before a congressional committee, Rico refused to express the slightest remorse, and met questions with revolting sarcasm.

Which is more worthy of prosecution: a man entrusted by lawful military authority with a dangerous mission who stumbles into the unexpected, or a man trusted to enforce the law who hides evidence to free the innocent? Put the question another way: Which man did more to subvert the rule of law? Which prosecution would serve justice more?

Rep. Christopher Shays (R-Conn.) told Rico at the hearing, "I think you should be prosecuted." We agree. An official investigation of Rico and others is under way, at least, and prosecution of another agent, John Connolly, has begun in a related case. We see no reason to investigate Kerrey, and even if the Pentagon should undertake one, we're confident there would be no grounds for prosecution.

**Load-Date:** May 5, 2001

Et cetera



## *Et cetera*

The Seattle Times

December 6, 2003, Saturday

Fourth Edition

Copyright 2003 The Seattle Times Company

**Section:** ROP ZONE; News;; Et cetera; Brief,Obituary**Length:** 455 words

## **Body**

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### Update

Myanmar's military government has released 16 opposition-party members who were arrested alongside pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi six months ago, an official said yesterday. Suu Kyi has said she will not accept freedom until all those arrested with her are released. Fourteen remain in jail.

### Upbeat

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will give \$25 million to the southern Indian state of Karnataka for prevention of AIDS in what officials said is the foundation's first arrangement with a state agency in India. Karnataka has about 500,000 confirmed AIDS cases in its adult population.

### Storm watch

Tropical Storm Odette continued to strengthen in the Caribbean yesterday, with landfall and heavy rain expected in the Dominican Republic and Haiti early today, forecasters said.

### In the courts

John W. Mabie, 72, a retired police officer who killed his granddaughter and three others in an unprovoked shooting rampage, was sentenced yesterday in Toms River, N.J., to 30 years in prison without parole.

**H. Paul Rico**, 78, a former FBI agent charged with a 1981 mob murder in Oklahoma, has agreed to be extradited for trial after improving from heart problems, his attorney said yesterday in Miami.

### People

Democratic presidential candidate Al Sharpton will host tonight's broadcast of "Saturday Night Live."

## Et cetera

Former Sen. Paul Simon, D-Ill., has been hospitalized for a heart condition. Simon, 75, suffered shortness of breath Thursday, when he had planned to announce his endorsement of Democratic presidential contender Howard Dean. Simon went ahead with the announcement from his hospital bed.

A Swiss animal-rights campaigner clad in a dog costume tied himself to a 12-foot-high crucifix at the Greek Embassy in Berlin yesterday to protest the alleged killing of 3,000 stray dogs in Athens before the Olympics next summer. Max Sartore, 23, said he will stay on the crucifix for three days.

## Today in history

In 1790, Congress moved from New York to Philadelphia.

In 1884, Army engineers completed construction of the Washington Monument.

In 1921, British and Irish representatives signed a treaty in London providing for creation of an Irish Free State.

In 1957, America's first attempt at putting a satellite into orbit blew up on the launch pad at Cape Canaveral, Fla.

## Passages

Ellen Drew, 89, a \$50-a-week contract actress at Paramount who rose through the Hollywood ranks to star with such actors as Joel McCrea, Dick Powell and Rudy Vallee during the 1940s and '50s, died of a liver ailment Wednesday in Palm Desert, Calif.

Alan Davidson, 79, a career British diplomat who shared his knowledge of exotic cuisines in a series of best-selling cookbooks on the food of nations in which he served, died Tuesday in London.

**Load-Date:** December 7, 2003



## [Ex-agent accused of lying for Bulger; Fitzpatrick said he was whistle-blower](#)

The Boston Globe

May 1, 2015 Friday

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**Section:** NEWS; Metro; Pg. B,1,7

**Length:** 1161 words

**Byline:** By Shelley Murphy, Globe Staff

### **Body**

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Former FBI agent Robert Fitzpatrick has long cast himself as a whistle-blower who urged superiors to drop James "Whitey" Bulger as an informant in the 1980s, only to be ignored as corrupt agents protected the murderous gangster. It's a portrayal he offered while testifying for the families of Bulger's victims in wrongful death suits against the government, during court hearings delving into FBI corruption, in a book about his life, and as a defense witness at Bulger's 2013 racketeering trial. In a stunning development Thursday in the never-ending Bulger saga, the 75-year-old Fitzpatrick was recast as a villain as prosecutors unsealed a 12-count indictment accusing him of perjury and obstruction of justice for allegedly misleading jurors in an effort bolster Bulger's defense.

Former FBI agent Robert Fitzpatrick has long cast himself as a whistle-blower who urged superiors to drop James "Whitey" Bulger as an informant in the 1980s, only to be ignored as corrupt agents protected the murderous gangster.

It's a portrayal he offered while testifying for the families of Bulger's victims in wrongful death suits against the government, during court hearings delving into FBI corruption, in a book about his life, and as a defense witness at Bulger's 2013 racketeering trial.

In a stunning development Thursday in the never-ending Bulger saga, the 75-year-old Fitzpatrick was recast as a villain as prosecutors unsealed a 12-count indictment accusing him of perjury and obstruction of justice while misleading jurors in an effort to bolster Bulger's defense.

The indictment alleges that since 1998, Fitzpatrick, who was second in command of the FBI's Boston office in the 1980s, "falsely held himself out as a whistle-blower who tried to end the FBI's relationship with Bulger." He's accused of lying in an effort to aid Bulger's defense, and misstating his accomplishments as an agent to enhance his credibility.

The indictment also alleges Fitzpatrick lied when he said he had found the rifle used to kill the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. on the day he was assassinated in 1968, and when he said he had arrested then-New England Mafia underboss Gennaro "Jerry" Angiulo in 1983.

## Ex-agent accused of lying for Bulger; Fitzpatrick said he was whistle-blower

Fitzpatrick, of Charlestown, R.I., was led into federal court in Boston in shackles Thursday. He pleaded not guilty to the charges, was released on a \$50,000 unsecured bond, and declined to comment as he left the courthouse with his wife.

His attorney, Robert Goldstein, said, "Mr. Fitzpatrick adamantly maintains his innocence, and looks forward to challenging the government's allegations in a courtroom as soon as possible."

The indictment shocked some relatives of Bulger's victims who had sat through the eight-week trial that culminated with his conviction for participating in 11 murders while running a sprawling criminal enterprise from the 1970s to the 1990s. Bulger is serving two consecutive life sentences at a federal penitentiary in Florida.

"I can't believe it," said Patricia Donahue, whose husband was killed by Bulger in 1982. "Everybody thought he was the one doing the right thing, and he ends up being indicted."

Donahue said she believes Fitzpatrick should be held accountable if he lied, but questioned the timing of the charges now, and wondered why other FBI agents have eluded charges despite allegations that they took payoffs from Bulger, leaked information that got people killed, and provided explosives to the gangster.

"It seems to me they only pick certain agents to go after," she said.

Fitzpatrick is the third former FBI agent to face charges related to Bulger. John J. Connolly Jr. was convicted of federal racketeering in Boston, and of murder in Florida. **H. Paul Rico** was indicted for allegedly assisting Bulger in the 1981 murder of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler, but died before the case went to trial.

Connolly's FBI supervisor, John Morris, who pocketed bribes from Bulger and leaked information to him, was granted immunity from prosecution in exchange for his cooperation.

Assistant US Attorney Fred Wyshak, part of the team that prosecuted Bulger, said Thursday, "Much of the misconduct that has occurred as a result of the FBI's relationship with James Bulger was not prosecutable due to the . . . statutes of limitations."

As for Fitzpatrick's indictment, Wyshak said the allegations against him "occurred in 2013 in federal court, and were clearly prosecutable within the statute of limitations."

Bulger's lawyer, Hank Brennan, who is appealing his client's conviction, called Fitzpatrick's indictment shameful, and said he believes the former agent is being targeted for having the audacity to challenge the version of facts presented by the government.

"It doesn't matter if a witness lies, steals, or murders, if you are a soldier of the federal government they will wrap their arms around you and embrace you," he said. "If you defy them, they will crush you."

Brennan said he believes Fitzpatrick was truthful, and his indictment will send a chilling message to anyone who testifies against the government.

He noted former governor William Weld testified in 1998 that while he was the US attorney in Boston, Fitzpatrick told him he feared for the safety of Brian Halloran, who was cooperating against Bulger and was denied placement in the government's witness protection program. Later, Halloran and Michael Donahue, who was giving him a ride home, were gunned down by Bulger.

Fitzpatrick was called to the witness stand by Bulger's defense lawyers to describe corruption in the FBI, and to try to undermine evidence that Bulger had been an FBI informant.

The defense contended that Bulger was never an informant, and that Connolly fabricated his informant file to cover up their corrupt relationship.

Ex-agent accused of lying for Bulger; Fitzpatrick said he was whistle-blower

Fitzpatrick said he was sent to meet Bulger in 1981 to assess whether he should remain an informant, and Bulger told him he was not an informant, that he paid others for information.

The indictment alleges that Fitzpatrick's account of the conversation was a lie, and that he lied about advocating to drop Bulger as an informant.

He's also accused of lying in testifying that he had been assigned to the FBI's Boston office in 1980 to stop leaks that compromised investigations; the indictment states it was a routine transfer, with no special role.

Assistant US Attorney Zachary Hafer said in court that the six perjury counts carry a five-year maximum sentence; the six obstruction counts have a maximum term of 10 years.

Fitzpatrick, who coauthored a book, "Betrayal, Whitey Bulger and the FBI Agent Who Fought to Bring Him Down," faced withering cross-examination during Bulger's 2013 trial.

Former Massachusetts State Police colonel Thomas Foley, who had spearheaded the Bulger investigation in the 1990s, said Fitzpatrick failed to do anything to stop Bulger when he had the chance, and his testimony "was making a mockery of the whole process."

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**Load-Date:** May 1, 2015





## [Ex-Agent Appears by Video at Arraignment](#)

Associated Press Online

January 14, 2004 Wednesday

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**Section:** DOMESTIC NEWS

**Length:** 437 words

**Byline:** KELLY KURT; Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** TULSA, Okla.

### **Body**

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A 78-year-old former FBI agent accused in the mob killing of a businessman appeared via video feed for his arraignment Wednesday, sitting in a wheelchair and occasionally moaning before the proceedings began.

**H. Paul Rico's** attorney told a judge that Rico can stand trial in the 1981 slaying, dropping a request to have his competency evaluated. But bail should be set immediately so the ailing Rico can be treated, said the attorney, Garvin Isaacs.

Prosecutors said the issue of Rico's competency must first be resolved.

Special Judge Mark Barcus arraigned Rico on charges of first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder in the slaying of businessman Roger Wheeler and set a Feb. 9 preliminary hearing date. A competency hearing is scheduled for Friday.

Rico, appearing through a video feed from the Tulsa County jail, said nothing during the hearing. He suffers from a heart condition, wears a pacemaker and has lost 53 pounds, Isaacs said.

"I am telling you this man is sick, extremely sick," he said, interrupting the judge, who then decided the arraignment would go on.

The competency and bail issues will be addressed at a hearing Friday before a different judge, prosecutor Steve Kunzweiler said.

Isaacs had requested a competency evaluation in December when Rico was being held in the Miami-Dade County Jail in Florida. He withdrew his request Monday, saying that Rico can appreciate the nature of the charges and assist in his defense.

But Kunzweiler said the competency issue must still be heard under Oklahoma law.

"We want to give Mr. Rico his day in court, but we want to follow the law," Kunzweiler said.

## Ex-Agent Appears by Video at Arraignment

Rico was arrested Oct. 9 at his Florida home and transferred last week to Tulsa, where he has been housed in the jail's medical center.

As an FBI agent, Rico cultivated members of Boston's Winter Hill Gang as informants. He later served as security chief at World Jai Alai, which Wheeler owned.

Investigators say Wheeler suspected that Boston gangsters were skimming money from the jai alai business, and Rico helped set up his murder.

Wheeler was shot in the head after a round of golf at Tulsa's Southern Hills Country Club on May 27, 1981. Murder charges were filed 20 years later against Winter Hill Gang members James "Whitey" Bulger, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi and John Martorano.

Martorano, a confessed hit man, pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and received a 15-year prison term for killing Wheeler, who also headed Tulsa-based Telex Corp.

Flemmi pleaded guilty in October to 10 murders, including that of Wheeler. Bulger remains at large since being tipped off to his pending indictment in 1995.

**Load-Date:** January 15, 2004



## *Ex-agent denies tipping off Flemmi*

The Boston Globe

January 15, 1998, Thursday, City Edition

Copyright 1998 Globe Newspaper Company

**Section:** METRO/REGION; Pg. B4

**Length:** 750 words

**Byline:** By Patricia Nealon, Globe Staff

### **Body**

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The former FBI agent who handled gangster and informant Stephen J. "The Rifleman" Flemmi in the late 1960s denied yesterday that he had alerted Flemmi to an upcoming indictment, and didn't recall Flemmi phoning him while he was on the run.

Concluding three days of testimony in federal court, retired agent ***H. Paul Rico*** also said he never testified in a 1983 trial in Rhode Island during which a former government witness contended that Rico had ordered him to lie at a previous trial.

Rico also denied that he engineered Flemmi's surrender after Flemmi fled an attempted murder charge in 1969, and maintained he played no role in the eventual dismissal of those charges. Flemmi made those allegations in court affidavits.

Rico also testified he made at least two \$ 50 payments to Flemmi in 1968 and 1969 for his services as an informant. Flemmi has insisted he never was paid.

Flemmi is challenging federal extortion, racketeering, and murder charges against him, his alleged criminal partner, James J. "Whitey" Bulger, New England Mafia boss Francis P. "Cadillac Frank" Salemme, and two associates in a series of indictments in 1995 and 1996.

Flemmi asserts that his FBI contacts promised him immunity from prosecution in exchange for information on his criminal rivals in the Mafia. Rico and two of his former superiors have denied that allegation under oath.

Bulger, who ran the Winter Hill Gang with Flemmi, fled before he was indicted and remains a fugitive. Bulger, like Flemmi, was an FBI informant; he reportedly was coaxed into cooperating after Rico was kind to his family when Bulger was jailed on bank robbery charges in the 1950s.

Yesterday, in response to a question by US District Judge Mark L. Wolf, Rico said he had contact with Bulger's brother, former state Senate president William M. Bulger, through their mutual association with Boston College.

## Ex-agent denies tipping off Flemmi

"Probably because William Bulger became prominent at BC and I went to BC, I saw him at functions there," Rico testified yesterday. William Bulger, who resigned as Senate president in early 1996 and now heads the University of Massachusetts, was a visiting professor at BC.

Besides being unable to remember whether he phoned Flemmi while Flemmi was on the run, Rico frequently said he couldn't recall the answers to questions the attorneys asked him. Wolf, skeptical of the memory lapses, asked at the conclusion of his testimony if Rico ever had heard the term "plausible deniability."

"It's possible I could have heard that," Rico replied.

Wolf asked him if the phrase held any particular meaning.

"No," Rico said, "not really."

Also yesterday, testimony and documents suggested that Flemmi was not responsible for alerting officials to a possible Mafia murder plot against Garrett Byrne, who was the Suffolk County district attorney, and an unnamed judge in 1967. One of Flemmi's contacts, FBI agent John Connolly, gave Flemmi credit for that tip in a 1980 document released last week.

At the time of the alleged plot, Rico wrote a report saying he had questioned Flemmi about the plot after then-US Attorney Paul Markham told him that jailed art thief Myles J. Connor Jr. had tipped him to the murder plans.

Flemmi told Rico that he had heard the rumor about an assassination plan and dismissed it as an idle threat by gangster Louis Grieco after Grieco learned he faced indictment in connection with the gangland slaying of Edward "Teddy" Deegan.

Rico, based on information from Flemmi, wrote that Grieco "was immediately voted down" by the Mafia, "and it was explained to him that any move like that would only hurt him more than help him."

Under questioning by Assistant US Attorney Fred M. Wyshak Jr., Rico acknowledged that he never took the stand to refute allegations by government witness John Kelley during a 1983 Rhode Island case.

At the time, Kelley recanted testimony he said Rico ordered him to give in the case 13 years earlier. As a result, the Supreme Court of Rhode Island overturned the 1970 conviction in a mob murder.

Kelley said Rico had told him to downscale the promises made to him by the government, including income for life and relocation. But Rico said yesterday that he was not called to testify.

Flemmi's lawyer, Kenneth J. Fishman, has offered the Rhode Island case to challenge Rico's claim that he never promised Flemmi immunity. But Wolf seemed to suggest yesterday that the Rhode Island case could not be used as evidence in these proceedings.

**Load-Date:** January 15, 1998



## [Ex-agent gets 10 years](#)

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

September 17, 2002 Tuesday Final Home Edition

Copyright 2002 The Tulsa World

**Section:** NEWS; International; Pg. a2

**Length:** 831 words

**Byline:** STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

### **Body**

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U.S. Attorney Michael Sullivan (left) and Charles Pouty, special agent in charge of the Boston FBI office, talk to reporters Monday after the convicted former FBI agent John Connolly was sentenced to a term of 10 years and one month.

Below: Convicted former Boston FBI agent John Connolly (center) arrives Monday morning at Boston's U.S. Federal Courthouse. Connolly, 62, was convicted in May on charges of racketeering, obstruction of justice and lying to FBI agents. Photos by MIKE MERGEN / Associated Press

Cozy alliance with mobsters infuriates FBI BOSTON -- A former FBI agent who tipped off two mobsters that they were about to be indicted was sentenced to more than 10 years in prison Monday in a case that exposed an overly cozy relationship between the bureau and its underworld informants.

The case against agent John Connolly Jr. proved a major embarrassment to the FBI and led to new Justice Department guidelines for handling informants.

Connolly, 62, was blamed for letting mobsters get away with several crimes, including the 1981 murder of Tulsa millionaire Roger Wheeler.

Connolly declined the opportunity to speak at his sentencing. He blew a kiss to his wife and other family members in the courtroom as he was led away without handcuffs. Under federal rules, he must serve at least 8-1/2 years.

Connolly was considered a star agent for his help in breaking up the New England Mafia in the 1970s and '80s by using information he got from top-echelon FBI informants James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, leaders of the Winter Hill Gang, a Boston Irish mob.

But a jury found that Connolly had become too close to his informants and went too far to protect them.

Connolly was convicted in May of racketeering, obstruction of justice and lying to an FBI agent for tipping off Bulger and Flemmi about criminal investigations and warning them about an upcoming indictment in 1995.

## Ex-agent gets 10 years

Witnesses said Bulger ordered the killing of the 55-year-old Wheeler, who was chairman of the Tulsa-based Telex Corp. Wheeler was shot in the head after a round of golf at Southern Hills Country Club on May 27, 1981.

Bulger, now 73, and Flemmi, 68, were charged in Tulsa County in March 2001 with murder and conspiracy counts linked to Wheeler's slaying. Investigators have long believed that the killing was tied to Wheeler's purchase of Florida-based World Jai Alai and his suspicion that mobsters were skimming profits.

Bulger has been a fugitive since 1995 on racketeering-related charges and is on the FBI's "Most Wanted" list. Flemmi is serving 10 years for money laundering, extortion and obstruction.

Flemmi still faces trial in New England for his alleged role in 10 murders, all of them committed while he was an FBI informant. If Bulger is captured, he also faces a federal indictment that was unsealed in Boston in 2000. Those charges linked him to even more murders than the number in which Flemmi has been implicated.

U.S. District Judge Joseph L. Tauro on Monday gave Connolly the maximum under federal guidelines of 10 years and one month, saying he wanted to show that the justice system has "zero tolerance" for what the agent did.

At Connolly's trial, his former supervisor, John Morris, admitted under a grant of immunity of taking \$7,000 in bribes from Bulger and Flemmi.

Documents obtained by The Associated Press in July showed a pattern of conduct in the FBI that went beyond Connolly and a few agents in Boston.

Field memos showed that for more than 20 years, FBI headquarters in Washington knew that its agents in Boston were using professional killers and mob leaders as informants and shielding them from prosecution for serious crimes, including murder.

Connolly's lawyer, Tracy Miner, said Connolly cultivated Bulger and Flemmi as informants at the urging of his FBI superiors.

Robert Jordan, assistant director of the FBI Office of Professional Responsibility, sent the judge a letter asking for a stiff sentence. He said Connolly had "betrayed his oath of office, his duty to his fellow agents, and his brothers and sisters in law enforcement."

The prosecution witnesses against Connolly included confessed hitman John V. Martorano, who admitted in a Tulsa courtroom last year that he killed Wheeler.

Martorano, 61, was sentenced to 15 years in prison after pleading guilty to the second-degree murder of Wheeler. That time will run concurrently with sentences in other states.

At Connolly's trial, Martorano also implicated retired FBI Agent H. Paul Rico in the Wheeler case. Martorano claimed that Rico -- who was head of security for World Jai Alai after his FBI retirement -- had furnished information about Wheeler's habits.

Rico, now living in Florida, has denied any involvement. Tulsa police have sought a charge against Rico in the Wheeler case, but District Attorney Tim Harris has not taken that action.

To assist in future decisions regarding the Wheeler case, Tulsa prosecutors have been provided with transcripts of testimony from the Connolly trial.

**Load-Date:** September 20, 2002



## [Ex-agent may feel void on Whitey's 7th anniversary](#)

The Boston Herald

January 4, 2002 Friday

ALL EDITIONS

Copyright 2002 Boston Herald Inc.

**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 659 words

**Byline:** By HOWIE CARR

### **Body**

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This is always the worst time of year for John Connolly, the ex-FBI agent now under indictment for being a lapdog for the mob.

Tonight is the saddest night of the year for the 61-year-old ex-fed. Because it's the eve of the seventh anniversary of the disappearance of his friend, his mentor, his idol, the man who made John Connolly what he is today, which is a national disgrace.

John Connolly misses Whitey Bulger.

He misses the sage advice and counsel he used to receive from the cocaine-dealing serial killer.

Yesterday, I called Connolly's house in Lynnfield. I mentioned what day was rapidly approaching (as if he didn't know!) and asked him if he wanted to make a comment.

"I have no comment," he said. "Thanks." Click.

John, I feel your pain. But there was another reason for the call. After leaving the FBI, John Canoli, as he's known among honest cops, went to work for what was then known as Boston Edison.

And in 1991, the company magazine, Edison Life, featured a fawning profile of the mob's alleged mole in the Boston FBI office. The piece is chockful of quotes that seem even more-germane now than they did more than 10 years ago. (To read the entire story, check out the X files on my Web site, [howiecarr.org](http://howiecarr.org).)

"Prison time," Canoli told the adoring Edison flack back in 1991, "is a cost of doing business for the Mafia."

Boy, does he know that now. He's looking at about a million years if he goes down on all those counts involving the RICO statute, which, contrary to public belief, is not named after Connolly's FBI hero, **H. Paul Rico**.

"The media," Connolly sniffed, "glorifies organized crime."

Ex-agent may feel void on Whitey's 7th anniversary

Now, of course, as he awaits his trial, he's supposedly working on a "screenplay" about his life with the mob.

"Knowledge is power in fighting the Mafia," the ex-G-man said. "You can't win a fight if you're not in the ring."

Surely, Canoli meant to say, you can't win a fight if you're not taking rings from the mob. That's one of the counts in the indictment, that he accepted a diamond ring from Whitey and his partner, Steve "The Rifleman" Flemmi.

"It was hard to leave," Connolly said of the Bureau. "I was never bored. I always looked forward to going to work."

What wasn't to like? Some days, you'd go to work and the gangsters would give you a diamond ring. Other days, you'd have a sit-down with the boys and decide how much to allegedly bribe Connolly's FBI supervisor. (The number they allegedly decided on was \$ 7,000.)

Then there was those days, allegedly, when he had to go down to the gangsters' appliance store and pick up some free stuff.

"Being an FBI agent can be a hazardous job."

As your old pal Rico told Congress, what do you want, tears?

"(Mobsters) like to keep a low profile. They're extremely dangerous and violent people."

Near the end of the story, Canoli makes what you could say was a prescient comment:

"This country," he said, "is ripe for terrorism."

Canoli, was it terrorism when you allegedly gave your gangster employers tips about who was ratting them out, so they could either shoot them down on Northern Avenue, or snatch them off the street and drop their corpses into a death pit next to those of Stevie's recalcitrant girlfriends?

"We've never really had much sabotage in the U. S., and we take security for granted."

Just like we used to take honest FBI agents for granted.

One final passage about Canoli, who left his Edison job about a year ago: "He sees his new job as director of corporate security for Edison as a logical next step in his law-enforcement career."

Wrong. The logical next step in your law-enforcement career, John, is prison. We're all keeping our fingers crossed. And by the way, best to "Jimmy" if you guys are getting together tonight for his seventh anniversary.

Suggested gifts for a seventh anniversary: copper or wool. I'd suggest the later, considering how much of it you pulled over so many people's eyes for all those years.

**Load-Date:** January 4, 2002



Ex-agent must get jail care



### *Ex-agent must get jail care*

The Oklahoman (Oklahoma City, OK)

October 25, 2003 Saturday CITY EDITION

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 9A

**Length:** 157 words

**Byline:** The Associated Press

**Dateline:** MIAMI, Fla.

## **Body**

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A judge Thursday denied an emergency motion for a medical furlough for a former FBI agent charged with his one-time informants in a mob hit.

Attorneys for ***H. Paul Rico*** sought the furlough so the ailing man could be taken to the Miami Heart Institute to be examined by his doctor.

Instead, the judge ordered that Rico be taken to the prison wing of neighboring Jackson Memorial Hospital, where most prisoners are treated.

Oklahoma defense attorney Garvin Isaacs suggested that Rico be escorted to the Heart Institute by Miami-Dade County corrections officers at his own expense.

But Assistant State Attorney Michael Von Zamft objected to the furlough request because the government considers Rico a flight risk.

Rico, who retired from the FBI in 1975, was security chief for Roger Wheeler's World Jai Alai when Wheeler was shot to death at a Tulsa country club May 27, 1981.

Wheeler's confessed hit man, John Martorano, implicated Rico in the killing.

**Load-Date:** October 28, 2003



## **EX-AGENT OF FBI ARRESTED IN MOB HIT**

The Miami Herald

October 10, 2003 Friday STATE EDITION

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**Section:** METRO & STATE; Pg. 3B

**Length:** 612 words

**Byline:** DENISE LAVOIE, Associated Press

### **Body**

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A former FBI agent who handled high-ranking mob informants was arrested Thursday at his home near Miami and charged with murder for allegedly helping to set up a 1981 mob hit on an Oklahoma businessman.

**H. Paul Rico**, 78, was charged in the slaying of Roger Wheeler, 55, who was shot in the head at a Tulsa, Okla., country club after a round of golf.

Rico's arrest was the latest turn in a long-running scandal over the cozy relationship between the Boston FBI and its underworld informants. Last year, a former FBI agent was convicted of protecting gangsters, including James "Whitey" Bulger, who is on the FBI's 10 Most Wanted list.

Investigators said Wheeler's slaying was linked to his purchase of World Jai Alai and his suspicion that money was being skimmed from the Florida company. At the time, Rico was retired from the FBI and was the head of security for World Jai Alai.

Investigators said Rico provided John Martorano, a hit man for Boston's Winter Hill Gang, with information on Wheeler's schedule so he could be killed. Martorano admitted pulling the trigger and is awaiting sentencing.

#### **DENIES ALLEGATION**

Rico "flat-out categorically denies this," his attorney, William Cagney III told The Associated Press. "He never assisted the Winter Hill Gang in trying to get inside information so they could . . . do away with people."

Rico was jailed in Florida. District Attorney Tim Harris of Tulsa could not be reached. Gail Marcinkiewicz, a spokeswoman for the Boston FBI, declined to comment.

Rico spent 24 years with the FBI, specializing in organized-crime cases in Boston in the 1960s and '70s. He cultivated mobster Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi and others as informants.

## EX-AGENT OF FBI ARRESTED IN MOB HIT

Bulger, boss of the Winter Hill Gang, Flemmi and Martorano were all charged in Wheeler's murder in 2001 by Oklahoma prosecutors.

Prosecutors in Florida followed with an indictment charging all three in the 1982 slaying of World Jai Alai executive John "Jack" Callahan in Miami. Investigators said they believe Callahan was killed to keep him from telling authorities about links between World Jai Alai and the mob.

A congressional panel is investigating the Boston FBI office's ties to its mob informants, including Bulger, who fled in 1995 after being tipped off by then-agent John J. Connolly Jr. that he was about to be indicted on federal racketeering charges.

During Connolly's trial, prosecutors said Bulger and Flemmi were left untouched by law enforcement for decades because they were informing for the FBI on the New England Mafia, which is separate from the Winter Hill Gang. Connolly is serving a 10-year prison sentence.

In 2001, Rico testified about another case before a congressional committee. He denied that he and his partner helped frame an innocent man for a 1965 gangland slaying but acknowledged that Joseph Salvati wrongly spent 30 years in prison for the crime.

Republican Rep. Christopher Shays accused Rico of feeling no remorse for his role in the conviction of four innocent men in that case. Rico replied, "What do you want, tears?"

## EXPECTING A BONANZA

Salvati's lawyer, Victor Garo, predicted that Rico's arrest will split the Boston FBI scandal wide open, exposing more government wrongdoing in Boston and Washington.

"He was the inside man of the Boston office of the FBI in dealing with informants like Steve Flemmi and others," Garo said. "I would imagine that right now many people are concerned about what he knows and what he will say. . . He knows about all the skeletons in the closet."

Wheeler's son said he was pleased with Rico's arrest.

"It's something I've wanted for years," said Larry Wheeler, who said he believes Rico played a role in his father's murder.

**Load-Date:** August 17, 2005

Ex-agent retraces gang war; Tells how FBI cultivated mob pair in violent '60s



***Ex-agent retraces gang war;  
Tells how FBI cultivated mob pair in violent '60s***

The Boston Globe

January 10, 1998, Saturday, City Edition

Copyright 1998 Globe Newspaper Company

**Section:** METRO/REGION; Pg. B1

**Length:** 794 words

**Byline:** By Shelley Murphy and Patricia Nealon, Globe Staff

## **Body**

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Rival gangsters were shooting it out on the streets of Boston in the 1960s when Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi became an FBI informant on local underworld figures.

In a 1965 dispatch to FBI director J. Edgar Hoover, Special Agent **H. Paul Rico** reported that Flemmi "appears to be emotionally stable, and if he survives the gang war, he would be a very influential individual in the Boston criminal element."

Over the next three decades, Flemmi and his partner, fugitive South Boston crime boss James J. "Whitey" Bulger, were among the most powerful organized crime leaders in Boston while serving as the FBI's most prized informants.

And yesterday, an aging Rico was called to the stand on the fourth day of laborious pretrial hearings exploring Flemmi's contention that he was promised immunity from prosecution in exchange for his long career as an FBI informant.

Defense lawyers have asked US District Judge Mark L. Wolf to toss out a 1995 racketeering indictment against Flemmi, Bulger, reputed New England Mafia boss Francis "Cadillac Frank" Salemme, and alleged underlings Robert DeLuca and John Martorano.

Seated in the jury box with his codefendants, Flemmi waved to Rico, and the former agent smiled back as he took the stand.

Describing how he developed Flemmi as an informant, Rico reminisced about the Boston gang wars of the 1960s that claimed some 60 lives, the result of hostility between two main factions: the Winter Hill gang of Somerville and the McLaughlin gang in Charlestown. Bulger and Flemmi were members of the Winter Hill gang during that time and assumed leadership of the gang by 1980.

"Several different factions in the city appeared to be angry at each other, and there was a lot of shooting and bodies around," Rico said.

Ex-agent retraces gang war; Tells how FBI cultivated mob pair in violent '60s

Flemmi believed he was targeted for death by a rival gang, and began providing information to the FBI about the leaders of some of the gangs, including Joseph "The Animal" Barboza (also known as Joseph Baron), a hitman from Swampscott who later admitted killing 26 people.

The FBI used information provided by Flemmi to pressure Barboza to cooperate against its ultimate target: La Cosa Nostra, more commonly known as the Mafia.

Barboza's testimony led to the 1968 conviction of New England Mafia boss Raymond Patriarca for plotting to kill a Providence man.

Barboza also admitted his role in the March 12, 1965, slaying of Edward "Teddy" Deegan in a Chelsea alley, and testified against five men he claimed were his accomplices, all of whom were sentenced to life in prison.

One of the alleged accomplices was Joseph Salvati, who served 29 years in prison for Deegan's murder despite claims that Barboza had falsely implicated him. The Governor's Council commuted his sentence and freed him last year.

During questioning by Flemmi's lawyer, Kenneth Fishman, Rico agreed that Patriarca tried to enlist Flemmi's brother to discredit Barboza as a government witness.

In 1967, according to Rico, Flemmi told him that Boston lawyer Joseph Balliro, who was representing Patriarca, had visited his brother, Vincent "Jimmy the Bear" Flemmi, in prison. Balliro urged Jimmy Flemmi to testify against Barboza to destroy his credibility.

Rico did not reveal what Patriarca wanted Jimmy Flemmi to say on the witness stand, but he said Stephen Flemmi "was upset about" the effort to involve his brother.

Salvati always claimed Barboza had framed him in the Deegan murder, that Barboza's real accomplice had been Jimmy Flemmi.

Salvati's commutation followed a series of reports by WBZ-TV.

Balliro could not be reached for comment yesterday. But during an interview with WBZ reporter Dan Rea several years ago, Balliro said he was "100 percent convinced that Joseph Salvati was innocent."

Balliro, who once represented Jimmy Flemmi and Barboza, said he couldn't reveal how he knew Salvati was innocent, citing attorney-client privilege.

Barboza was murdered by the mob in San Francisco in 1976.

Barboza was not the only underworld figure that Steve Flemmi provided information against. Rico testified that Flemmi met "on occasion" with Patriarca and his underboss Gennaro "Jerry" Angiulo, then relayed their conversations to the FBI.

When asked if he was aware of Flemmi's own involvement in crime, Rico said, "It had been alleged there were times when Stevie Flemmi was involved in some criminal activity."

Rico will retake the stand when the hearings continue Tuesday.

Flemmi and Salemme are charged in the racketeering indictment with murdering four men during the 1960s.

Judge Wolf must decide if an actual contract existed between Flemmi and the FBI that guaranteed that he would not be prosecuted for any crimes he committed in exchange for information he provided them as an informant.

**Load-Date:** January 12, 1998

Ex-agent retraces gang war; Tells how FBI cultivated mob pair in violent '60s

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End of Document



## *Ex-agent's arrest in mob hit damages FBI's image*

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (Wisconsin)

October 11, 2003 Saturday

FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2003 Journal Sentinel Inc.

**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 414 words

**Byline:** JEFF DONN Associated Press

### **Body**

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Boston -- Boston's FBI scandal was already disturbing enough: agents taking bribes, shrugging off gangsters' crimes, and shielding informants from police. Now, it has turned almost unthinkable: A retired agent is charged with aiding a mob hit on a reputable businessman.

"I think this does take things a step further, despite all the problems the FBI has had," said Ronald Kessler, a journalist and historian of the FBI. "I think murder is the ultimate crime."

The arrest of ***H. Paul Rico*** is likely to complicate FBI efforts to shake off its legacy of missteps with violent mob informants in Boston, said several experts on the bureau. The arrest could further dent the agency's reputation and supply more fodder for roughly \$2 billion in lawsuits accusing the government of wrongdoing in the scandal.

"This is an ugly affair in the FBI's history, probably the worst," said Allan May, who writes for the Web site Americanmafia.com. "I think the most important thing for the FBI to do is to deal with this and get this thing behind it."

The nation's leading police agency has suffered embarrassments in the past when agents were exposed as wrongdoers.

In 1990, FBI agent Mark S. Putnam in Kentucky even pleaded guilty to strangling a woman tipster to stop her from exposing their affair. The FBI said then it was the first time an agent was charged with murder.

"What . . . hasn't happened in the past is a (former) FBI agent that is charged with colluding with the wiseguys in a murder. That doesn't happen -- and that's shocking," said Robert Fitzpatrick, a former assistant chief of the FBI's Boston bureau.

One of the architects of the FBI's mob informant program, Rico helped the agency make some of its first Mafia cases in New England in the 1960s -- with the help of violent informants. When he retired in 1975, he did not entirely abandon his old collaborators: He went to work instead for a mob-connected company that sponsored jai alai games, where players fling balls at high speeds with wicker baskets. A new company head there, Roger

Ex-agent's arrest in mob hit damages FBI's image

Wheeler, wanted to root out the mob influence. Oklahoma prosecutors say Rico fed information that helped his old mob sources in Boston's Winter Hill Gang find and kill Wheeler in 1981.

Rico was arrested on the first-degree murder charge Thursday.

"He flat-out categorically denies this," said Rico's attorney, William Cagney III. "He never assisted the Winter Hill Gang in trying to get inside information so they could . . . do away with people."

**Load-Date:** October 11, 2003

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End of Document





## EX-AGENTS IMPLICATED IN JAI ALAI SLAYINGS

Hartford Courant (Connecticut)

May 14, 2002 Tuesday, 7 SPORTS FINAL

Copyright 2002 The Hartford Courant Company

**Section:** MAIN; Pg. A1

**Length:** 1183 words

**Byline:** EDMUND H. MAHONY; Courant Staff Writer

**Dateline:** BOSTON --

### **Body**

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A mob hit man on Monday implicated two former FBI agents in a murder mystery that has plagued authorities in Connecticut and elsewhere for decades -- a string of assassinations that convulsed the jai alai industry in the early 1980s.

The testimony in federal court by multiple-murderer John Martorano -- in the corruption trial of former FBI agent John J. Connolly Jr. -- backs up a theory long held by organized crime investigators about systemic corruption in the FBI's Boston office. The bureau's flagship office in New England has been the subject of increasingly scandalous allegations of misconduct over the past five years.

Martorano testified that the plot to kill former World Jai Alai owner Roger Wheeler of Tulsa, Okla., grew out of a failed attempt in the early 1980s to buy the company. One of the would-be buyers was former Boston-based FBI agent ***H. Paul Rico***, who then worked for the company.

Martorano, who admitted stalking and shooting Wheeler in May 1981, said he and his associates in Boston's Winter Hill Gang stood to make \$10,000 a week from World Jai Alai had the sale gone through.

Martorano said that three subsequent killings -- one of which he committed -- were carried out in an effort to obstruct investigations in Oklahoma and Connecticut into Wheeler's death. Martorano said the Winter Hill Gang carried out the three additional killings based on tips from Connolly.

A burly, 61-year-old who on Monday put on a pair of designer eyeglasses before describing how he killed 19 people, Martorano testified as a cooperating prosecution witness against Connolly, who is on trial in U.S. District Court on charges of racketeering, obstruction of justice and conspiracy. Connolly, a mob investigator who once got congratulatory notes from FBI directors, is accused, in effect, of becoming a secret member of the Winter Hill Gang, one of the criminal outfits he was supposed to be putting out of business.

Connolly is charged with leaking information that Winter Hill Gang leaders James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi used to protect themselves from arrest. Three of those leaks led to the killings of three potential witnesses. In return, Bulger and Flemmi were listed as two of Connolly's confidential informants. It now

## EX-AGENTS IMPLICATED IN JAI ALAI SLAYINGS

appears most of the information the two provided to Connolly was self-serving and resulted in the arrests of their criminal rivals for the city's rackets.

Martorano's testimony, if believed by jurors, will be devastating to Connolly. Among other things, Martorano described how Winter Hill Gang members chipped in to buy Connolly a stolen two-carat diamond when the agent announced he needed an anniversary present for his wife.

Assistant U.S. Attorney John Durham elicited a flood of information that involved a number of other well-known figures as well.

At the center of Martorano's account was Bulger's brother William Bulger -- the president of the University of Massachusetts system and, for two prior decades, president of the Massachusetts State Senate.

The Connolly and Bulger families were Irish immigrants and their children grew up together in the same South Boston public housing project. James "Whitey" Bulger, an incorrigible delinquent as a youth, was 11 years Connolly's senior. William Bulger was closer to Connolly in age. Connolly has said that he credits William Bulger's encouragement for the discipline that took him from the projects, through Boston College and to a career in the FBI.

Martorano testified that James Bulger told him that Connolly paid a visit to his brother after the bureau assigned Connolly to Boston in the 1970s.

"[James Bulger] said that he was told that Connolly owed his brother a favor for helping him stay the straight road, to go to college and not be a rogue," Martorano said, referring to a conversation he had with Bulger. "[Connolly] owed Billy a favor. He went to Billy and said, 'What can I do to help you in return?' And Billy said, 'Just keep my brother out of trouble.'"

As a result of his conversation with William Bulger, Martorano said, Connolly arranged a meeting with James Bulger. Bulger told fellow gang members of the meeting in advance; Martorano said Bulger could have been gunned down if anyone from South Boston spotted him meeting with a lawman.

"He wanted to inform us in case he was seen with him," said Martorano. "Something could happen to him."

Martorano said he was all for the Bulger-Connolly meeting.

"Positively," Martorano said. "All we could do was get information. Whitey said he met him, that Mr. Connolly would keep his ear to the grindstone and, if he heard anything that related to us, he would let us know."

Martorano talked about dozens of killings in a flat baritone, showing less emotion than some of the people ordering sandwiches seven floors beneath him in the courthouse cafeteria.

Martorano said the jai alai killings took place after a futile attempt by John B. Callahan to buy World Jai Alai from Wheeler. Callahan was a Boston accountant who was hired as World Jai Alai president in the 1970s, before Wheeler, a millionaire telecommunications manufacturer, bought the company.

As president, Callahan hired a former business partner, Richard Donovan, as vice president and Rico, another FBI organized crime investigator from Boston, as head of security.

World Jai Alai's board quickly fired Callahan when the company began losing money and Connecticut investigators identified him as a Winter Hill gang associate. After Wheeler bought the company, Martorano said, Callahan, Donovan and Rico offered to buy it for \$60 million. Martorano testified that Callahan had told him that if he bought World Jai Alai, Callahan would pay the Winter Hill gang \$10,000 a week "to keep people, the wise guys, from bothering him."

After Wheeler refused to sell, Martorano said, Callahan became concerned that Wheeler would learn Callahan was stealing from the company.

## EX-AGENTS IMPLICATED IN JAI ALAI SLAYINGS

Martorano said Callahan asked him to kill Wheeler. At about the same time, Martorano testified, he learned from Flemmi that Rico had made the same request of another Winter Hill member, Joseph McDonald.

After some discussion among the gang members, Martorano said, he and McDonald flew to Tulsa and Martorano shot Wheeler in the forehead as he left his golf club. Martorano testified that Bulger and Flemmi provided the guns, Rico wrote down on a piece of paper where Wheeler could be found, and Callahan covered the expenses.

In the following months, Martorano said, he was persuaded to kill Callahan. Martorano said that Bulger claimed to have learned from Connolly that Callahan was likely to implicate the gang in Wheeler's killing.

Martorano said Bulger killed yet another potential witness, Edward Brian Halloran, a disaffected Winter Hill member Callahan had told about the Wheeler killing. An innocent man also died in the hail of gunfire directed at Halloran.

Connecticut authorities became involved in the jai alai cases because of evidence that gangsters were skimming money from a jai alai fronton Wheeler owned in Hartford.

**Load-Date:** May 14, 2002

Ex-agent tells panel jailed man is innocent



## *Ex-agent tells panel jailed man is innocent*

Providence Journal-Bulletin (Rhode Island)

May 2, 2001, Wednesday,

All EDITIONS

Copyright 2001 The Providence Journal Company

**Section:** NEWS,**Length:** 325 words

### **Body**

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WASHINGTON (AP) - A former FBI agent ignored his attorney's advice and testified yesterday that he now believes that a man who claims he spent 30 years in prison because he was framed by the FBI was innocent.

"I was not convinced he was innocent until today," former Agent ***H. Paul Rico*** told the House Government Reform Committee, which is investigating the case of Joseph Salvati and the relationship of the Boston FBI and its mob informants.

Salvati, 68, 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, Peter J. Limone, 66, were exonerated this year after a judge concluded that FBI agents hid evidence that would have proven their innocence. The FBI protected informants who were helping them bring down high-ranking New England mobsters and manipulated testimony in their 1968 murder trial, the judge found.

Secret reports written by Rico showed that 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.

The FBI has said there was no effort to hide the information.

Rico said yesterday that he would answer committee members' questions against the advice of his attorney, who told him to plead the Fifth Amendment until he was given immunity. Still, he showed no sympathy for Salvati.

"Would you like tears or something?" Rico said when asked if he felt any remorse about Salvati having spent 30 years in prison. "I believe the FBI handled it properly."

The committee focused on the Salvati case in the first of several hearings it plans to hold as it investigates the FBI's use of informants.

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Ex-agent tells panel jailed man is innocent

THREE DECADES: Joseph Salvati, freed in 1997, was jailed for 30 years for a 1965 murder in Chelsea, Mass., in a case that has prompted House Government Reform Committee hearings on the Boston FBI and its mob informants.

AP

PICTURE CAPTION

**Load-Date:** May 7, 2001

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## *Ex-agent will fight extradition*

The Oklahoman (Oklahoma City, OK)  
November 15, 2003 Saturday CITY EDITION

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 8A

**Length:** 182 words

**Byline:** The Associated Press

**Dateline:** MIAMI, Fla.

### **Body**

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A former FBI agent charged in Oklahoma with a 1981 mob murder will fight extradition, his attorney told a state court judge Friday.

**H. Paul Rico**, 78, will not voluntarily return to Oklahoma to face charges that helped organize the slaying of a jai alai executive, attorney Garvin Isaacs told Senior Circuit Judge Gerald Klein.

Klein set an extradition hearing for Dec. 15. Rico will remain jailed without bail until then.

Rico, who retired from the FBI in 1975, served as security chief for Roger Wheeler's World Jai Alai when Wheeler was shot to death May 27, 1981. Wheeler was shot in the parking lot of Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa.

Investigators say Wheeler suspected money was being skimmed from the Miami jai alai business by Boston's Winter Hill gang. The Irish mob fed information to Rico on its rival New England mafia groups.

Wheeler's confessed hit man, John Martorano, implicated Rico in the killing. Rico was arrested after informant Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi did the same and pleaded guilty to charges in October with admissions in the killing of Wheeler and nine others.

**Load-Date:** November 18, 2003



## [Ex-Boston FBI Agent Held in Mob Slaying](#)

Los Angeles Times

October 10, 2003 Friday

Home Edition

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**Section:** MAIN NEWS; National Desk; Part A; Pg. 19

**Length:** 282 words

**Byline:** From Associated Press

**Dateline:** BOSTON

### **Body**

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A former FBI agent who handled high-ranking mob informants was arrested Thursday 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 55-year-old Roger Wheeler, who was shot in the head at a Tulsa, Okla., country club after a round of golf.

Rico's arrest was the latest turn in a long-running scandal over the cozy relationship between the Boston FBI and its underworld informants. Last year, a former FBI agent was convicted of protecting gangsters, including James "Whitey" Bulger, who is on the FBI's "10 Most Wanted" list.

Investigators said Wheeler's slaying was linked to his purchase of World Jai Alai and his suspicion that money was being skimmed from the Florida company. At the time, Rico was retired from the FBI and was head of security for World Jai Alai.

They also said Rico provided John Martorano, a hit man for Boston's Winter Hill gang, with information on Wheeler's schedule so he could be killed. Martorano admitted pulling the trigger and is awaiting sentencing.

Rico "flat-out categorically denies this," his attorney, William Cagney III, told Associated Press. "He never assisted the Winter Hill gang in trying to get inside information so they could ... do away with people."

Rico was jailed in Florida. Gail Marcinkiewicz, a spokeswoman for the Boston FBI, declined to comment.

Rico spent 24 years with the FBI, specializing in organized crime in Boston in the 1960s and '70s. His informants included mobster Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi.

Bulger, the boss of the Winter Hill gang, Flemmi and Martorano were charged in Wheeler's murder in 2001 in Oklahoma.

Ex-Boston FBI Agent Held in Mob Slaying

**Load-Date:** October 10, 2003

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## [Executive mob ties led to demise in car trunk](#)

The Boston Herald  
May 5, 2005 Thursday  
ALL EDITIONS

Copyright 2005 Boston Herald Inc.

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 007

**Length:** 241 words

**Byline:** By J.M. Lawrence

### **Body**

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John B. Callahan, a Boston College-educated executive with a wife and two kids, liked hanging out with gangsters. It cost him his life in 1982.

He wound up dead in the trunk of his silver Cadillac Fleetwood in the parking lot of Miami International Airport, shot by Boston buddy John Martorano on orders from James ``Whitey" Bulger.

In 1974, Callahan, once an accountant at Arthur Anderson, rose to become president of a gambling organization, World Jai Alai, where he earned more than \$100,000.

But he kept drinking in Combat Zone bars with his underworld friends and had to resign from World Jai Alai in 1976, when his mob ties threatened the company's chances of winning a fronton in Hartford.

Before he departed, he hired former Boston FBI agent ***H. Paul Rico*** to run World Jai Alai security, setting the stage for the 1981 murder of new owner Roger Wheeler, according to Tulsa, Okla., police.

They claim the new owner uncovered the Winter Hill Gang's skimming operation of World Jai Alai profits so Bulger dispatched Martorano to shoot Wheeler in Tulsa. The hitman found Wheeler with information he got from Callahan - who got his tips from Rico, investigators claim.

But attorneys for Callahan's widow deny he helped murder Wheeler. In a federal lawsuit blaming the FBI for her husband's death, Mary Jane Callahan says her husband was murdered after he told Rico about the skimming operation.

Not long thereafter, he met his demise," the suit says.

**Load-Date:** May 5, 2005



## **Ex-FBI agent accused in mob hit dead at 78**

Sunday Advocate (Baton Rouge, Louisiana)

January 18, 2004, Sunday

METRO EDITION

Copyright 2004 Capital City Press

**Section:** News

**Length:** 249 words

**Byline:** KELLY KURT

**Dateline:** TULSA, Okla.

### **Body**

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TULSA, Okla. - A retired FBI agent accused of helping his former mob informants arrange the murder of a Tulsa businessman died a week after he was extradited to Oklahoma to face charges, a hospital spokeswoman said Saturday.

AP

**H. Paul Rico**, 78, died late Friday, a few hours after a Tulsa County judge put the murder case on hold pending a psychological evaluation to determine if Rico was competent to stand trial.

The cause of Rico's death was not immediately released. He had been hospitalized since Wednesday.

His family said he had congestive heart failure and had lost 53 pounds since his arrest Oct. 9 in Florida, where he had been living.

Rico was accused of helping arrange the 1981 murder of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler, chairman of Telex Corp. and owner of World Jai Alai in Florida, where Rico worked as security chief after leaving the FBI.

Investigators say Wheeler had suspected that Boston gangsters were skimming money from World Jai Alai. He died after he was shot in the head at Tulsa's Southern Hills Country Club following a round of golf.

U.S. Attorney Michael Sullivan, who took over mob prosecutions in Massachusetts in 2000, said he felt sympathy for the Wheeler family and others in Oklahoma affected by the murder.

"They've waited a long time to have all the evidence come out," he said.

Rico had a storied FBI career, spending 24 years working on organized crime cases in Boston and, later, Miami. In Boston, members of the Winter Hill Gang had been informants for Rico.

Ex-FBI agent accused in mob hit dead at 78

**Load-Date:** January 19, 2004

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End of Document



**Ex-FBI agent accused of helping mob dies**

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (Wisconsin)

January 18, 2004 Sunday

FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2004 Journal Sentinel Inc.

**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 146 words

**Byline:** Associated Press

**Body**

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Tulsa, Okla. -- A retired FBI agent accused of helping his former mob informants arrange the murder of a Tulsa businessman died in a week after he was extradited to Oklahoma to face charges, a hospital spokeswoman said Saturday.

**H. Paul Rico**, 78, died late Friday, a few hours after a Tulsa County judge put the murder case on hold, pending a psychological evaluation to determine whether Rico was competent to stand trial.

The cause of Rico's death was not immediately released. He had been hospitalized since Wednesday. His family said he had congestive heart failure.

Rico was accused of helping arrange the 1981 murder of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler, chairman of Telex Corp. and owner of World Jai Alai in Florida, where Rico worked as security chief after leaving the FBI.

Investigators say Wheeler had suspected that Boston gangsters were skimming money from World Jai Alai.

**Load-Date:** January 18, 2004



## [Ex-FBI agent accused of murder withdraws competency request](#)

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

January 13, 2004, Tuesday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 429 words

**Dateline:** TULSA, Okla.

### **Body**

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The lawyer for a former Boston FBI agent accused in a 1981 Tulsa murder has withdrawn his request for an evaluation of his client's competency.

Attorney Garvin Isaacs notified Special Judge Carlos Chappelle Monday that **H. Paul Rico** understands the charges against him, and is capable of consulting with his lawyer and assisting in his defense.

Rico, who has a heart condition, has been in the Tulsa County Jail's medical center since being transferred last Thursday from the Miami-Dade County Jail.

He was arrested in October at his home in Florida and charged with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder for allegedly helping to plan the murder of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler. Isaacs said Rico will plead innocent in his initial appearance on Wednesday.

Isaacs also asked the judge to release Rico, 78, from jail so that he can be treated by his own doctor in Florida.

Isaacs requested the competency evaluation in December when Rico experienced hallucinations after he was assaulted in a Florida jail.

But a two-hour medical examination over the weekend found Rico to be competent and without mental illness, according to an affidavit from Dr. John R. Smith.

But Smith said Rico, who wears a pacemaker, needs greater medical attention than the jail can provide for his heart ailments, according to the affidavit.

Rico is confined to a bed, requires oxygen and nine medications per day, and is "helpless" without assistance, Isaacs said.

Assistant District Attorney Doug Drummond said a hearing on Rico's competency, scheduled for Friday, should still take place. He said that issue, once raised, must be resolved before a bail hearing can occur.

Wheeler, who owned jai alai frontons in Florida and Hartford, Conn., was shot in the head after a round of golf at Tulsa's Southern Hills Country Club on May 27, 1981. At the time, Rico was security chief for World Jai Alai.

Ex-FBI agent accused of murder withdraws competency request

Investigators say Wheeler suspected members of Boston's Winter Hill Gang were skimming money from the jai alai business. Top members of the underworld organization headed by James "Whitey" Bulger had been informants to Rico when he was an FBI agent in Boston.

Murder charges were filed in March 2001 in Tulsa County against Bulger - now a fugitive on the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted" list - and fellow Winter Hill Gang members Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi and John Martorano.

Martorano, a confessed hit man, pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and received a 15-year prison term for killing Wheeler, who was also chairman of Tulsa-based Telex Corp.

**Load-Date:** January 14, 2004

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## *Ex-FBI agent accused of setting up hit*

Philadelphia Daily News

OCTOBER 10, 2003 Friday 4STAR EDITION

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**Section:** NATIONAL; Pg. 31

**Length:** 238 words

**Byline:** Associated Press

**Dateline:** BOSTON

### **Body**

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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 shooting death of Roger Wheeler, 55, at a Tulsa, Okla., country club after a round of golf.

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

Last year, a former FBI agent was convicted of protecting gangsters, including James "Whitey" Bulger, who is on the FBI's 10 Most Wanted list.

Investigators said Wheeler's slaying was linked to his purchase of World Jai Alai and his suspicion that money was being skimmed from the Florida company. At the time, Rico was retired from the FBI and was the head of security for World Jai Alai.

Investigators said Rico provided John Martorano, a hit man for Boston's Winter Hill Gang, with information on Wheeler's schedule so he could be killed. Martorano admitted pulling the trigger and is awaiting sentencing.

Rico, a 24-year FBI veteran, flat-out categorically denies this," said his attorney, William Cagney III.

A congressional panel is investigating the Boston FBI office's ties to its mob informants, including Bulger, who fled in 1995 after being tipped off by then-agent John J. Connolly Jr. that he was about to be indicted on federal racketeering charges. \*

**Load-Date:** August 17, 2005

Ex-FBI agent accused of setting up hit

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End of Document





## [Ex-FBI agent arrested in 1981 mob murder](#)

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (Wisconsin)

October 10, 2003 Friday

FINAL EDITION

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 340 words

**Byline:** DENISE LAVOIE Associated Press

### **Body**

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Boston -- A former FBI agent who handled high-ranking mob informants was arrested Thursday and charged with murder on accusations that he helped 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 country club in Tulsa after a round of golf.

Rico's arrest was the latest turn in a long-running scandal over the cozy relationship between the Boston FBI and its underworld informants. Last year, a former FBI agent was convicted of protecting gangsters, including James "Whitey" Bulger, who is on the FBI's 10 Most Wanted list.

Investigators said Wheeler's slaying was linked to his purchase of World Jai Alai and his suspicion that money was being skimmed from the Florida company. At the time, Rico was retired from the FBI and was the head of security for World Jai Alai.

Investigators said Rico provided John Martorano, a hit man for the Winter Hill Gang in Boston, with information on Wheeler's schedule so he could be killed. Martorano admitted pulling the trigger and is awaiting sentencing.

Rico's attorney, William Cagney III, said his client, who was jailed in Florida, "flat-out categorically denies this. He never assisted the Winter Hill Gang in trying to get inside information so they could . . . do away with people."

Tulsa District Attorney Tim Harris did not return repeated calls for comment. Gail Marcinkiewicz, a spokeswoman for the Boston FBI, declined to comment.

Rico spent 24 years with the FBI, specializing in organized crime cases in Boston in the 1960s and '70s. He cultivated mobster Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi and others as informants.

Bulger, the boss of the Winter Hill Gang, Flemmi and Martorano were all charged in Wheeler's murder in 2001.

Ex-FBI agent arrested in 1981 mob murder

Florida prosecutors then indicted all three in the 1982 slaying of World Jai Alai executive John "Jack" Callahan in Miami. Investigators said they believe Callahan was killed to keep him from telling authorities about ties between World Jai Alai and the mob.

**Load-Date:** October 10, 2003

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## *Ex-FBI agent charged in 1981 murder*

The Kansas City Star

October 10, 2003 Friday 1 EDITION

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**Section:** A; Pg. 2

**Length:** 297 words

### **Body**

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Rico

BOSTON -- A former FBI agent who handled high-profile mob informants in Boston was arrested Thursday and charged with the 1981 mob-related murder of a Tulsa, Okla., businessman, his lawyer said.

**H. Paul Rico**, who is in his 70s, is charged in Oklahoma with murder and conspiracy to commit murder in the death of Roger Wheeler, Rico's Florida attorney, said William Cagney III.

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 have said Rico provided John Martorano, a hit man for the Boston-based Winter Hill Gang, with information on Wheeler's schedule so he could be killed.

They said the slaying was linked to Wheeler's purchase of Florida-based World Jai Alai -- a sport in which betting is involved -- and his suspicion that money was being skimmed from the company. After retiring from the FBI, Rico was head of security for World Jai Alai.

Rico "flat out, categorically denies this," Cagney said. "He never assisted the Winter Hill Gang in trying to get inside information so they could...do away with people."

Rico spent 24 years with the FBI, specializing in organized crime cases in Boston in the 1960s and 1970s.

He cultivated mob associate Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi and others as informants.

Authorities in Tulsa have tried in the past to charge Rico in connection with Wheeler's murder.

In late 2001, Sgt. Mike Huff, supervisor of the Police Department's homicide unit, presented an affidavit seeking charges against Rico, Flemmi, Martorano and fugitive James "Whitey" Bulger, the reputed head of the Winter Hill Gang. But Rico was never charged.

Ex-FBI agent charged in 1981 murder

A congressional panel is investigating the Boston FBI office's ties to its mob informants.

The Associated Press

**Load-Date:** October 10, 2003

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End of Document



## **EX-FBI AGENT CHARGED IN MOB HIT**

THE SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER

October 10, 2003, Friday

FINAL

Copyright 2003 Seattle Post-Intelligencer

**Section:** NEWS,

**Length:** 452 words

**Dateline:** FLORIDA

### **Body**

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A former FBI agent who handled high-ranking mob informants was arrested in Miami yesterday and charged with murder in a 1981 mob hit on an Oklahoma businessman, his lawyer said.

**H. Paul Rico**, 78((age)), was arrested in the slaying of 55-year-old((age)) Roger Wheeler, who was shot at a Tulsa, Okla., country club.

Rico's arrest was the latest turn in a long-running scandal over the cozy relationship between the Boston FBI and its underworld informants. Last year, a former FBI agent was convicted of protecting gangsters, including James "Whitey" Bulger, who is on the FBI's 10 Most Wanted list.

P-I news services

Rico's attorney, William Cagney III, said his client denies the charges. Rico was jailed in Florida.

Smoking numbers encouraging

GEORGIA - For the first time, the smoking rate among black men in the United States has dipped to nearly that among white men - a victory federal officials yesterday attributed in part to a decades-old change in attitudes.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said 27.7 percent of black men smoked in 2001, compared with 25.4 percent of white men. A decade before, the rates were 35 percent and 27 percent, respectively.

The smoking rate for black women has been lower than that of white women since 1993; in 2001, nearly 23 percent of white women smoked, compared with less than 18 percent of black women.

Overall, the U.S. smoking rate - 22.8 percent in 2001, the latest data available - has dropped from a quarter of adults in 1993.

TEXAS - State lawmakers reached an agreement yesterday on a new congressional map that would put the delegation in Republican control. The new map would add as many as seven Republicans to Texas' congressional delegation, which has Democrats in the majority, 17-15. The announcement paved the way for a vote today in the

## EX-FBI AGENT CHARGED IN MOB HIT

House and Senate and appeared to end months of squabbling over redistricting that included two walkouts by Democrats who sought to block a vote. Gov. Rick Perry is expected to sign the bill if it passes.

ARIZONA - A man was sentenced to death in Mesa yesterday for killing an Indian immigrant during a shooting rampage four days after the Sept. 11 attacks. Frank Silva Roque was convicted of murder last week in the death of gas station owner Balbir Singh Sodhi. Prosecutors said Roque targeted Sodhi because he thought he was an Arab. Sodhi wore a turban and beard as part of his Sikh faith.

ILLINOIS - Union garbage collectors voted overwhelmingly yesterday to end a nine-day strike that left stinking piles of trash around the Chicago area. Members of the Teamsters union, following the recommendation of their negotiators, voted for a pact giving workers a 28 percent raise in wages and benefits over five years.

## Notes

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NATION BRIEFS

**Load-Date:** October 11, 2003

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End of Document



## [Ex-FBI agent charged in mob slaying assaulted in Miami jail](#)

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

December 11, 2003, Thursday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 299 words

**Dateline:** TULSA, Okla.

### **Body**

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A retired FBI agent accused in the mob-related slaying of a Tulsa businessman was assaulted in a Miami jail, officials said.

Deputies wanted to arrange for U.S. marshals to bring **H. Paul Rico** to Tulsa this week, but his injuries will delay the extradition, Tulsa County Chief Deputy George Haralson said.

"While incarcerated in a jail facility it was reported he was assaulted by one or more inmates and required medical attention," Haralson said. "At this point in time, we are not sure what his medical status is, and therefore his return trip to Tulsa has been delayed."

Rico, a 78-year-old Florida resident, has been in the Miami-Dade County Jail since his Oct. 9 arrest in connection with the killing of Roger Wheeler. He appeared in court in Florida by a video teleconference last week but didn't speak.

Defense attorney Garvin Isaacs said earlier that Rico, who has heart problems, had improved enough to travel to Tulsa, where he's charged with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder in Wheeler's 1981 death. Isaacs has said that Rico will plead innocent.

Authorities didn't know when Rico will be extradited, Haralson said Wednesday.

"One requirement to bring someone back by airplane is that he is medically cleared by the jail facility he is incarcerated in," Haralson said.

Wheeler, who was the chairman of the Tulsa-based Telex Corp., was shot in the head May 27, 1981, outside Southern Hills Country Club.

Rico, a Boston-based agent who retired in 1975, was the security chief for World Jai Alai, which Wheeler had bought.

Investigators say Wheeler suspected that money was being skimmed from World Jai Alai - which had operations in Florida - by Boston's Winter Hill gang, an Irish mob that fed information to FBI agents about the Mafia.

Ex-FBI agent charged in mob slaying assaulted in Miami jail

**Load-Date:** December 12, 2003

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End of Document





## *Ex-FBI agent charged with mob slaying will fight extradition*

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

November 14, 2003, Friday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 214 words

**Dateline:** MIAMI

### **Body**

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A former FBI agent charged in Oklahoma with a 1981 mob murder will fight extradition, his attorney told a state court judge Friday.

**H. Paul Rico**, 78, will not voluntarily return to Oklahoma to face charges that helped organize the slaying of a jai-alai executive, attorney Garvin Isaacs told Senior Circuit Judge Gerald Klein.

Klein set an extradition hearing for Dec. 15. Rico will remain jailed without bail until then.

Rico, who retired from the FBI in 1975, served as security chief for Roger Wheeler's World Jai Alai when Wheeler was shot to death at a Tulsa, Okla., country club May 27, 1981.

Investigators say Wheeler suspected money was being skimmed from the Miami jai alai business by Boston's Winter Hill gang, an Irish mob that fed information to Rico on its rival New England Mafia.

Wheeler's confessed hit man, John Martorano, implicated Rico in the killing. Rico was arrested after informant Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi did the same and pleaded guilty to federal charges in October with admissions in the killing of Wheeler and nine others.

Rico's arrest Oct. 9 is the latest wrinkle in a corruption scandal over the cozy relationship between the FBI's organized crime unit and murderous underworld informants in Boston in the 1960s and 1970s.

**Load-Date:** November 15, 2003



## *Ex-FBI agent charged with mob slaying will fight extradition*

The Associated Press

November 14, 2003, Friday, BC cycle

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**Section:** Domestic News

**Length:** 180 words

**Dateline:** MIAMI

### **Body**

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A former FBI agent charged in Oklahoma with a 1981 mob murder will fight extradition, his attorney told a state court judge Friday.

**H. Paul Rico**, 78, will not voluntarily return to Oklahoma to face charges that helped organize the slaying of Roger Wheeler, attorney Garvin Isaacs told Senior Circuit Judge Gerald Klein.

Wheeler, 55, was the chairman of Telex Corp. and owner of Miami, Fla.-based World Jai Alai.

Klein set an extradition hearing for Dec. 15. Rico will remain jailed without bail until then.

Rico, who retired from the FBI in 1975, served as security chief for World Jai Alai when Wheeler was shot to death at a Tulsa, Okla., country club May 27, 1981.

Investigators say Wheeler was killed because he suspected money was being skimmed from the jai alai business by Boston's Winter Hill gang, an organized crime group.

Wheeler's confessed hit man, John Martorano, implicated Rico in the killing. Rico was arrested after informant Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, who pleaded guilty to federal charges in October related to the killing of Wheeler and nine others, did the same.

**Load-Date:** November 15, 2003

Ex-FBI agent dies in custody; Man was accused of aiding a mob hit



***Ex-FBI agent dies in custody;  
Man was accused of aiding a mob hit***

The Tallahassee Democrat

January 18, 2004 Sunday

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**Section:** A; Pg. 9; news

**Length:** 446 words

**Byline:** Kelly Kurt THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Dateline:** TULSA, Okla.

## **Body**

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A retired FBI agent accused of helping his former mob informants arrange the murder of a Tulsa businessman died a week after he was extradited to Oklahoma to face charges, a hospital spokeswoman said Saturday.

**H. Paul Rico**, 78, died late Friday, a few hours after a Tulsa County judge put the murder case on hold pending a psychological evaluation to determine whether Rico was competent to stand trial.

The cause of Rico's death was not immediately released. He had been hospitalized since Wednesday.

His family said he had congestive heart failure and had lost 53 pounds since his arrest Oct. 9 in Florida, where he had been living.

Rico was accused of helping arrange the 1981 murder of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler, chairman of Telex Corp. and owner of World Jai-Alai in Florida, where Rico worked as security chief after leaving the FBI.

Investigators say Wheeler had suspected that Boston gangsters were skimming money from World Jai-Alai. He died after he was shot in the head at Tulsa's Southern Hills Country Club following a round of golf.

U.S. Attorney Michael Sullivan, who took over mob prosecutions in Massachusetts in 2000, said he felt sympathy for the Wheeler family and others in Oklahoma affected by the murder.

"They've waited a long time to have all the evidence come out," he said.

Members of Boston's Winter Hill Gang had been informants for Rico when he was an FBI agent in Boston.

Murder charges were filed in March 2001 in Tulsa County against Winter Hill Gang members James "Whitey" Bulger, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi and John Martorano.

Ex-FBI agent dies in custody; Man was accused of aiding a mob hit

Martorano pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and received a 15-year prison term for carrying out the hit on Wheeler. Flemmi pleaded guilty in October to racketeering charges related to 10 murders, including Wheeler's, and awaits sentencing Jan. 27. Bulger remains at large since being tipped off to a pending indictment in 1995.

During his arraignment Wednesday, conducted by video feed from the Tulsa County jail, Rico sat in a wheelchair and occasionally moaned but said nothing. His attorney, Garvin Isaacs, at one point interrupted the judge, saying: "I am telling you this man is sick, extremely sick." He requested an emergency medical furlough, saying his client was ailing and needed help; the judge ordered the psychological evaluation.

Isaacs said during that hearing that Rico, who had a pacemaker, was disoriented after being beaten Dec. 5 by an unknown assailant in the Miami-Dade County Jail but that he "wants a jury trial to clear his name."

Tulsa County prosecutors had questioned the assault allegation, saying an improper dose of medication may have been responsible for bruising on Rico's body.

**Load-Date:** November 8, 2005

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End of Document



## *Ex-FBI agent eyed in '81 murder*

United Press International

January 10, 2001, Wednesday

Copyright 2001 U.P.I.

**Section:** GENERAL NEWS

**Length:** 436 words

**Dateline:** BOSTON, Jan. 10

### **Body**

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A former FBI agent credited with helping bring down Boston's Mafia has been linked to the murder of a Tulsa businessman 20 years ago, the Boston Herald reported Wednesday.

The paper said federal authorities are close to charging **H. Paul Rico** for his alleged role in the 1981 slaying of Roger Wheeler, the owner of World Jai Alai, a court sport on which bets are made.

"Mr. Rico was definitely involved in my father's murder," the victim's son, David Wheeler, said. "It's just taken the police 20 years to get through the obstacles raised by FBI corruption."

After retiring from the FBI in 1975, Rico became head of security for World Jai Alai, which is played in Florida, Rhode Island and Connecticut. He was hired for the job by John B. Callahan, the reputed moneymen for Boston's Winter Hill gang.

Wheeler bought the operation in 1977 after Callahan left the company. After Wheeler discovered profits were being skimmed from the company, he was shot to death while sitting in his car at a Tulsa country club.

Investigators in Tulsa got a break in their case when it was disclosed in recent years that Winter Hill gang leaders James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi had been acting as informants for decades for the FBI.

That disclosure prompted Winter Hill hit man John Martorano to confess to a series of gangland murders, including that of Wheeler. The Herald said Martorano has told authorities that Rico was in on the murder plot.

Rico, 73, now lives in retirement in Florida. His attorney has declined comment on the allegations, as has the Justice Department.

Tulsa County prosecutors have also declined to discuss whether Rico is a suspect, but one unidentified source told the Herald that "Rico is the top of the food chain in this."

It was also disclosed in recent weeks that Rico withheld information that exonerated four men subsequently convicted of a gangland murder in the late 1960s. Two of those men died in prison and one had his life sentence

## Ex-FBI agent eyed in '81 murder

commuted several years ago. The fourth, Peter J. Limone, was released last Friday after serving 33 years in prison for a murder he didn't commit.

Limone, 66, accused Rico of having framed him by suppressing evidence that would have cleared him. Upon leaving court, Limone called Rico "scum."

William Cagney, Rico's attorney, said the former agent was barred from disclosing the information because then-FBI director J. Edgar Hoover had ordered all information in the case locked up. Those records were uncovered recently by investigators looking into the cozy relationship between agents in the FBI's Boston office and their underworld informants.

**Load-Date:** January 11, 2001

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End of Document



## [Ex-FBI Agent Faces Charges in Mob Hit](#)

Associated Press Online

October 9, 2003 Thursday

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**Section:** DOMESTIC NEWS

**Length:** 681 words

**Byline:** DENISE LAVOIE; Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** BOSTON

### **Body**

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A former FBI agent who handled high-ranking mob informants was arrested Thursday 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 55-year-old Roger Wheeler, who was shot in the head at a Tulsa, Okla., country club after a round of golf.

Rico's arrest was the latest turn in a long-running scandal over the cozy relationship between the Boston FBI and its underworld informants. Last year, a former FBI agent was convicted of protecting gangsters, including James "Whitey" Bulger, who is on the FBI's 10 Most Wanted list.

Investigators said Wheeler's slaying was linked to his purchase of World Jai Alai and his suspicion that money was being skimmed from the Florida company. At the time, Rico was retired from the FBI and was the head of security for World Jai Alai.

Investigators said Rico provided John Martorano, a hit man for Boston's Winter Hill Gang, with information on Wheeler's schedule so he could be killed. Martorano admitted pulling the trigger and is awaiting sentencing.

Rico "flat-out categorically denies this," his attorney, William Cagney III told The Associated Press. "He never assisted the Winter Hill Gang in trying to get inside information so they could ... do away with people."

Rico was jailed in Florida. Gail Marcinkiewicz, a spokeswoman for the Boston FBI, declined to comment.

Rico spent 24 years with the FBI, specializing in organized crime cases in Boston in the 1960s and '70s. He cultivated mobster Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi and others as informants.

Bulger, the boss of the Winter Hill Gang, Flemmi and Martorano were all charged in Wheeler's murder in 2001 by Oklahoma prosecutors.

District Attorney Tim Harris of Tulsa has said he planned to seek the death penalty against Bulger and Flemmi. Harris' office issued a statement Thursday saying it would have no immediate comment.

## Ex-FBI Agent Faces Charges in Mob Hit

Prosecutors in Florida followed with an indictment charging all three in the 1982 slaying of World Jai Alai executive John "Jack" Callahan in Miami. Investigators said they believe Callahan was killed to keep him from telling authorities about links between World Jai Alai and the mob.

A congressional panel is investigating the Boston FBI office's ties to its mob informants, including Bulger, who fled in 1995 after being tipped off by then-agent John J. Connolly Jr. that he was about to be indicted on federal racketeering charges.

During Connolly's trial, prosecutors said Bulger and Flemmi were left untouched by law enforcement for decades because they were informing for the FBI on the New England Mafia, which is separate from the Winter Hill Gang. Connolly is serving a 10-year prison sentence.

In 2001, Rico testified about another case before a congressional committee. He denied that he and his partner helped frame an innocent man for a 1965 gangland slaying, but acknowledged that Joseph Salvati wrongly spent 30 years in prison for the crime.

Republican Rep. Christopher Shays accused Rico of feeling no remorse for his role in the conviction of four innocent men in that case. Rico replied, "What do you want, tears?"

Salvati's lawyer, Victor Garo, predicted that Rico's arrest will split the Boston FBI scandal wide open, exposing more government wrongdoing in Boston and Washington.

"He was the inside man of the Boston office of the FBI in dealing with informants like Steve Flemmi and others," Garo said. "I would imagine that right now many people are concerned about what he knows and what he will say. ... He knows about all the skeletons in the closet."

Wheeler's son said he was pleased with Rico's arrest.

"It's something I've wanted for years," said Larry Wheeler, who said he believes Rico played a role in his father's murder.

Rico is not the first FBI agent to be charged with murder. In 1990, Kentucky-based agent Mark S. Putnam pleaded guilty to strangling an informant - a woman with whom he'd had an affair. At the time, an FBI spokesman in Washington said he believed Putnam was the first FBI agent ever to be charged with murder.

**Load-Date:** October 10, 2003



Ex-FBI agent found competent for trial; Release from jail urged for medical treatment.



***Ex-FBI agent found competent for trial;  
Release from jail urged for medical treatment.***

The Oklahoman (Oklahoma City, OK)

January 13, 2004 Tuesday CITY EDITION

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 3A

**Length:** 393 words

**Byline:** Larry Levy; State Correspondent

**Dateline:** TULSA

## **Body**

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A retired FBI agent is competent to stand trial for the murder of business executive Roger Wheeler in 1981 but should be released from jail so he can be treated by his own doctor in Florida, a Tulsa County judge was told Monday.

Garvin Isaacs, Oklahoma City defense attorney for ***H. Paul Rico***, 78, faxed Special Judge Carlos Chappelle notification that a request for a competency examination was being withdrawn. The examination request was made in Florida in December.

According to documents sent to Chappelle, Rico had been examined for two hours during the weekend by Dr. John R. Smith. In an affidavit, Smith said Rico is competent to stand trial, is able to assist his attorneys, to understand the proceedings, knows right from wrong, is no danger to either himself or others and "does not presently have a mental illness in need of treatment."

But the doctor said he was concerned about Rico's deteriorating physical condition, including needing oxygen, his inability to sit up and his sallow complexion. Rico, who has a pacemaker, was extradited to Tulsa on Jan. 9. Smith said Rico needs a higher degree of medical treatment than the jail is capable of providing and "he will not survive at this current level of care."

Hearing set for Friday District Attorney Tim Harris said last Friday a competency hearing is required once the issue is raised. Doug Drummond, first assistant Tulsa County district attorney, said Monday that "our position is unchanged at this juncture."

Chappelle already had set a hearing for Friday to decide the issue.

Drummond said other issues, such as an expedited bail hearing, cannot be heard until a competency decision is made.

Ex-FBI agent found competent for trial; Release from jail urged for medical treatment.

Wheeler was shot in the head on May 27, 1981, in his car after he finished playing a round of golf at Southern Hills Country Club. He was chairman of the Telex Corp., a Tulsa-based company, and had purchased World Jai Alai, a game with pari-mutuel betting. He suspected that money was being skimmed by members of Boston's Winter Hill Gang.

After retiring from the FBI's Boston office in 1975, Rico became head of security for the jai alai operation. Prosecutors think he provided information on Wheeler to three others charged with the murder.

John Martorano has pleaded guilty to being the gunman; Stephen Flemmi is a government witness and James Bulger is still being sought by the FBI and Tulsa police.

**Load-Date:** January 15, 2004

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End of Document



## *Ex-FBI agent guilty in mob hit*

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

November 7, 2008 Friday

Final Edition

Copyright 2008 The Tulsa World

**Section:** News; Pg. A11

**Length:** 868 words

**Byline:** FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

### **Body**

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The victim was targeted because he could tie gangsters to a Tulsa businessman's killing. MIAMI, Fla. Former FBI Agent John Connolly was convicted Thursday of second-degree murder for leaking information to Boston mobsters that led to the 1982 shooting death of a gambling executive who also had ties to gangsters. Jurors deliberated for about 13 hours before delivering the verdict after a two-month trial.

The jury acquitted Connolly of first-degree murder conspiracy, but he still faces a maximum term of life in prison when sentenced Dec. 4. Testimony indicated that former World Jai-Alai President John Callahan was killed after Connolly warned gangsters that Callahan might implicate them in other slayings, including the 1981 killing of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler. Boston mob kingpins James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi were FBI informants handled by Connolly. Confessed mob hit man John Martorano testified that he shot Callahan at one time his good friend based on Connolly's warning that the gangsters probably would all go to prison if Callahan talked to the FBI about Wheeler's killing in the parking lot of Tulsa's Southern Hills Country Club. Wheeler, president of the Telex Corp., had bought World Jai-Alai, a sport on which bets are placed. Tulsa police discovered evidence of corruption early on while investigating his homicide. Before he was killed, Wheeler had learned that Bulger and Flemmi's Winter Hill Gang was skimming profits from his Jai-Alai business. Callahan reportedly wanted Wheeler dead so he could retake control of World Jai-Alai. Connolly's guilty verdict validates the results of the Tulsa Police Department's investigation, said Sgt. Mike Huff, a longtime homicide detective who investigated the Wheeler case from the start. "We thought he (Connolly) was involved with the Winter Hill gang in 1982," Huff said. "We went through hell trying to convince people of that fact, and now, today, we are feeling some validation." David Wheeler, one of Roger Wheeler's sons, also expressed some relief after learning of the verdict. "I am very grateful to the brave jury who convicted FBI Agent John Connolly for murder. It is a great victory for all American citizens," Wheeler said via telephone from his home in Texas. Connolly, who showed no emotion when the verdict was read, long denied involvement in Callahan's killing. Connolly was convicted in 2002 of racketeering because of his corrupt relationship with Bulger and Flemmi, including a 1995 tip that enabled Bulger to escape arrest and begin a life on the run that continues to this day. Bulger is one of the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted" fugitives, with a \$2 million bounty for his capture. The story that unfolded over the last two months in a Miami courtroom spanned more than two decades of Boston's underworld, a tale of the notorious Winter Hill Gang. Connolly, who retired from the FBI in 1990, was paid \$235,000 in cash, delivered in envelopes over the years by Bulger and Flemmi, and even took

## Ex-FBI agent guilty in mob hit

vacations with Bulger, according to trial testimony. Connolly is already serving a 10-year federal prison term in the corruption case. He was indicted in 2005 in Miami for the killing of Callahan, 45, whose body was found stuffed in the trunk of his Cadillac at Miami International Airport in August 1982. He had been shot at least twice. A cornerstone of Connolly's defense was that his job as a top FBI organized-crime buster meant dealing with unsavory characters "top-echelon informants" in FBI parlance who possessed sensitive information about top Mafia kingpins in Boston. But Flemmi, Martorano and other mob figures testified that Connolly made sure the gang was shielded from prosecution for numerous crimes even multiple murders and supplied information about possible turncoats or "rats" in their ranks. Prosecutors said at least two other FBI informants died violently because of Connolly's leaks. "John Connolly swore an oath to the FBI and the United States of America," prosecutor Michael Von Zamft said. "He gave up that public trust because he decided he would rather be a gangster than an FBI agent." Huff said Thursday that "we knew we had stumbled into something huge early on" in the Wheeler investigation. "We are just so glad that this is over. Now we just have to find Whitey Bulger." In 2001 20 years after the Wheeler killing Tulsa County prosecutors charged Bulger, Flemmi and Martorano with murder and conspiracy. Martorano reached a deal with state and federal prosecutors in 1999 in which he agreed to plead guilty to killings in multiple states. He pleaded guilty in 2001 to second-degree murder in Wheeler's slaying and received a 15-year prison term and has already been released from prison. Flemmi pleaded guilty in 2004 to first-degree murder and conspiracy in the Wheeler case. He received concurrent sentences of life and 10 years, with the understanding that he would serve his time in a federal prison for crimes committed elsewhere. Former FBI Agent **H. Paul Rico** was added as a defendant in the Tulsa case in 2003. He died of natural causes at a Tulsa hospital in January 2004, about a week after he was brought to Oklahoma from Florida to face prosecution.

**Load-Date:** November 8, 2008

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End of Document



## *Ex-FBI agent injured in jail assault*

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

December 11, 2003, Thursday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 1098 words

**Byline:** By The Associated Press

### **Body**

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TULSA, Okla. (AP) - A retired FBI agent accused in the mob-related slaying of a Tulsa businessman was assaulted in a Miami jail, officials said Wednesday.

Deputies wanted to arrange for U.S. marshals to bring **H. Paul Rico** to Tulsa this week, but his injuries will delay the extradition, Tulsa County Chief Deputy George Haralson said.

"While incarcerated in a jail facility it was reported he was assaulted by one or more inmates and required medical attention," Haralson said. "At this point in time, we are not sure what his medical status is, and therefore his return trip to Tulsa has been delayed."

Rico, a 78-year-old Florida resident, has been in the Miami-Dade County Jail since his Oct. 9 arrest in connection with the killing of Roger Wheeler. He appeared in court in Florida by a video teleconference last week but didn't speak.

Defense attorney Garvin Isaacs said earlier that Rico, who has heart problems, had improved enough to travel to Tulsa, where he's charged with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder in Wheeler's 1981 death. Isaacs has said that Rico will plead innocent.

Wheeler, who was the chairman of the Tulsa-based Telex Corp., was shot in the head May 27, 1981, outside Southern Hills Country Club.

Rico, a Boston-based agent who retired in 1975, was the security chief for World Jai Alai, which Wheeler had bought.

More earthquakes rock Norman

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) - Another earthquake rattled Cleveland County on Wednesday, two days after a couple hit Norman, authorities said.

## Ex-FBI agent injured in jail assault

The earthquake occurred at 1:15 p.m., and measured 2.0 on the Richter scale, said geologist Kenneth Luza of the Oklahoma Geological Survey.

It was the fifth earthquake in three days.

"It just happens this way," Luza said. "It's part of an earthquake swarm, with many small earthquakes over a period of days."

The first two earthquakes happened Monday and two more came early Wednesday.

"I didn't think we'd have as many as we've been having, but they do happen in this state," Luza said.

A similar swarm occurred in Canadian County last year, with several earthquakes occurring over a two- to three-day period, Luza said.

The epicenter appears to be somewhere near the McClain-Cleveland County line.

"There doesn't seem to be any indication that it will lead to a larger event," he said. "It's just a little readjustment going on in the deep subsurface."

Norman police didn't report any calls related to Wednesday's quakes.

No terms reached in lawsuit over Muslim girl's scarf

MUSKOGEE, Okla. (AP) - A lawsuit filed on behalf of a Muslim girl suspended from school for wearing a head scarf remained unsettled Wednesday after the two sides met, school district representatives said.

D.D. Hayes, attorney for Muskogee Public Schools, met with lawyers representing the family of 11-year-old Nashala Hearn as part of a settlement conference.

Hayes reported that no terms were reached and that he was barred from discussing the case further, said his assistant, who declined to be identified.

The district suspended Nashala in October for wearing a head scarf that officials believe violates the districtwide dress code. The child is Muslim and wears the hijab as part of her religion.

Nashala's father, Eyvine, also said Wednesday that he could not comment because of a gag order in the case.

The sixth-grader returned to school Oct. 15 after twice being suspended for wearing the scarf. The district said she could wear the hijab while Hayes reviewed the district's policies.

The Rutherford Institute, a Virginia-based civil liberties group, filed the federal lawsuit on the Hearn family's behalf, alleging the district violated Nashala's rights to free speech and exercise of religion.

DAs to forward mandatory minimums proposal to commission

TULSA, Okla. (AP) - Mandatory minimum sentences would be eliminated and drug trafficking and manufacturing would be reclassified as violent crimes under a proposal by state prosecutors.

The District Attorneys Council is scheduled to make the recommendations to the Oklahoma Sentencing Commission during a meeting on Thursday.

Prosecutors will make the same recommendations to Gov. Brad Henry in an effort to reduce the state's prison population, said Rob Wallace, chairman of the council and LeFlore County district attorney.

## Ex-FBI agent injured in jail assault

District attorneys will support eliminating mandatory minimum sentences if drug trafficking and manufacturing are added to the violent crimes list, Wallace said.

"Putting them into the violent crimes list means we don't eliminate the minimums on those," he said in a story from the Tulsa World's Capitol bureau.

The minimum sentence for drug manufacturing is seven years and the least an offender convicted of aggravated drug manufacturing is 20 years, Wallace said. Aggravated manufacturing involves the quantity of drugs involved, he said.

The minimum sentence for trafficking is four years, he said.

School board votes to return school to regular schedule

MUSKOGEE, Okla. (AP) - The Muskogee school board has voted to switch an elementary school from its year-round schedule to a regular year after an expected improvement in standardized test scores didn't materialize.

Irving School for Continuous Learning - which adopted a July-to-June schedule in 2000 - will immediately return to a traditional August-to-May elementary school schedule, Superintendent Eldon Gleichman said Wednesday.

The move will save money, but the change comes mainly because of mediocre test scores by Irving students, Gleichman said.

"We looked at test scores the last two years," he said. "They didn't make that improvement that we hoped for."

Gleichman said state tests were given in April, shortly after Irving students came back from one of their three-week breaks. Irving's year-round schedule used a nine-weeks-on, three-weeks-off format.

"Spring testing was just crazy for those kids," he said. "They were competing against kids who had been in school five, six weeks in a row."

Irving's standardized scores declined the past few years, Gleichman said.

Board President Muriel Saunders, a supporter of the year-round concept, said "it's unfortunate" the three-year experiment didn't work out after members voted unanimously to change the schedule on Tuesday.

"If parents truly cared about the success of their children, they would work with us," Saunders said.

The school will revert to the district's schedule, with a two-week Christmas break, one-week spring break and last day of classes in May.

**Load-Date:** December 12, 2003



## *Ex-FBI agent in Tulsa to face murder counts*

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

January 9, 2004 Friday Final Home Edition

Copyright 2004 The Tulsa World

**Section:** NEWS; Tulsa; Pg. A2

**Length:** 961 words

**Byline:** BILL BRAUN and NICOLE MARSHALL World Staff Writers

### **Body**

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The complicated and lengthy extradition process will cost taxpayers about \$12,000. Three months after his arrest in Florida, former FBI agent **H. Paul Rico** arrived in Tulsa via medical air transport and ambulance Thursday to face a murder prosecution in the 1981 slaying of Roger Wheeler.

For the Tulsa County Sheriff's Office, "this has been one of the most complicated extradition assignments ever," First Assistant District Attorney Doug Drummond said.

Lawyers will confer Friday with Special District Judge Carlos Chappelle on scheduling matters in the case. Rico, 78, is not expected to attend that session.

His initial court appearance is scheduled for Wednesday, although that could be subject to change depending on the attorneys' status conference.

Even before Rico appeared in Tulsa, defense lawyer Garvin Isaacs of Oklahoma City filed several motions that likely will be addressed early in court proceedings. They include a motion for bail or a "medical furlough" and an application to determine Rico's competency.

Reached by phone Thursday, Isaacs said he couldn't comment on the facts but that "Mr. Rico is innocent. Period."

Rico was charged in October with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder in the mob-related 1981 killing of Wheeler, a Tulsa businessman.

A Florida resident, Rico was placed in the Miami-Dade County Jail after his Oct. 9 arrest. A Florida judge signed an extradition order in early December, but his transfer to Oklahoma was delayed by health considerations.

Rico was brought from Miami to Tulsa on a medical transport plane that landed here Thursday afternoon. An ambulance picked up Rico, and he was taken to the Tulsa Jail.

Deputy sheriffs and medical personnel accompanied Rico on the private air ambulance, a method of transportation that was called for by physicians. The "extradition package" cost about \$12,000, which public funds must cover, Drummond indicated.



## Ex-FBI agent in Tulsa to face murder counts

Rico "will be housed in the medical area of the jail. That allows us to keep him in a secure environment and also monitor his current medical condition," said Chris Howard, a spokesman for Corrections Corporation of America, which operates the jail.

All inmates are checked by medical personnel before being booked into the facility, and Rico was examined by the jail's doctor, Howard said.

In a motion filed Dec. 12 seeking bail or a medical furlough, Isaacs wrote that the former FBI agent's "life is in danger" in a jail or a detention facility.

Rico "suffers from congestive heart failure, diabetes and related medical conditions which render him unable to protect himself," Isaacs wrote. Rico has "severe coronary disease, a pacemaker, atrial fibrillation, and underwent bypass surgery 10 years ago."

The defense contends that Rico was hospitalized Dec. 7 in Florida "after suffering severe injuries from an assault or beating."

But according to a response subsequently filed by Drummond, a Dec. 18 report from the Florida correctional facility said Rico's health ailments were "not in any way a product" of any trauma-related "altercations."

District Attorney Tim Harris has said previously that Rico should be held in jail without bail.

Defense attorneys applied Dec. 19 to have Rico's mental competency evaluated. Rico has been confused, hallucinating, paranoid and disoriented while in custody in Florida, according to that filing.

Isaacs "witnessed Mr. Rico talking about snakes on the wall of his cell" earlier in December, said a motion signed by Isaacs' co-counsel, Nancy Zerr.

The issue of competency focuses on whether a defendant can appreciate the nature of the charge, consult with his attorney and assist in his legal defense.

"Mr. Rico's mental status and competency must be evaluated by a qualified forensic examiner," and criminal court proceedings should be suspended, said the document Zerr filed.

On Jan. 5, defense lawyers filed a request to allow Rico to "appear at all court appearances in civilian clothes and without handcuffs."

A "helpless" Rico "is not a security risk or a danger to the public," that motion maintained. He is entitled to a fair trial, and "pretrial publicity will impact perceptions of potential jurors if Mr. Rico is photographed and videotaped wearing jail clothing and/or handcuffs," it said.

Prosecutors maintained that it was premature to deal with defense motions until Rico was in Oklahoma, and those matters have not been resolved.

Concerning the motion to let Rico wear civilian clothes and no handcuffs, Tulsa Police Sgt. Mike Huff said earlier this week that it was obvious that Rico was "looking for special treatment."

Huff, a homicide investigator, said he would defer to the courts and the Sheriff's Office about how to handle security measures for Rico.

Investigators say Wheeler suspected that money was being skimmed from his Florida-based World Jai Alai business by Boston gangsters who had fed information to Rico when he was an FBI agent.

After Rico's retirement from the FBI in 1975, he served as security chief for World Jai Alai.

Wheeler, also chairman of the Tulsa-based Telex Corp., was shot in the head May 27, 1981, after a round of golf at Southern Hills Country Club.

Ex-FBI agent in Tulsa to face murder counts

In March 2001, a Tulsa County murder charge was filed against Boston Winter Hill Gang members James "Whitey" Bulger, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi and John Martorano.

Confessed hit man Martorano pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and received a 15-year prison term for killing Wheeler.

A plea deal unveiled in October calls for Flemmi to get a life term for the Tulsa County murder, to be served in federal custody and to run concurrently with a life prison sentence for federal crimes.

Bulger has been a fugitive since 1995.

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**Load-Date:** January 10, 2004

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End of Document

Ex-FBI agent is arraigned in slaying



## *Ex-FBI agent is arraigned in slaying*

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

January 15, 2004 Thursday Final Home Edition

Copyright 2004 The Tulsa World

**Section:** NEWS; Tulsa; Pg. A11**Length:** 674 words**Byline:** BILL BRAUN World Staff Writer

### **Body**

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Mental competency, bail and physical fitness issues all come into play in the murder case hearing. Lawyers sparred orally in two courtrooms Wednesday over procedural issues involving murder defendant ***H. Paul Rico***, who moaned from a wheelchair before an arraignment that prosecutors contend should not have occurred.

The former FBI agent's next court date is Friday, when Tulsa County Special District Judge Carlos Chappelle is expected to decide whether to order a competency evaluation for Rico.

Chappelle has denied repeated requests by Oklahoma City defense lawyer Garvin Isaacs to conduct a bail hearing on Friday, as well.

At an arraignment via a video hookup that linked a courtroom and the Tulsa Jail, Special Judge Mark Barcus scheduled a Feb. 9 preliminary hearing on murder and conspiracy charges against Rico, stemming from the 1981 killing of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler.

Clad in jail clothing and seated in a wheelchair in a holding area, Rico moaned occasionally while waiting for court to start.

He did not speak during the arraignment, which featured a lively exchange between Isaacs and the judge as Isaacs stressed his concern about the welfare of his 78-year-old client.

After leaving Barcus' courtroom, Isaacs obtained an impromptu hearing before Chappelle to push again for a bail hearing that Chappelle has not yet scheduled.

Assistant District Attorney Steve Kunzweiler maintained that by law all criminal proceedings -- including the arraignment that Barcus conducted and a bail hearing that Isaacs requested in both courtrooms -- must be suspended until the competency matter is resolved.

Chappelle will also likely address on Friday the status of the arraignment conducted by Barcus, which prosecutors objected to based upon their request for a competency assessment.

"I'm really concerned about Mr. Rico's health," Isaacs said. "We want him alive and well for the jury trial."

## Ex-FBI agent is arraigned in slaying

Prosecutors "want to give Mr. Rico his day in court. We will give him his day in court," Kunzweiler said. "We're going to follow the law."

Isaacs on Monday withdrew his prior application for a court-ordered competency evaluation, but that Dec. 19 defense filing prompted prosecutors to contend that the issue still must be resolved based on defense assertions that Rico had been hallucinating, paranoid and disoriented.

The issue of competency focuses on whether a defendant can appreciate the nature of the charge, consult with his attorney and assist in his legal defense.

A defense-retained psychiatrist, Dr. John Smith, interviewed Rico on Sunday and reported that he is mentally competent. However, Smith recommended that Rico be released from custody because he is in a "very weakened physical state from cardiovascular disease."

Rico "has recovered his mental competency. He has not recovered his physical health," said Isaacs, who maintains that Rico is innocent.

Rico has lost 53 pounds since his Oct. 9 arrest in Florida and "is unable to feed himself," Isaacs said Wednesday. "I'm concerned he will not survive."

Prosecutors have not agreed to accept Smith's findings, and District Attorney Tim Harris wants an independent evaluation of Rico's mental status.

Prosecutors indicated that they have received reports that Rico is getting appropriate care in the Tulsa Jail. Harris reiterated his position that Rico should be kept in custody without bail.

A Florida resident, Rico was charged in October with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder. Wheeler was shot in the head after a round of golf at Southern Hills Country Club in May 1981.

Investigators say Wheeler suspected that money was being skimmed from his World Jai Alai business, where Rico was security chief, by Boston gangsters who were informants for Rico when he was an FBI agent.

Hit man John Martorano pleaded guilty in 2001 to second-degree murder and received a 15-year prison term in the case.

A plea deal calls for Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi to get a life term. James "Whitey" Bulger has been a fugitive since 1995.

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**Load-Date:** January 16, 2004



## [Ex-F.B.I. Agent Is Charged In a 1981 Gangland Killing](#)

The New York Times  
October 10, 2003 Friday  
Late Edition - Final

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**Section:** Section A; Column 1; National Desk; Pg. 18

**Length:** 678 words

**Byline:** By FOX BUTTERFIELD

**Dateline:** BOSTON, Oct. 9

### **Body**

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A former F.B.I. agent who worked with underworld informants here was arrested on Thursday and charged with helping arrange the 1981 gangland-style killing of a wealthy Oklahoma businessman, lawyers and law enforcement officials said.

The former agent, **H. Paul Rico**, 78, was arrested at his home near Miami on a murder charge brought by a grand jury in Tulsa, Okla., in the death of Roger Wheeler, the president of the Telex Corporation and owner of World Jai Alai, a company with a major gambling business.

Mr. Wheeler, 55, was shot point-blank in the head as he got in his car after a round of golf by John Martorano, a hit man for Boston's notorious Winter Hill gang, which was run by James Bulger.

Mr. Rico was chief of security for World Jai Alai when Mr. Wheeler was killed.

Mr. Martorano, who has admitted killing Mr. Wheeler, testified at the trial of another former F.B.I. agent, John Connolly Jr., in 2002 that Mr. Rico had approached him about killing Mr. Wheeler because the gang believed he had learned they were skimming \$1 million a year in jai alai profits.

Mr. Martorano also testified that Mr. Rico provided him with a physical description of Mr. Wheeler, the make and license number of his car and his home address.

Mr. Rico's lawyer, William Cagney III, said his client was innocent, and he questioned the way the arrest had been made. Mr. Cagney said he had been told only that the indictment was sealed.

Mr. Cagney suggested that the indictment might have been made by a "runaway" grand jury not under the district attorney's control.

"It sounds like there is a lot of investigating that is going to have to be done to make sure all the facts are brought out so that no one's rights are trampled on," Mr. Cagney said.

## Ex-F.B.I. Agent Is Charged In a 1981 Gangland Killing

The office of the Tulsa County district attorney, Tim Harris, issued a brief statement on Thursday saying it had "no comment at this time on the ongoing criminal investigation into the murder of Roger Wheeler." Mr. Harris's spokeswoman, Susan Witt, declined to answer questions.

The killing of Mr. Wheeler has continued to interest law enforcement, the news media and the public in Tulsa and Boston, especially because of longtime reports that there was a connection to the Winter Hill gang and that active or retired F.B.I. agents might have been involved.

Mr. Connolly was convicted of racketeering for effectively becoming a member of Mr. Bulger's gang and helping gang members who were his informants. He is now serving a 10-year prison sentence. Mr. Bulger, who is known as Whitey, has been a fugitive since 1995, after Mr. Connolly alerted him about a secret federal indictment charging him with racketeering and murder.

Frank A. Libby Jr., a lawyer for Mr. Wheeler's widow and four of his children, said he had not been informed about the indictment or arrest of Mr. Rico, which he said he found unusual. Mr. Libby noted that the arrest had been made on an Oklahoma murder charge and that the F.B.I. had not acted against Mr. Rico. He called that symptomatic of the bureau's problems in Boston, with agents becoming too close to informants.

"It is difficult to drain the swamp when you've got alligators nipping at you," Mr. Libby said.

The Wheeler family has filed a \$860 million wrongful-death lawsuit against the Justice Department, Mr. Rico, Mr. Connolly and Mr. Bulger. The suit was dismissed by a federal district judge in Boston this summer but is on appeal.

Victor Garo, a Boston lawyer who represents Joseph Salvatti, who was wrongly sentenced to life in prison for a murder committed by an F.B.I. informant handled by Mr. Rico, called the arrest of Mr. Rico "huge."

"It is a really major development," Mr. Garo said, "because Rico is an inside player. He knows a lot of the criminal doings in the F.B.I. when he was there."

The Tulsa police have tried before to charge Mr. Rico for Mr. Wheeler's death. In 2001, Sgt. Mike Huff of the city's homicide unit presented an affidavit seeking charges against Mr. Rico, Mr. Martorano, Mr. Bulger and Steven Flemmi, Mr. Bulger's top lieutenant. But no charges were brought.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

**Load-Date:** October 10, 2003



**EX-FBI AGENT IS CHARGED IN A 1981 GANGLAND KILLING**

NEW YORK TIMES

October 10, 2003, Friday

Information Bank Abstracts

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**Section:** Section A; Page 18, Column 1

**Length:** 75 words

**Byline:** BY FOX BUTTERFIELD

**Body**

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***H Paul Rico***, former FBI agent who worked with underworld informants in Boston, is arrested and charged with helping arrange 1981 gangland-style killing of wealthy Oklahoma businessman Roger Wheeler; killing of Wheeler has continued to interest law enforcement, news media and public in Tulsa and Boston, especially because of longtime reports that there was connection to Winter Hill gang and that active or retired FBI agents might have been involved (M)

**Load-Date:** October 10, 2003

Ex-FBI agent needs aid, attorney says



## *Ex-FBI agent needs aid, attorney says*

The Oklahoman (Oklahoma City, OK)

October 22, 2003 Wednesday CITY EDITION

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 7A**Length:** 200 words**Byline:** The Associated Press**Dateline:** MIAMI, Fla.

### **Body**

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An attorney for a former FBI agent charged with his one-time informants in a mob hit said Tuesday that he planned to ask for federal help getting treatment for his client's heart disease.

An extradition hearing set for Tuesday was put off until Friday to allow an Oklahoma attorney to represent **H. Paul Rico**, 78, who is charged with murder in the 1981 shooting death of businessman Roger Wheeler in Tulsa.

William Cagney III, one of Rico's attorneys, said he will seek a federal contempt citation against Miami-Dade County jailers for failing to get Rico anything more than a cursory checkup.

Rico, who retired from the FBI in 1975, was security chief for Wheeler's World Jai Alai when Wheeler was shot to death May 27, 1981, at a Tulsa country club.

Investigators say Wheeler suspected money was being skimmed from the Miami jai alai business by Boston's Winter Hill gang, an Irish mob that fed information to Rico on its rival New England Mafia.

Wheeler's confessed hit man, John Martorano, implicated Rico in the killing. Rico was arrested after informant Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi did the same and pleaded guilty to federal charges last week with admissions in the killing of Wheeler and nine others.

**Load-Date:** October 23, 2003





## *Ex-FBI agent Rico to fight his extradition*

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

November 15, 2003 Saturday Final Home Edition

Copyright 2003 The Tulsa World

**Section:** NEWS; National; Courts; Pg. A14

**Length:** 231 words

**Byline:** AP Wire Service

### **Body**

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MIAMI, Fla. (AP) -- A former FBI agent who is charged in Oklahoma with the 1981 mob murder of a Tulsa businessman will fight extradition, his attorney told a state court judge Friday.

**H. Paul Rico**, 78, will not voluntarily return to Oklahoma to face charges that he helped organize the slaying of Roger Wheeler, attorney Garvin Isaacs told Senior Circuit Judge Gerald Klein.

Klein set an extradition hearing for Dec. 15. Rico will remain jailed without bail until then.

Rico, who retired from the FBI in 1975, served as security chief for Wheeler's Miami-based World Jai Alai business when Wheeler was shot to death at Tulsa's Southern Hills Country Club May 27, 1981.

Investigators say Wheeler, who was also chairman of the Tulsa-based Telex Corp., suspected that money was being skimmed from his jai alai business by Boston's Winter Hill gang, an Irish mob that fed information to Rico on its rival New England Mafia.

Wheeler's confessed hit man, John Martorano, implicated Rico in the killing. Rico was arrested after informant Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi did the same and pleaded guilty to federal charges in October with admissions in the killing of Wheeler and nine other people.

Rico's arrest Oct. 9 is the latest development in a corruption scandal over the cozy relationship between the FBI's organized crime unit and murderous underworld informants in Boston in the 1960s and 1970s.

**Load-Date:** November 16, 2003

Ex-FBI agent ruled competent to stand trial in mob murder



**Ex-FBI agent ruled competent to stand trial in mob murder**

The Boston Herald

January 13, 2004 Tuesday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 98 words

**Body**

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A former Boston FBI agent charged with a Tulsa mob murder is competent to stand trial, according to an Oklahoma psychiatrist.

**H. Paul Rico**, 78, has lost 53 pounds since his arrest in October in Miami but has no mental illness, said Dr. John R. Smith in an affidavit filed yesterday in Tulsa County for Rico's defense.

Rico's lawyers withdrew their call for a competency hearing and requested an immediate bail hearing.

Rico is accused of helping James "Whitey" Bulger's gang kill Tulsa millionaire Roger Wheeler in 1981 to control Wheeler's World Jai Alai gambling frontons.

**Load-Date:** January 13, 2004

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## *Ex-FBI agents, attorney Bailey to testify*

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

April 26, 2001, Thursday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 517 words

**Byline:** By KEN MAGUIRE, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** WASHINGTON

### **Body**

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Joseph Salvati will face two former FBI agents who helped convict him of a murder he didn't commit when they all testify next week before a congressional panel probing alleged illicit ties between the Mob and the Boston FBI office.

Subpoenas are to be issued Friday to ex-agents *H. Paul Rico* and Dennis Condon, a House Government Reform Committee spokesman said.

Both men, however, are expected to invoke their Fifth Amendment rights against self-incrimination because a Justice Department task force is probing whether some agents got too cozy with their Mob informants and became corrupt themselves.

"We hope they'll talk. They certainly owe the Salvatis and this country an explanation," committee spokesman Mark Corallo said.

Salvati served 30 years in prison, wrongly convicted in the 1965 murder of Edward "Teddy" Deegan. He was released in 1997.

The committee's first hearing is focused on the Salvati case and is scheduled for next Thursday. It is investigating the FBI's use of confidential informants. Salvati, his wife and attorney are all scheduled to testify.

"It's important for all the citizens of the United States and the Congress of the United States to understand what has gone on here in Massachusetts, especially concerning the Salvati case," Salvati lawyer Victor J. Garo said.

Also on the list is lawyer F. Lee Bailey, who plans to tell the committee that he told top Massachusetts prosecutors in 1970 that a client helped frame Salvati, but they allegedly never responded.

Bailey in 1970 represented Boston mobster Joseph "The Animal" Barboza, an FBI informant who falsely implicated Salvati in Deegan's murder.

## Ex-FBI agents, attorney Bailey to testify

"I think a lot of people are going to be shocked about what F. Lee Bailey has to say, about how he tried to right an injustice, but no one would listen to him either," Garo said.

Salvati, 68, and co-defendant Peter J. Limone, 66, were exonerated this year after a judge concluded that FBI agents hid evidence that would have proven their innocence. The FBI protected informants who were helping them bring down New England mobsters and manipulated testimony in their 1968 murder trial, the judge said.

Barboza was placed in the witness protection program, but was charged with a 1971 murder in California. Rico and Condon testified in support of him during the trial, Garo said. Barboza was shot and killed five years later in California.

Committee Chairman Rep. Dan Burton, R-Ind., called for hearings after learning of Salvati's case and of federal indictments charging former Boston FBI informants James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi with about 20 murders and allegations that FBI agents covered up their crimes.

Bulger, 71, and Flemmi, 63, allegedly were allowed to conduct criminal activity, including murders, while informing FBI agents about rival mobsters over several decades. Flemmi is awaiting trial while Bulger remains at large and 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.

**Load-Date:** April 27, 2001



## [Ex-FBI agent's illness delays extradition hearing](#)

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

October 18, 2003 Saturday Final Home Edition

Copyright 2003 The Tulsa World

**Section:** NEWS; National; Pg. A12

**Length:** 322 words

**Byline:** AP Wire Services

### **Body**

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MIAMI, Fla. (AP) -- The extradition hearing of a former FBI agent charged in the 1981 murder of a Tulsa businessman was postponed Friday because the man is ill, his attorneys said.

**H. Paul Rico** is facing charges in the death of Roger Wheeler, president of the Tulsa-based Telex Corp. and owner of World Jai Alai, in Miami. Authorities allege that Rico provided a hit man with Wheeler's description, whereabouts and the make, model and license plate number of his car.

Senior County Court Judge Gerald Klein rescheduled the hearing for Tuesday morning.

He ordered that Rico be taken to Jackson Memorial Hospital for treatment "until it is medically determined that he is fit to return to the county jail."

Rico's attorney, William P. Cagney III, said his client has heart problems and hypertension and has been experiencing fainting spells.

Rico, 78, has been living for many years in a small condominium in Miami Shores and has denied having any involvement in Wheeler's death.

Rico's wife and son, who were present at Friday's brief hearing, refused to comment afterward.

FBI mob informant Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi pleaded guilty to racketeering charges Tuesday, accepting a plea deal that will allow him to avoid the death penalty for killings in Florida and Oklahoma and instead serve life in prison.

Flemmi was a leader of the Winter Hill Gang that ran loan-sharking, drug and gambling rackets in the Boston area.

Rico had brought Flemmi on as an FBI informant in the 1960s, and the two men became good friends, according to investigators.

It was Flemmi who provided key information that led to Rico's arrest earlier this month.

Ex-FBI agent's illness delays extradition hearing

U.S. Attorney Michael Sullivan called Flemmi's time with the gang "one of the darkest chapters in the history of law enforcement."

He said investigators believe that Flemmi might provide them with information that could lead to additional indictments, possibly against other FBI agents or police officers.

**Load-Date:** October 19, 2003

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**EX-FBI AGENT TIED TO SLAYING;  
D.A. PRESSED TO ACT IN 1981 JAI ALAI CASE**

Hartford Courant (Connecticut)

January 23, 2001 Tuesday, 7 SPORTS FINAL

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**Section:** MAIN; Pg. A1

**Length:** 1166 words

**Byline:** By EDMUND H. MAHONY; Courant Staff Writer

## **Body**

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There is growing pressure on the district attorney in Tulsa, Okla., to charge a decorated former FBI agent in a murder conspiracy, a step some investigators believe could solve a mystery that unfolded in Hartford 25 years ago, when criminals moved in on the jai alai industry.

The decision whether to arrest retired FBI Agent **H. Paul Rico** rests exclusively with District Attorney Tim Harris, who was elected in November 1999 after 12 years as an assistant specializing in child abuse cases. Despite pressure for an arrest from the Tulsa Police Department and the family of the victim, Roger Wheeler Sr., Harris has refused to discuss either his decision or its timing.

But no one doubts the difficulty of the decision. Rico strongly denies involvement in the crime, and he is being implicated by a mob hit man who has admitted killing 20 people.

A killer shot Wheeler in May 1981 after the multimillionaire owner of World Jai Alai and various other businesses finished his regular Wednesday afternoon round of golf at Tulsa's Southern Hills Country Club. There is evidence that criminals associated with Boston's notorious Winter Hill Gang ordered Wheeler killed after he began to suspect they were skimming money from World Jai Alai, which operated frontons in Hartford and Florida.

Harris' silence has been particularly galling to Wheeler's family, which has pushed doggedly for an arrest for two decades.

"After fighting against impossible odds to help bring my father's killers to justice, ultimately winning the battle against both organized crime and a corrupted Boston FBI, it is ironic to find ourselves stopped cold by our own district attorney," David Wheeler, one of the victim's sons, said last week in an emotional written statement.

Although a connection between the killing and jai alai has long been suspected, a special federal task force investigating law enforcement corruption in Boston has turned up the new information that some investigators argue supports Rico's arrest.

## EX-FBI AGENT TIED TO SLAYING; D.A. PRESSED TO ACT IN 1981 JAI ALAI CASE

That evidence comes from John Martorano, a Winter Hill hit man who agreed to cooperate with federal investigators in 1999 in return for admission to the federal witness protection program. Under the terms of his cooperation agreement, Martorano admitted killing 20 people, including Wheeler.

According to law enforcement sources and legal documents disclosed in court, Martorano told investigators he was approached about the plan to kill Wheeler by Winter Hill Gang leaders James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, whose efforts to skim money from World Jai Alai had come to Wheeler's attention.

But Martorano's characterization of Rico's alleged role in Wheeler's death is less clear-cut. Sources familiar with the case said Martorano asserts that Rico -- through a third party -- provided him with information he used to locate Wheeler in Tulsa.

At the time of the killing, Rico, who spent nearly all of his law enforcement career as an organized crime investigator in Boston, had retired to Miami from the FBI and taken a senior position with World Jai Alai as vice president for security. While working in Boston, Rico developed a complicated relationship with Winter Hill members -- particularly Bulger and Flemmi -- and Martorano's statement to authorities suggests that relationship continued after Rico's move to Florida.

Rico vigorously denies Martorano's allegations. His lawyer, William P. Cagney III, said the account is implausible and probably a fabrication by a killer trying to cut a deal with prosecutors and win some revenge against a law enforcement officer.

But some investigators find aspects of Martorano's story plausible, particularly when viewed in the context of a bizarre relationship between the Winter Hill Gang and FBI organized-crime investigators in Boston. Bulger and Flemmi for decades were FBI informants -- Rico recruited Flemmi in the mid-1960s -- and the bureau protected them from prosecution for a string of serious crimes.

What's more, in 1981 another would-be FBI informant told the bureau a story similar to Martorano's. Edward Brian Halloran said Bulger and Flemmi had offered him the Wheeler contract and that the two gangsters had told him Rico would set up the murder.

Halloran, who had no idea he was informing on two of the bureau's favored informants, also was trying to get into the witness protection program. But the FBI turned him away and hid his statement from other agencies investigating Wheeler's death. Soon after, Halloran was gunned down in South Boston. A federal judge, in a decision published in Boston in 1999, concluded that someone in the FBI probably tipped Bulger and Flemmi that Halloran was informing on them.

The Wheeler investigation languished for years until the late 1990s, when an organized crime trial in Boston revealed that Bulger and Flemmi -- two of the city's most ruthless criminals -- were protected informants. That disclosure led to the task force investigation, which has had two notable results: the indictment of three law enforcement officers and the defection of Martorano and two other Winter Hill members.

The Tulsa Police Department has always had jurisdiction over the Wheeler case because it occurred in Oklahoma. On Dec. 28, armed with evidence from the federal task force and its own 20-year investigation, the department delivered to Harris' office a lengthy affidavit supporting the arrests of Rico and others.

Tulsa detectives will not discuss the affidavit in detail, but in a brief public statement the department said it hopes to obtain arrest warrants for "all involved parties in conspiracy and murder." Along with the affidavit, the department delivered more than 5,000 pages of supporting documents.

The wait for Harris' decision has led to grumbling in Tulsa-area police agencies, some of whose officers have accused him of failing to act decisively in murder cases. Some people who know Harris well, including a police officer and former prosecutor, say they believe Harris is reluctant to file anything but an air-tight case against a once-influential FBI agent.

But Rico's reputation was taking hits even before the Tulsa police file found its way to Harris' office.



## EX-FBI AGENT TIED TO SLAYING;D.A. PRESSED TO ACT IN 1981 JAI ALAI CASE

Last year, John H. Durham, the federal prosecutor from New Haven leading the task force investigation of law enforcement corruption, discovered secret FBI documents suggesting that Rico was among a group of FBI officials who covered up evidence that four men may have been framed for murder in Boston.

In 1999, a federal judge hearing arguments in an organized crime case concluded that Rico once allowed Flemmi to escape prosecution for the attempted murder of a defense lawyer. The lawyer lived, but lost a leg, after Flemmi and another gangster bombed his car. The judge said there is evidence suggesting that Rico enabled Flemmi to flee the country before his arrest. Later, the judge said, Rico appeared to have arranged for the charge to be dropped.

**Load-Date:** January 24, 2001

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Ex-FBI man Rico may be named in mob hit



## *Ex-FBI man Rico may be named in mob hit*

The Boston Herald

February 11, 2002 Monday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;**Length:** 675 words**Byline:** By TOM FARMER

### **Body**

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Tulsa, Okla., homicide detectives are preparing an affidavit detailing new evidence in the 1981 Mob hit of Roger Wheeler by members of Boston's Winter Hill Gang that will likely result in criminal charges against former FBI agent **H. Paul Rico**, sources said.

Rico, 76, was implicated in Wheeler's murder early last year when Tulsa County District Attorney Timothy Harris brought murder charges against Winter Hill bosses James J. "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, along with admitted hit man John Martorano.

Despite the urging of Tulsa police, Harris declined to bring charges against Rico, who worked for Wheeler as head of security for World Jai Alai in Miami.

Sources said the new evidence being prepared for Harris further implicates Rico in Wheeler's killing.

Rico has denied all the allegations.

"We have new information relative to an uncharged suspect and I'm hoping to get that to (Harris) in a couple of weeks," said Tulsa Detective Sgt. Mike Huff, who declined comment on whether Rico was the target of his affidavit.

"This is a pretty complex deal."

Martorano and former mob boss Francis "Cadillac Frank" Salemme are cooperating with investigators probing the Winter Hill gang.

Wheeler, 55, was the chairman of the Tulsa-based Telex Corp. when he was shot to death by Martorano and the late Joseph M. MacDonald on May 27, 1981, after playing a round of golf at a Tulsa ountry club.

Martorano pleaded guilty to Wheeler's murder in April 2001 as part of a plea agreement. He said he was ordered by Bulger, Flemmi and Rico to kill Wheeler because he had learned the Boston wiseguys were skimming profits from the jai alai operation.

## Ex-FBI man Rico may be named in mob hit

Tulsa police recommended Rico be charged with murder along with Bulger and Flemmi. Bulger has been a fugitive since 1995 and Flemmi is being held without bail while he awaits a federal trial for racketeering and murder.

Bulger and Flemmi were longtime FBI informants who were cultivated by Rico and later handled by former FBI agent John Connolly.

Connolly is under federal indictment for conspiring with Bulger and Flemmi and is accused of providing the mob bosses with information about federal informants that led to three murders.

Rico is expected to return before the House Committee on Government Reform this week, which is investigating FBI misconduct.

Rico was grilled by the congressional committee in May about his role in a 1965 Chelsea murder investigation that resulted in four innocent men being sent to prison.

"What do you want, tears?" Rico responded to U.S. Rep. Christopher Shays (R-Conn.) when Shays asked Rico if he felt remorse about the innocent men going to prison based on the testimony of another infamous FBI informant, Joseph "The Animal" Barboza.

Members of the congressional committee have been blocked in obtaining Justice Department documents related to the murder cases of Wheeler and Edward "Teddy" Deegan by an order of executive privilege by President Bush.

Committee members disagree with the president's position that the release of the documents would hurt national security and have vowed to gather information by subpoenaing witnesses.

"We are trying to obtain information about a meeting between Oklahoma, Florida, Connecticut and Massachusetts and federal law enforcement personnel and thus far, the Justice Department has withheld the information from us," said James Wilson, chief counsel for the congressional committee.

"The committee has not been satisfied with the cooperation of the Justice Department and intends to do everything in our power to get the pertinent information."

Wilson said the committee desperately wants records detailing the workings of the FBI's Boston office dating back decades.

"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. What went on at World Jai Alai and specifically the Wheeler murder, are a major part of our investigation," Wilson said.

Herald wire services contributed to this report

**Load-Date:** February 11, 2002



## *Ex-FBI snitch to be questioned on con charges*

The Boston Herald

April 16, 2002 Tuesday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 330 words

**Byline:** By J. M. LAWRENCE

### **Body**

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Fired FBI informant Richard "The Fat Man" Chicofsky faces questions today in federal court from a former Fall River police dispatcher who claims Chicofsky conned him out of \$ 400,000 and then set him up on weapons charges.

"We want to establish the pattern of misconduct which corrupted and contaminated this case and others," said Benjamin D. Entine, attorney for Nuno Barboza of Fall River, who subpoenaed Chicofsky.

Barboza's brush with Chicofsky left him facing decades in prison while his wife faced 21 years. She left an angry phone message for Chicofsky for losing the family's savings and was charged with "intimidating a witness."

Then the government dropped Chicofsky from the payroll in January for "lack of candor" and offered Barboza a plea deal carrying several months of home detention.

Barboza's attorney filed a motion with U.S. District Court Judge Reginald C. Lindsay last week seeking to dismiss the charges altogether for "outrageous government misconduct."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Susan Hanson-Philbrick said yesterday she will ask Lindsay to impose a sentence today on Barboza.

"Obviously we oppose the motion to dismiss and we intend to go forward with sentencing," she said.

Chicofsky was first recruited as an informant in 1962 by former agent ***H. Paul Rico***, who recruited Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, the notorious informant now charged with committing 10 murders while working for the government.

The Barboza family, who allegedly lost their money to Chicofsky in an investment scheme, is one of several cases that has drawn scrutiny since the government cut Chicofsky loose.

Sources told the Herald Chicofsky tried to undermine the federal racketeering probe into the Teamsters by falsely accusing labor investigators of taking bribes.

Ex-FBI snitch to be questioned on con charges

The smear campaign failed when the investigators were cleared. A House Government Reform committee investigating the FBI's relationship with informants

has added the incident to its probe.

**Load-Date:** April 16, 2002

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## *Ex-hit man: Bulger's aid to FBI a heartbreaker*

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

June 18, 2013 Tuesday

Final Edition

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**Section:** News; Pg. A12

**Length:** 797 words

**Byline:** DENISE LAVOIE Associated Press

### **Body**

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BOSTON - A former gangster who admitted killing 20 people was unemotional Monday when describing his line of work at the trial of his former partner, James "Whitey" Bulger, but called himself heartbroken when he learned that Bulger had become an FBI informant. John Martorano gave short answers and spoke nonchalantly when questioned by a prosecutor about a string of murders he committed while he, Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi were members of the Winter Hill Gang. The only flash of sentiment came early in his testimony, when he was asked to describe his relationship with Bulger and Flemmi. "They were my partners in crime, they were my best friends, they were my children's godfathers," Martorano said.

He said he named his youngest son James Stephen after Bulger and Flemmi. Martorano said he was stunned to learn years later that Bulger and Flemmi had been providing information to the FBI at the same time they were committing crimes for the gang. "After I heard that they were informants, it sort of broke my heart," he said. Martorano, 72, served 12 years in prison after striking a deal with prosecutors. He was released in 2007. Bulger, now 83, is charged in a broad racketeering indictment that accuses him of participating in 19 murders in the 1970s and '80s. He is also charged with extorting bookmakers, drug dealers and others running illegal businesses. Among the homicides in which Bulger is implicated is the 1981 slaying of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler, who was gunned down in the parking lot of Southern Hills Country Club after a round of golf. Wheeler, 55, was the CEO of the Tulsa-based Telex Corp. Charges were filed in Tulsa County against Bulger, former FBI Agent ***H. Paul Rico*** and mobsters Martorano and Flemmi in connection with the Wheeler slaying. Rico died in 2004; Martorano pleaded guilty in 2001 to second-degree murder and was sentenced to 15 years in prison; Flemmi is serving a life term for his role in 10 murders, including Wheeler's. Martorano, 72, is one of three former Bulger cohorts who cooperated with the government and agreed to testify against Bulger and others in return for reduced sentences. Bulger's attorneys did not get the chance to question Martorano on Monday but are expected to aggressively attack his credibility once they get to cross-examine him. In opening statements last week, Bulger's lead attorney, J.W. Carney Jr., told the jury that prosecutors were so desperate to get Martorano to testify that "they basically threw their hands up in the air and said, 'Take anything you want.'" In his testimony Monday, Martorano described what he said was Bulger's involvement in several killings, saying that while he shot someone from a car, Bulger and others would ride in a second car to intervene if anyone tried to stop the shooting. He described the death of one victim, Alfred Notarangeli, in 1974. Martorano said Bulger's gang decided to kill Notarangeli to help the Italian Mafia

## Ex-hit man: Bulger's aid to FBI a heartbreaker

in Boston, a sometime rival, whose leaders said Notarangeli had killed one of their agents and was a "loose cannon." On March 8, 1973, Martorano said, he drove in the lead car while Bulger followed, both tailing a Mercedes they believed was driven by Notarangeli. "We pulled guns and we were shooting at it," Martorano said, referring to himself and another member of the gang. They later learned that it was not Notarangeli in the car but instead a man named Michael Milano, who was shot to death. Martorano said they continued to chase Notarangeli and ended up killing him and his brother, Joseph Notarangeli. Bulger is charged in the killings of both brothers, as well as Milano's killing. Martorano also described how he said Bulger first became involved with former FBI Agent John Connolly Jr. He said Connolly met with Bulger's brother, former Massachusetts Senate President William Bulger, in the mid-1970s to express his gratitude for being a mentor to him and to offer him help if he ever needed it. Martorano said Whitey Bulger told him that his brother had told Connolly, "If you could keep my brother out of trouble, that would be helpful." Martorano said that after that, Connolly helped the gang by tipping them off to investigations and said Connolly suggested to Bulger that he give Connolly money. "Down the road, he said he takes good care of him," Martorano said. He recalled Bulger giving Connolly money as well as a 2-carat diamond. Connolly was convicted of racketeering for tipping off Bulger to an indictment, causing him to leave Boston in 1994. He was one of the nation's most wanted fugitives until he was finally caught in Santa Monica, Calif., in 2011. Martorano was scheduled to resume his testimony Tuesday. SUBHEAD: The ex-gangster testifies in Bulger's murder trial for the prosecution.

**Load-Date:** June 19, 2013

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## [Ex-Hub FBI agent seeking immunity - Reps want Rico's testimony](#)

The Boston Herald  
May 3, 2001 Thursday  
ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 650 words

**Byline:** By J.M. Lawrence

### **Body**

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WASHINGTON, D.C. - A retired Boston FBI agent wants immunity from prosecution or he will not answer questions today from members of Congress probing the bureau's handling of organized crime and an innocent man's 30-year prison term, the Herald has learned.

"An immunity grant will be necessary in order for Mr. Rico to testify before your committee," former special agent **H. Paul Rico**'s attorney, William Cagney, said in a letter faxed to the Committee on Government Reform.

Committee sources said last night that no deal had been made with Rico, setting the stage for the agent to exercise his Fifth Amendment rights against self-incrimination this afternoon.

Rico, 73, faces Congress just as Mob hit man Johnny Martorano is slated to plead guilty today in a Tulsa, Okla., federal courtroom to the 1981 execution of World Jai Alai executive Roger Wheeler.

Martorano claimed Rico ordered that murder from his post at the lucrative sports betting organization, a firm he joined upon retiring from the FBI.

Martorano's plea is part of a federal deal orchestrated in 1999 that will bring him 15 years in prison. He has confessed to as many as 20 Mob murders and claimed Rico supplied key information about Wheeler's habits that led the hit man and his partner to find him at a Tulsa country club.

Rico has not been charged in connection with the death of Wheeler, a self-made millionaire and Reading, Mass., native. But the former agent is under investigation by a federal grand jury probing corruption in the Boston FBI.

That investigation requires Rico to ask the House for immunity to talk, Cagney said in his letter.

In earlier interviews, the Florida attorney has said that Rico and his partner Dennis Condon did their work with the approval of their FBI superiors.

"They were not two vigilantes going around the city," Cagney said.



## Ex-Hub FBI agent seeking immunity - Reps want Rico's testimony

Rico forged the Boston FBI's first informant links with Mob figures during the 1960s when 65 men were murdered during a deadly gang war between Italian and Irish mobsters.

It was Rico and Condon who cultivated hit man Vincent "Jimmy the Bear" Flemmi as their source and allegedly let Joseph Salvati go to prison for 30 years to protect Flemmi and keep good relations with his brother, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi.

Stephen Flemmi also has been charged with conspiring to murder Wheeler in Tulsa along with fugitive crime boss James "Whitey" Bulger.

Condon, who is in his 70s, is in poor health and may ask the House committee to waive his appearance today, sources said.

Rico and Condon withheld evidence that might have exonerated Salvati, a Middlesex Superior Court judge has ruled. And the pair allegedly bolstered the false testimony given by Mob turncoat Joseph "The Animal" Barbosa that Salvati and three other men killed Edward "Teddy" Deegan in a Chelsea alley in March 1965.

Federal investigators probing Rico's tenure with the FBI have noted that the statute of limitations on obstructing justice and racketeering have long run out on crimes during the 1960s. But suborning perjury in a capital murder case is a criminal offense that has no time limit.

Chaired by Indiana Republican Rep. Dan Burton, the Committee on Government Reform is known on Capitol Hill for stoking the fires of controversy.

Burton's decision to take up the Boston saga of G-men who cozied up to the Mob was spurred by members' outrage over the three decades Salvati spent in prison.

"The committee members are more than disgusted with the conduct of the federal agents in this case," committee spokesman Mark Corallo said yesterday.

The committee may hold additional hearings to delve into the later years of the Boston FBI - years in which Rico's successor former agent John J. Connolly Jr. cultivated Bulger as his informant. Connolly is under federal indictment for obstructing justice and racketeering in connection with the Bulger gang.

**Load-Date:** May 3, 2001

Ex-mobster sentenced to 6-year term



## *Ex-mobster sentenced to 6-year term*

The Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

March 23, 2004 Tuesday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A-04

**Length:** 329 words

### **Body**

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Kevin Weeks has served almost five years and could be released by the end of this year with good behavior.

BOSTON (AP) - A former lieutenant to fugitive gangster James "Whitey" Bulger who helped authorities unravel his gang's cozy relationship with the FBI was sentenced yesterday to six years in federal prison, including time served.

Kevin Weeks, a one-time gravedigger and lookout for Bulger's Winter Hill Gang, has already served nearly five years, meaning he could be released by the end of this year with good behavior.

Before he was sentenced, Weeks stood to address the court, saying he decided to cooperate with investigators to give closure to the families of the gang's victims.

"I apologize to those families, and I hope my actions over the last five years show that my apology is sincere," he said.

With his help, investigators were able to uncover the relationship between Boston FBI agents and their underworld informants.

Weeks, 48, helped recover the bodies of six people murdered by Bulger and fellow mobster Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi and helped solve murders in Florida and Oklahoma. He also helped convict former FBI agent John J. Connolly Jr. of charges he protected gangsters.

"The defendant has fully cooperated in some of the most significant prosecutions in this district's history," U.S. Attorney Michael Sullivan wrote in a letter to the court.

Bulger, who disappeared in 1995, is on the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted" list and is sought in connection with 21 murders.

Weeks was charged with racketeering, extortion and money-laundering, but struck a plea deal in 1999. Federal prosecutors had recommended that he serve nine years in prison.

Ex-mobster sentenced to 6-year term

Flemmi was sentenced to life in prison for the 1982 killing of a World Jai Alai executive, John Callahan, in Miami. Flemmi reached a plea deal after implicating his former FBI handler, ***H. Paul Rico***, in the 1981 murder of another World Jai Alai figure, owner Roger Wheeler, in Oklahoma. Rico died before he could be tried.

**Load-Date:** March 24, 2004

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## *Ex-Mobster Who Ratted on Boss Sentenced*

Associated Press Online

March 22, 2004 Monday

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**Section:** DOMESTIC NEWS

**Length:** 310 words

**Byline:** DENISE LAVOIE; Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** BOSTON

### **Body**

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**Load-Date:** March 23, 2004

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Ex-mobster who ratted on boss 'Whitey' Bulger sentenced to six years, mostly time served



***Ex-mobster who ratted on boss 'Whitey' Bulger sentenced to six years,  
mostly time served***

The Associated Press

March 22, 2004, Monday, BC cycle

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**Section:** Domestic News

**Length:** 310 words

**Byline:** By DENISE LAVOIE, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** BOSTON

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**Load-Date:** March 23, 2004

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The Associated Press State & Local Wire

March 22, 2004, Monday, BC cycle

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**Section:** Domestic News

**Length:** 316 words

**Byline:** By DENISE LAVOIE, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** BOSTON

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**Load-Date:** March 23, 2004

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***Ex-mobster who ratted on boss 'Whitey' Bulger sentenced to six years, mostly time served***

Associated Press International

March 22, 2004 Monday

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 310 words

**Byline:** DENISE LAVOIE; Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** BOSTON

## **Body**

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**Load-Date:** March 23, 2004

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## [Ex-prosecutor apologizes to Salvati, Limone](#)

The Boston Herald  
May 12, 2002 Sunday  
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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 432 words

**Byline:** By J.M. Lawrence

### **Body**

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A former Suffolk County prosecutor apologized to the men he convicted in his first murder case 34 years ago and blamed the FBI for hiding the truth about a 1965 murder in a Chelsea alley.

"I realize now there was a terrible injustice here," Jack Zalkind told a congressional committee yesterday. "I can't apologize for the FBI but I can certainly apologize for myself."

Two of the men Zalkind sent to prison, Joseph Salvati and Peter J. Limone, sat in the audience as Zalkind wondered aloud what he could have done differently in the Edward "Teddy" Deegan case.

The long-awaited apology came in a courtroom at the McCormack Building where the congressmen set up shop for a day to hear testimony.

Zalkind, who spent eight years as a prosecutor and became a noted defense attorney, expressed regret that he didn't ask enough questions to expose mob turncoat Joseph "The Animal" Barboza's lies on the witness stand.

In his closing argument in the case, Zalkind himself told jurors that for Barboza to be lying, he would have had to have the cooperation of the entire state and federal system.

But Barboza came to Zalkind with the backing of two FBI agents, ***H. Paul Rico*** and Dennis Condon, who kept to themselves information showing Barboza vowed to protect his buddy Vincent "Jimmy The Bear" Flemmi in the Deegan killing, according to Zalkind.

"I'm a pretty tough guy, been through a war, but I'm a victim in this case," Zalkind said. "They had a witness they knew was lying to me and they never told me he was lying."

Zalkind's contrition drew a some mockery from U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (D-Newton) yesterday.

"I'm just thinking about who should play what part in the mini-series," Frank chided Zalkind.

Ex-prosecutor apologizes to Salvati, Limone

Limone's attorney John Cavicchi said he drew no comfort from Zalkind's remarks. Cavicchi spent 20 years fighting to release another defendant in the case, Louis Greco, a decorated World War II veteran. Greco died in prison and so did a fourth defendant, Henry Tameleo, another man Barboza apparently threw in as a Deegan killer.

"It would have been nice if someone said they were wrong when Greco and Tameleo were alive," Cavicchi said yesterday.

Cavicchi contends the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office and the Massachusetts courts should have known the convictions were unjust long before newly released FBI documents cast doubt.

"They had enough in their files that they ought to have known Barboza was lying," Cavicchi said.

Caption: SORRY: Jack Zalkind offers his apology yesterday to two men he wrongly convicted of murder. Staff photo by Mark Garfinkel

**Load-Date:** May 12, 2002

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End of Document



## *Ex-Prosecutor Tells of Ties Between F.B.I. and Mob*

The New York Times  
December 6, 2002 Friday  
Late Edition - Final

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**Section:** Section A; Column 5; National Desk; Pg. 20

**Length:** 970 words

**Byline:** By FOX BUTTERFIELD

**Dateline:** BOSTON, Dec. 5

### **Body**

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A former United States attorney in Boston told a Congressional committee today that he knew that some gangland informers were committing murders and that their F.B.I. handlers had become personally involved with them. But he said he took no action because he was intimidated by the bureau.

"It would have precipitated World War III if I had tried to do anything about F.B.I. informants," said the witness, Jeremiah T. O'Sullivan, who was in charge of the New England Organized Crime Strike Force and then United States attorney here in the 1970's and 80's

In fact, Mr. O'Sullivan said, he once tried to sidestep the Federal Bureau of Investigation by setting up an electronic bug with the help of the Massachusetts state police in the headquarters of James Bulger, known as Whitey, the leader of the powerful Winter Hill gang. But the surveillance was soon compromised, Mr. O'Sullivan said, most likely by an F.B.I. agent who tipped off Mr. Bulger. Mr. Bulger had been recruited as an F.B.I. informer.

After the bug was compromised, Mr. O'Sullivan told members of the House Committee on Government Reform, the special agent in charge of the F.B.I.'s Boston office, Lawrence Sarhatt, called him into his office. "He yelled at me, cursed at me," Mr. O'Sullivan said of the F.B.I. official. "He told me I should never have cooperated with the state police."

"With the F.B.I, if you go against them, they will try to get you," Mr. O'Sullivan said. "They'll cause major administrative problems for me, as a prosecutor." Mr. O'Sullivan was actually superior in rank inside the Justice Department to the Boston F.B.I. agents.

The Committee on Government Reform, led by Representative Dan Burton, Republican of Indiana, has been investigating how F.B.I. agents in Boston became corrupted by recruiting underworld informers in their war on the Mafia starting in the 1960's. Some of the gangsters, notably Mr. Bulger and his deputy, Steven Flemmi, regularly entertained their F.B.I. handlers or gave them gifts, and the F.B.I. agents often provided them with confidential information about government investigations against them or names of other mobsters informing on them, according to court testimony.

## Ex-Prosecutor Tells of Ties Between F.B.I. and Mob

One of these F.B.I. agents, John J. Connolly Jr., was sentenced to 10 years in prison in September for racketeering and obstructing of justice. Prosecutors said Mr. Connolly essentially became a member of Mr. Bulger's gang.

Mr. Bulger has been indicted in racketeering and involvement in 22 murders. But he disappeared in 1995 after Mr. Connolly tipped him off to the secret indictment, according to testimony at Mr. Connolly's trial. Mr. Bulger remains a fugitive and is on the F.B.I.'s Ten Most Wanted List.

In separate testimony today, a Tulsa homicide detective, Mike Huff, said the Tulsa County District Attorney has been investigating a former Boston F.B.I. agent and is close to indicting him for his involvement in the murder of a Tulsa multimillionaire businessman, Roger Wheeler, on orders from Mr. Bulger.

Sergeant Huff told the committee there was strong evidence that **H. Paul Rico**, Mr. Connolly's predecessor in recruiting members of the Winter Hill gang as F.B.I. informers, had provided critical information used in Mr. Wheeler's killing. Mr. Rico was subpoenaed by the committee last year and refused to testify, taking his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination.

Mr. Wheeler, then the chairman of the Telex Corporation, was shot once between the eyes as he got in his car after playing golf at the Southern Hills Country Club in 1981.

He was killed because he had learned that Mr. Bulger's gang was skimming money from one of his businesses, World Jai Alai, which ran gambling operations in Hartford and Miami, according to testimony by the man who shot him, John Martorano. Mr. Rico was in charge of security for World Jai Alai at the time of the killing.

Sergeant Huff, who has investigated Mr. Wheeler's murder for 21 years, said, "The F.B.I. and the U.S. Attorney's office in Boston did not help us with the investigation."

"We were lied to," Sargeant Huff said. "They had targeted the Wheeler case to not get solved."

As a result, even though the F.B.I. in Boston knew Mr. Bulger was involved in the killing, the information was not provided to the Tulsa police. "The F.B.I. didn't want the embarrassment and Connolly didn't want his house of cards to fall," Sergeant Huff said.

David Wheeler, a son of Mr. Wheeler, also testified, saying, "Forgotten in all of this are the people the agents are supposed to serve -- people like my father."

A question hanging over the hearing today was whether Whitey Bulger's brother, William M. Bulger, the president of the University of Massachusetts and the former president of the State Senate, will testify on Friday. William Bulger has said very little over the years about his older brother, insisting he knows nothing about his criminal career.

But the committee has issued a subpoena for him to appear. Steven Lynch, a Democratic representative on the committee who lives in South Boston, the Bulgers' neighborhood, said it was unclear whether Mr. Bulger would appear at all, or appear and plead his Fifth Amendment right against compelled self-incrimination, or try to fight testifying on some procedural grounds.

One person listening to the testimony today, in the Suffolk County Courthouse, was Joseph Salvatti. In 1967 Mr. Salvatti was sentenced to life in prison for a murder actually committed by an F.B.I. informer, and the bureau allowed Mr. Salvatti and three other men to be wrongly convicted, with the knowledge of J. Edgar Hoover.

"It's hard to sit listening, knowing the F.B.I. and the U.S. Attorney's office are lying, said Mr. Salvatti, who had his sentence commuted after serving 30 years in prison. "The bottom line is, they don't care."

## Graphic

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Photo: James Bulger has been a fugitive for the last seven years. (Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1994)

**Load-Date:** December 6, 2002

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## [Extradition hearing of former agent charged in murder postponed](#)

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

October 18, 2003, Saturday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 1100 words

**Byline:** By The Associated Press

### **Body**

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MIAMI (AP) - The extradition hearing of a former FBI agent charged in the 1981 murder of an Oklahoma businessman was postponed Friday because the man is ill, according to his attorneys.

**H. Paul Rico** is facing charges in the death of Roger Wheeler, a Tulsa businessman who owned World Jai Alai in Miami. Authorities allege Rico provided a hit man with Wheeler's description, whereabouts and the make, model and license plate number of his car.

Senior County Court Judge Gerald Klein rescheduled the hearing for Tuesday morning. He ordered that Rico be taken to Jackson Memorial Hospital for treatment "until it is medically determined that he is fit to return to the county jail."

Rico's attorney, William P. Cagney III, said his client has heart problems, hypertension and has been experiencing fainting spells. Rico, 78, has been living for many years in a small condominium in Miami Shores and has denied having any involvement in Wheeler's death.

FBI mob informant Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi pleaded guilty to racketeering charges Tuesday, accepting a plea deal allowing him to avoid the death penalty for killings in Florida and Oklahoma and instead serve life in prison.

Flemmi was a leader of the Winter Hill Gang that ran loan-sharking, drug and gambling rackets in the Boston area. Rico had brought Flemmi on as an FBI informant in the 1960s, and the two men became good friends, according to investigators.

Aging work force could cause shortage at Tinker

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) - Downsizing in Tinker Air Force Base's civilian work force could contribute to an employment shortfall at the base, a military official said during a recent visit.

Gen. Gregory S. Martin, commander of the U.S. Air Force Materiel Command, said past staff reductions made the work force heavy with older employees.

## Extradition hearing of former agent charged in murder postponed

When the Air Force downsized its civilian employment, workers with the most seniority were kept on the job.

"Now the people who stayed with us, who had seniority, they're aging out," Martin said.

At Tinker, 60 percent of civilians will be eligible for retirement by 2009, base officials said.

"The natural consequence of a reduction in your force is an imbalanced force at the end of it," Martin said.

Martin, one of a handful of four-star generals in the Air Force, was in Oklahoma City to speak at the Logistics Officer Association national conference.

### Closure of two companies means loss of about 500 jobs

MUSKOGEE, Okla. (AP) - After spending the past 28 years working for a bottle cap manufacturer, Steve Johnson wonders about his future after the company closed down earlier this week.

Zapata Industries Inc. ceased operations on Wednesday, but laid off about 140 people Oct. 1. About 200 were left unemployed.

Union and state work force officials on Friday tried to address questions by Johnson and other employees about what to do after losing their jobs on short notice.

"I don't know if anyone can answer that," Johnson, a Muskogee resident, said. "Looks like (manufacturing) is pretty bleak now."

In addition to Zapata's closure, Waterloo Industries Inc. also announced it would close its Muskogee plant by December 2004, said Lisa Clark, a spokeswoman for the Greater Muskogee Development Corp., an economic development group.

Waterloo employed about 350 people at its peak in 2002, but that number has declined.

Global economic factors forced the companies to consolidate operations to stay competitive, she said.

Zapata, which makes steel bottle caps for the beverage industry, opened in the 1970s, Clark said.

The company will move the production to Mexico to cut costs, she said.

Waterloo, based in Waterloo, Iowa, came to Muskogee in 1996, she said. Tool storage products were made there.

Waterloo Industries will move production to plants in Pocahontas, Ark., and Sedalia, Mo., she said.

### Jailers closely watching deadly spree suspect

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) - Oklahoma County jailers are keeping a close watch on a man suspected of a deadly crime spree after he exhibited strange behavior following his arrest.

Ernesto Gonzalez, 33, was babbling and incoherent and appeared to be under the influence of drugs when he was booked into jail, Sgt. Rochelle Thompson, sheriff's department spokeswoman, said Friday.

"Because of that, he was placed under 15-minute observation until the effects of the drugs wore off. ... He will probably remain under observation throughout the weekend," Thompson said.

Gonzalez is accused of fatally shooting Ronald E. Norfleet and wounding Janice Bizzell, 43, during a series of random, violent encounters Thursday afternoon.

## Extradition hearing of former agent charged in murder postponed

He fired shots at two other people, robbed a business, tried to abduct two children and stole or broke into various vehicles for nearly two hours, police allege. Gonzalez was arrested outside a northeast Oklahoma City convenience store.

Norfleet, 41, a traffic control installer, was killed as he worked on the shoulder of Interstate 40 near Eastern Avenue.

About an hour before, Bizzell was shot in the left hip as she was leaving work at Legacy Cleaners and Laundry.

The driver of a silver sports car that had pulled into the lot said something to Bizzell, drawing her closer, then showed a handgun, laundry owner Monte Turrentine said.

Bizzell tried to run, but ran into a brick pillar as she turned, Turrentine said. Then a gunshot was heard.

Remains identified as those of missing woman

DISNEY, Okla. (AP) - Skeletal remains found in a car submerged in Grand Lake are those of a missing Delaware County woman, officials confirmed Friday.

Jessica Brown, a spokeswoman for the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, said the state Medical Examiner's Office in Tulsa used medical records to identify the remains as those of Joann Ellis.

A cause of death hasn't been determined and an investigation is ongoing, Brown said.

Ellis, a 48-year-old mother of four, was last seen as she pulled out of her parents' driveway near Disney in 1998. She was moving from her Siloam Springs, Ark., home back in with her parents when she disappeared, relatives said.

Local divers discovered bones inside a white Oldsmobile Cutlass that was submerged off a public ramp in the Disney State Park near Pensacola Dam.

After the vehicle was recovered, authorities found clothing, personal identification and rings, which family members confirmed belonged to Ellis.

Steve Henry of the Grand River Dam Authority Lake Patrol said the front windows were down when the car went into the water and that the speedometer was stuck on 45 mph.

**Load-Date:** October 19, 2003



## [Extradition hearing of former agent charged in murder postponed](#)

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

October 17, 2003, Friday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 319 words

**Dateline:** MIAMI

### **Body**

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The extradition hearing of a former FBI agent charged in the 1981 murder of an Oklahoma businessman was postponed Friday because the man is ill, according to his attorneys.

**H. Paul Rico** is facing charges in the death of Roger Wheeler, a Tulsa businessman who owned World Jai Alai in Miami. Authorities allege Rico provided a hit man with Wheeler's description, whereabouts and the make, model and license plate number of his car.

Senior County Court Judge Gerald Klein rescheduled the hearing for Tuesday morning. He ordered that Rico be taken to Jackson Memorial Hospital for treatment "until it is medically determined that he is fit to return to the county jail."

Rico's attorney, William P. Cagney III, said his client has heart problems, hypertension and has been experiencing fainting spells. Rico, 78, has been living for many years in a small condominium in Miami Shores and has denied having any involvement in Wheeler's death.

Rico's wife and son, who were present at Friday's brief hearing, refused comment afterward.

FBI mob informant Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi pleaded guilty to racketeering charges Tuesday, accepting a plea deal allowing him to avoid the death penalty for killings in Florida and Oklahoma and instead serve life in prison.

Flemmi was a leader of the Winter Hill Gang that ran loan-sharking, drug and gambling rackets in the Boston area. Rico had brought Flemmi on as an FBI informant in the 1960s, and the two men became good friends, according to investigators.

It was Flemmi who provided key information that led to Rico's arrest earlier this month.

U.S. Attorney Michael Sullivan called Flemmi's time with the gang "one of the darkest chapters in the history of law enforcement."

## Extradition hearing of former agent charged in murder postponed

He said investigators believe Flemmi may provide them with information that could lead to additional indictments, possibly against other FBI agents or police officers.

### Graphic

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With AP Photos

**Load-Date:** October 18, 2003

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## Extradition hearing postponed

**Extradition hearing postponed**

The Oklahoman (Oklahoma City, OK)  
November 1, 2003 Saturday CITY EDITION

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 11A

**Length:** 113 words

**Byline:** The Associated Press

**Dateline:** MIAMI, Fla.

**Body**

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A judge postponed Friday an extradition hearing until Nov. 14 for a former FBI agent charged in Oklahoma with his one-time informants in a mob slaying.

Senior Circuit Judge Gerald Klein delayed ***H. Paul Rico***'s hearing because of the former agent's health problems. He is being treated at the prison wing of Jackson Memorial Hospital, where his blood pressure dropped to "extremely low" levels Friday, said one of his attorneys, Garvin Isaacs.

"We need to know that he's able to travel safely and be able to endure the rigors of a trial," Isaacs said.

Assistant State Attorney Barbara Pineiro wanted the hearing delayed by a week. She said she would do independent tests of Rico's health.

**Load-Date:** November 3, 2003



## *Extradition hearing postponed; New request for medical care*

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

October 21, 2003, Tuesday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 208 words

**Dateline:** MIAMI

### **Body**

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An attorney for a former FBI agent charged with his one-time informants in a mob hit said Tuesday that he planned to ask for federal help getting treatment for his client's heart disease.

An extradition hearing set for Tuesday was put off until Friday to allow an Oklahoma attorney to represent 78-year-old **H. Paul Rico**, who is charged with murder in the 1981 shooting death of businessman Roger Wheeler in Tulsa, Okla.

William Cagney III, one of Rico's attorneys, said he will seek a federal contempt citation against Miami-Dade County jailers for failing to get Rico anything more than a cursory checkup.

Rico, who retired from the FBI in 1975, was security chief for Wheeler's World Jai Alai when Wheeler was shot to death at a Tulsa, Okla., country club May 27, 1981.

Investigators say Wheeler suspected money was being skimmed from the Miami jai alai business by Boston's Winter Hill gang, an Irish mob that fed information to Rico on its rival New England Mafia.

Wheeler's confessed hit man, John Martorano, implicated Rico in the killing. Rico was arrested after informant Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi did the same and pleaded guilty to federal charges last week with admissions in the killing of Wheeler and nine others.

**Load-Date:** October 22, 2003



## [Extradition hearing postponed; New request on medical care](#)

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

October 21, 2003, Tuesday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 394 words

**Byline:** By CATHERINE WILSON, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** MIAMI

### **Body**

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An attorney for a former FBI agent charged with his one-time informants in a mob hit said Tuesday that he planned to ask for federal help getting treatment for his client's heart disease.

An extradition hearing set for Tuesday was put off until Friday to allow an Oklahoma attorney to represent 78-year-old **H. Paul Rico**, who is charged with murder in the 1981 shooting death of Oklahoma businessman Roger Wheeler.

Rico, a looking haggard, followed the brief court hearing via a video connection to a jailhouse chapel.

William Cagney III, one of Rico's attorneys, said he will seek a federal contempt citation against Miami-Dade County jailers for failing to get Rico anything more than a cursory checkup.

Senior County Judge Gerald Klein last week ordered the jail to get hospital treatment for Rico "until it is medically determined that he is fit to return to the county jail."

Jailers responded by taking Rico to the Jackson Memorial Hospital's jail ward Saturday, a day when no physician is scheduled, for an examination by someone without a stethoscope or name tag, Cagney said. Rico did not receive any heart-related tests and was back in jail in less than an hour.

"They have to act on court orders in a meaningful way," Cagney said.

Jail spokeswoman Janelle Hall said later that Rico received a 17-minute hospital evaluation Saturday. He was seen in jail afterward by a doctor, who set up appointments for him at the hospital's heart and dermatology clinics. Hall said Rico's condition is stable.

Rico, who retired from the FBI in 1975, was security chief for Wheeler's World Jai Alai when Wheeler was shot to death at a Tulsa, Okla., country club May 27, 1981.

Investigators say Wheeler suspected money was being skimmed from the Miami jai alai business by Boston's Winter Hill gang, an Irish mob that fed information to Rico on its rival New England Mafia.



Extradition hearing postponed; New request on medical care

Wheeler's confessed hit man, John Martorano, implicated Rico in the killing. Rico was arrested after informant Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi did the same and pleaded guilty to federal charges last week with admissions in the killing of Wheeler and nine others.

Rico's arrest Oct. 9 is the latest wrinkle in a corruption scandal over the cozy relationship between the FBI's organized crime unit and murderous underworld informants in Boston in the 1960s and 1970s.

**Load-Date:** October 22, 2003

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## *Ex-wife recounts plight of wrongfully imprisoned man*

The Boston Herald  
January 9, 2001 Tuesday  
ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 472 words

**Byline:** By J. M. LAWRENCE

### **Body**

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The truth, locked away in FBI files since the 1960s, came too late for Louis Greco.

While Peter Limone left prison last week after serving 33 years for a murder he didn't commit, his fellow defendant died behind bars five years ago.

Greco was another victim of a dark chapter in the Boston FBI's history, according to attorney John Cavicchi, who represented both men.

"I got to blame the system now," Greco's former wife, Roberta Werner, said yesterday. "I'm very thrilled for Peter's family, but I wish it was Louis, too."

Attorneys are now preparing civil suits alleging wrongful imprisonment of Limone, Greco, Joseph Salvati and Henry Tameleo.

FBI agents withheld information that might have exonerated all four men who were serving life sentences in the 1965 murder of low-level Mob hoodlum Edward Deegan.

"We have to sue," Cavicchi said. "How could this have happened?"

Greco, a decorated World War II veteran, was passed over by former governors Michael S. Dukakis and William F. Weld for commutations.

Two weeks before Greco's death, Cavicchi made a last-ditch effort to win a commutation and got Greco's signature on an emergency petition. "It was just a scrawl and Weld still wouldn't let him out," Cavicchi said.

Greco passed three polygraphs, including one administered on a national television show in 1983.

Agents were intent on framing Greco, his former wife claims.

## Ex-wife recounts plight of wrongfully imprisoned man

A threat that government agents allegedly lobbed at her husband in the early 1960s still rings in her ears. Agents came to the couple's Florida home to question Greco about the robbery of a mail truck in Plymouth. The heist netted \$ 1.5 million but Greco maintained he knew nothing about it.

"We're gonna get you, Greco, and when we get you, you're never going to get out," Werner recalled the agents saying. "Those were the last words they said when they left my house."

When her husband went to prison, she had to take a job as a Hilltop Steak House waitress to support their two boys, Werner said.

Her husband eventually told her to divorce him and get on with her life, she recalled. She later remarried and she and her new husband sponsored Greco's first furlough.

They stayed in touch and Greco spoke of joining them in Florida one day.

"That was his only wish," Werner said. "He didn't want to die in prison. He wanted to go to Florida for the warm weather."

**H. Paul Rico**, the FBI agent whose reports on the Deegan murder were uncovered last month during a Justice Department corruption probe, is now retired and living in Florida.

"I wonder how he sleeps at night," Werner said. "How can you even look at yourself when you do something like that? They knew those guys were innocent."

Rico's attorney did not return a phone call seeking comment.

Photo Caption: GRECO: Innocent man died in prison four years ago.

**Load-Date:** January 9, 2001



## *Faith in FBI is real fugitive in Whitey case*

The Boston Herald

October 19, 2003 Sunday

ALL EDITIONS

Copyright 2003 Boston Herald Inc.

**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 608 words

**Byline:** By Peter Gelzinis

### **Body**

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By the end of this week or next, the Tulsa police will formally ask Attorney General John Ashcroft to allow the U.S. Marshals Service to join the hunt for James "Whitey" Bulger.

That request will be endorsed by U.S. Rep. William Delahunt (D-Quincy), a member of the House Judiciary Committee, who suggested that other members may add their support in writing.

"I would hope it would be honored by the Justice Department," Delahunt said yesterday. "Yes, I'm sure the pressure (upon Ashcroft) would be huge to ignore such a request. But let's face it, at this point there's no valid reason NOT to do it."

Clearly, the "pressure" Delahunt alluded to would come from one Robert Swan Mueller III, director of the FBI . . . the federal agency that created Whitey Bulger. We are supposed to believe that for almost nine years the Sons of J. Edgar Hoover have been out there, chasing a gangster they protected for the previous 25 years. But, of course, nobody believes that.

"This (request) is all about the confidence the American people have in this system," Delahunt said. "We're talking about a guy (Whitey) who's remained at large for close to nine years. Are we serious about catching him or not?"

"The focus of the U.S. Marshals Service is tracking fugitives. It's what they do best," he added. "In fact, in many ways I believe the Marshals Service has been underutilized."

Delahunt went on to say the FBI obviously should remain part of any joint efforts by state and federal law enforcement authorities now looking for Bulger.

"But somebody's got to take the lead," Delahunt said, "and it should be the marshals."

The Tulsa cops are talking about bringing the marshals in under a local murder warrant, charging Whitey with the death of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler. In effect, their request circumvents all the intrigue and political maneuvering that surrounds the Bulger saga here in Boston.

## Faith in FBI is real fugitive in Whitey case

In an interview last summer, Ken Kaiser, newly minted boss of the Boston FBI office, sneered at the idea of surrendering control of the Bulger search to anybody.

"What kind of SAC (special-agent-in-charge) would I be," he huffed, "to come here and then after three months say, 'I'm turning this case over to the U.S. Marshals?'"

Off the record, task force investigators from the state police and the DEA - who are responsible for all of the superceding murder indictments on Whitey Bulger's 74-year-old head - say bringing in the marshals would be the smartest thing Kaiser could do.

For the record, however, these cops have no choice but to fall in line behind U.S. Attorney Michael Sullivan's ludicrous contention that when it comes to looking for Whitey, the FBI, the state police and the DEA belong to one big, happy family.

"The (FBI) agents they've assigned to the Bulger case don't work past 5 and don't work on the weekends," said one local law enforcement source. "It's taken us years to understand all the players in this case and we're still learning.

"But the feds think they can pull in agents from other offices around the country, throw them on the Bulger case for three months, put them up in hotels and then rotate them out. That's crazy."

One of the last people to know Stevie "The Rifleman" Flemmi was about to spill his sordid guts, or that the Tulsa cops had arrested his former FBI handler, **H. Paul Rico**, on the Wheeler murder warrant was . . . you guessed it. Ken Kaiser.

"There should have been a courtesy call to the head of this agency," Kaiser fumed.

Being left out of the loop was no accident, Ken. It was simply a matter of trust. You see, when it comes to Bulger and Flemmi, nobody trusts the FBI.

**Load-Date:** October 19, 2003



## *Families of hit man's victims to testify at sentencing*

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

June 24, 2004, Thursday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 417 words

**Byline:** By DENISE LAVOIE, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** BOSTON

### **Body**

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John Martorano has admitted killing 20 people as a hit man for the Winter Hill Gang. But because he helped the federal government bring some of his former mob cohorts to justice, prosecutors are recommending a sentence that could get him out of prison as soon as next year.

That doesn't sit well with some of his victims' families, while others think the plea deal is a reasonable reward for helping to put away other mobsters and a corrupt FBI agent.

U.S. District Judge Mark Wolf was expected to hear from both camps before he sentences Martorano on Thursday afternoon.

"He should get life for cold-blooded murder. I don't care how much info he gave the court," Marion Govoni, whose husband, John "Jack" Banno, was killed by Martorano in 1969, wrote in a letter to Wolf.

Martorano, 63, agreed to cooperate with authorities after he learned that his bosses in the Winter Hill Gang - James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi - were longtime informants for the FBI.

Prosecutors recommended a sentence of 12 1/2 to 15 years for Martorano, who pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and agreed to cooperate with investigators. With his help, the government unraveled the corrupt relationship between the Boston FBI and its underworld informants.

Flemmi is now serving a life sentence for his role in 10 murders, while Bulger, the head of the Winter Hill Gang, remains a fugitive on the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted" list.

Martorano has been in custody since 1995. Depending on his sentencing, and with credit for good behavior, Martorano could be released in late 2005 or early 2006.

David Wheeler, whose father, Oklahoma businessman Roger Wheeler, was killed by Martorano in May 1981, said he was thankful that Martorano told the "ugly truth" and implicated former FBI agent **H. Paul Rico** in his father's murder.

Families of hit man's victims to testify at sentencing

"I can never forgive him for what he has done, but I do recognize it is he, rather than the FBI, that has come forward and told the truth," David Wheeler said in a statement released by his lawyers.

Rico died in January before he could go to trial, but Martorano's assistance helped prosecutors to send another corrupt FBI agent, John Connolly Jr., to prison for 10 years.

Barbara Sousa, whose husband, James, was killed by Martorano in 1974, said his crimes dwarf any help he gave prosecutors.

"It is very hard to understand how a man who has admitted to killing 20 people can be regarded as giving 'valuable assistance' to anyone," she wrote.

**Load-Date:** June 25, 2004

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## *Family member of Bulger's Tulsa victim speaks out*

Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise (Oklahoma)

November 20, 2013 Wednesday

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**Section:** COLUMNISTSCOLUMNISTS

**Length:** 1063 words

**Byline:** Dale Lewis EE Columnist

### **Body**

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Welcome back.

By now I am sure that everyone knows James "Whitey" Bulger was convicted of the murder of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler as well as many others. Last Wednesday his son David Wheeler gave a victim's impact statement during the sentencing hearing for Bulger. Every person in the courtroom learned what the Wheeler family went through and David's statement was so powerful it left many shocked and upset.

After I talked with David inside the federal courthouse in Boston, he agreed to give me a copy of his statement. This week you, my readers, will have an exclusive (as far as I know) opportunity to read this statement in its entirety in two of my columns.

As he says, this is not the end of the story ...

Remarks to the Court

U.S. District Judge Denise Casper United States v. James Bulger: Sentencing

Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2013

Your Honor:

My name is David Wheeler. I am the son of Patricia Wheeler and the late Roger M. Wheeler, of Tulsa OK.

Here's my father, right here: [Show enlarged photo to the entire courtroom].

My mother, I am pleased to say, is still alive; my father, Roger Wheeler, is long dead. He was murdered in cold blood, sitting in his automobile after a round of golf, more than a thousand miles from this courtroom. He was fifty four years old.

He was murdered on the orders of this man [point] James Bulger.



## Family member of Bulger's Tulsa victim speaks out

My sister, Pamela Norberg Wheeler, appeared in this Court last summer, to give testimony on behalf of the prosecution. My brothers, Roger Jr. and Larry, and I survive another brother, Mark. My wife, Laurie is in the next courtroom over. I cannot begin to describe how much I owe Laurie, for her love and support through this. Our son, Steven, is here also, with his wife, Meg, and his cousin - Roger, Jr.'s son - Clark.

Unable to join us today is Michael Huff, recently retired Tulsa Police Department Homicide Detective; Mike was the first detective to arrive at Tulsa's Southern Hills Country Club, on a Wednesday afternoon, back in May, 1981. Mike's dogged determination to find the truth over the years, has earned him my everlasting thanks and respect. What Mike saw there, in the parking lot next to the swimming pool, was unimaginable; horrifying, to everybody but this [point] man;

This man wanted my father dead.

What has been uncovered in the years since, about the utterly corrupt, insular world that was the Boston Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation is - if possible - even more horrifying, more grotesque, particularly to those of us, such as my family and I, who once trusted federal law enforcement.

My father joined the Navy during WW II and later met my mother, then a student nurse from Kansas, at an ROTC tea dance. The jukebox had broken down, and my mother asked him to fix it. A year later, they were married.

After the war, my father found work in the Venezuelan oil fields, where he learned that pipelines can be kept free of rust and leaks by attaching an anode of magnesium metal. The magnesium anode rusts instead of the pipe. My dad came back to America and started a business melting down magnesium leftovers from the war to make magnesium anodes for oil pipelines.

My father wasn't much for watching television; the time spent with us kids was mainly reserved for the out of doors: Hiking, water skiing; fishing - one day we caught the same fish, on separate hooks! - and working together, outside. But there was one television program we wouldn't miss; we'd watch it together: it was called - "The FBI."

One time, Dad's magnesium plant caught fire. I was eight years old. I went with him as he raced to save his business, our livelihood. The firemen had just arrived, and were unraveling their hoses. Dad reminded the chief that spraying water on a magnesium fire is just like throwing gasoline on a paper fire. It's the last thing you want to do.

I watched from across the street as Dad and some of his workers raced through the gates and into the plant. I watched as Dad came up to two firemen preparing to start spraying a big hose; they refused to listen to his loud, urgent warnings. Dad stole their firehose. That was my Dad; he was my hero.

He had unlimited energy, and with some luck and lots of determination, he became an extraordinarily successful businessman.

My father's fatal mistake proved to be his faith in the FBI. He invested millions to buy World Jai Alai, a fast moving, indoor sport imported from the Basque region of Spain. Like horse racing, it featured wagering. He purchased World Jai Alai because he thought it was a growing sport, and a smart investment, but mostly because a team of retired FBI agents, led by former agent **H. Paul Rico**, assured him that they would protect his business and "keep it clean."

I was working at World Jai Alai, in Florida, at the time of Dad's murder. I was beginning to learn firsthand that the business was anything but clean. On the frantic flight home to Tulsa that terrible day, I concluded that Rico had to be involved in the killing. But, with my strong belief in American justice, I was confident that we would quickly catch Rico and his criminal associates. Sadly, my faith in the American government was misplaced. Even today's proceedings do not mark the end of my odyssey.

Thirty-two years have passed since John Martorano, the hit man for FBI informants - one of them seated right here - came up to my father, seated in his car, and without a word, shot him between the eyes.

This man then shot and killed Brian Halloran.

Family member of Bulger's Tulsa victim speaks out

Martorano - again at the direction of this man - then shot John Callahan, the former president of WJA, all to silence them from telling about my father's murder.

How many others were involved, in these and other FBI informant murders? Who else at the Bureau knew about these secret relationships with these vicious criminals, but turned away, said nothing, as others were murdered? Did any Supervisors or other agents care to ask any questions, connect the few, simple dots between these murders and their own informants?

How could the FBI pretend to investigate itself, give itself a clean bill of health and then just a year later bring criminal charges against John Connolly, Whitey Bulger and Steve Flemmi?

Where was the Justice Department in all of this? Was there no oversight at all?

To be continued next week.

Till next week, I'll see ya down the road ...

Contact Dale Lewis at [buffalodale@netzero.net](mailto:buffalodale@netzero.net)

**Load-Date:** November 20, 2013



## **FAMILY OF SLAIN MAN TO SUE US FOR \$50M**

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The Boston Globe

March 8, 2001, Thursday

,THIRD EDITION

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**Section:** METRO/REGION;

**Length:** 424 words

**Byline:** By Ralph Ranalli, Globe Staff

### **Body**

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The mother and brother of a Quincy man allegedly killed by FBI informants James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen Flemmi are expected to file a \$50 million lawsuit today against the FBI and nine bureau employees, becoming the first family members to sue the US government in connection with its use of the crime bosses as sources of information.

John McIntyre disappeared in 1984, shortly after he agreed to provide information to the US Customs Department, the Quincy Police, and the US Drug Enforcement Administration about drug- and gun-running activities connected to Bulger and Flemmi.

For years, McIntyre's mother, Emily, and brother, Chris, were told by authorities that he was a "fugitive," although they had long since assumed he was dead, family attorney Jeffrey Denner of Boston said yesterday.

Last year, John McIntyre's remains were dug up from a ditch in Dorchester and Bulger's former handler, retired FBI agent John Connolly, was charged with leaking the names of three other informants other than McIntyre to Bulger and Flemmi. The lawsuit alleges that McIntyre was also betrayed by the FBI and targeted for death.

"The FBI enabled this to happen and in many ways facilitated it," Denner said. "The McIntyre family is looking for accountability, justice, and compensation."

Denner insists that the \$50 million figure is "not a pie-in-the-sky number," given the seriousness of the government's misconduct in the case.

Winning a lawsuit against the FBI will be difficult because when suing a government agency plaintiffs must prove a direct link between government misconduct and an alleged wrongful death.

The lawsuit names as defendants Bulger and Flemmi, their alleged henchman Kevin Weeks, the FBI, and nine agents who had a role in handling the two crime bosses as far back as the 1960s. The named agents include former special agents in charge James Ahearn and James Greenleaf, former assistant special agent in charge

FAMILY OF SLAIN MAN TO SUE US FOR \$50M

Robert Fitzpatrick, former supervisors John Morris and James Ring, and agents John Connolly, **H. Paul Rico** and Roderick Kennedy.

The suit is expected to allege that FBI agents and higher-ups essentially conspired to "shield and protect" Bulger and Flemmi, "who they knew to be involved in violent activity," Denner said.

Bulger and Flemmi were sued for \$30 million this year for wrongful death by the family of Flemmi's slain ex-girlfriend, Debra Davis. More suits are expected. Bulger and Flemmi have been charged with killing or ordering the slayings of at least 20 people, many while they were working for the FBI.

**Load-Date:** March 8, 2001

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## *Fate of ex-FBI agent tied to mob is in jury's hands*

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

May 24, 2002 Friday

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**Section:** NEWS

**Length:** 678 words

### **Body**

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BOSTON -- A judge instructed the jury Thursday in the case of John J. Connolly Jr., the former FBI agent who is accused of falling into a web of corruption with New England mob informants and protecting the thugs he was supposed to be investigating.

Connolly allegedly protected James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, who, in addition to allegations filed elsewhere, were charged last year in Tulsa County with murdering -- and conspiring to murder -- Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler in 1981.

After a prosecutor summarized evidence that Connolly took bribes and tipped off criminals that they were about to be indicted, Connolly's attorney said he was being scapegoated.

Defense lawyer Tracy Miner said testimony against her client came from witnesses that included a mob hitman, a mob enforcer and a former New England Mafia boss.

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

"You've never seen a bigger group of thieves and liars in your life," Miner said.

Connolly was once known as the agent who snagged Bulger and Flemmi to help in the FBI's war against the Italian Mafia.

Connolly, 61, who never took the stand, pleaded innocent to racketeering and obstruction of justice charges. He has denied taking bribes and said everything he did was cleared by his superiors at the FBI.

Prosecutor John Durham outlined allegations against Connolly that range from taking bribes to tipping Bulger's gang about informants who were later killed. He said the most distressing testimony involved leaks by Connolly to Bulger and Flemmi in which Connolly identified three men, who were later killed, who had given the FBI information about Bulger's Irish-rooted Winter Hill Gang.

Durham detailed the testimony from Kevin Weeks, Bulger's right-hand man, who said that in December 1994, Connolly told him to warn Bulger, Flemmi and Mafia boss Frank "Cadillac Frank" Salemme that indictments would be coming down against them soon.

## Fate of ex-FBI agent tied to mob is in jury's hands

Bulger, now 72, soon disappeared and is still a fugitive. Flemmi, 67, is in prison on racketeering-related charges and awaits trial for his alleged role in 10 murders.

Weeks testified that he delivered \$5,000 in cash from Bulger to Connolly. John Martorano, a confessed hitman who admitted shooting Wheeler, said Bulger gave Connolly a 2-carat diamond ring.

Durham called Martorano's testimony, in which he admitted to at least 20 murders, "clearly chilling."

Wheeler, who was chairman of the Tulsa-based Telex Corp., was shot in the head after a round of golf at Southern Hills Country Club on May 27, 1981.

Investigators have long suspected that the killing was linked to Wheeler's purchase of the Florida-based World Jai Alai and his suspicion that mobsters were skimming the profits.

In a Tulsa courtroom a year ago, Martorano, 61, was sentenced to 15 years in prison after pleading guilty to the second-degree murder of Wheeler, 55. That time will run concurrently with other sentences for crimes in other states.

At Connolly's trial, Martorano also implicated retired FBI Agent ***H. Paul Rico*** in the Wheeler case. Martorano claimed that Rico -- who was head of security for World Jai Alai after his FBI retirement -- had furnished information about Wheeler's habits, according to news reports.

Through his own lawyer, Rico, now 78 and living in Florida, has denied any involvement. Tulsa police have pursued a charge against Rico in the Wheeler case, but District Attorney Tim Harris has not taken that step.

In Boston, meanwhile, prosecutor Durham acknowledged to Connolly's jury Thursday that Martorano, Weeks and Salemme are all notorious criminals, but he said each knew details that they could have gotten only from a source in the FBI.

Miner said the FBI was embarrassed when it was revealed in 1998 hearings that it mishandled its top criminal informants.

The FBI or its agents are cited in at least a half-dozen civil lawsuits filed by the families of people who were killed or victimized by Bulger and his gang.

Wheeler family members filed a wrongful-death lawsuit in Boston in March against the U.S. government, Connolly, Bulger, Flemmi, Martorano and others.

## Graphic

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COLOR PHOTO STEVEN SENNE/Associated Press Retired FBI agent John J. Connolly Jr. leaves court in Boston on Thursday. Connolly is on trial, accused of falling into a web of mob corruption and helping those he was supposed to be investigating.

**Load-Date:** May 25, 2002



## *FBI admits questioning Bulger's sex preference*

The Boston Herald  
March 16, 2001 Friday  
ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 590 words

**Byline:** By J.M. LAWRENCE

### **Body**

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The Boston FBI yesterday acknowledged that agents have investigated claims that James "Whitey" Bulger is gay, but had no comment on Tulsa police warnings that the gangster might be found hiding in gay communities or nudist facilities.

"There have been unsubstantiated rumors over the years that Whitey is gay," said FBI spokeswoman Gail Marcinkiewicz.

Now wanted in Tulsa for the 1981 murder of Oklahoma millionaire Roger Wheeler, Bulger might be found in "homosexual communities-resorts or nudist facilities," according to a WANTED poster released Wednesday by the Tulsa Police Department.

Tulsa police yesterday maintained that their information about Bulger is credible.

"We didn't take that information lightly," said Sgt. Michael Huff who has investigated Wheeler's murder for almost 20 years. "It's very legitimate information." Included in the information on the WANTED poster was that Bulger has "extreme bad breath."

Tulsa information about Bulger was developed from several sources, Huff said. He declined to discuss those sources.

One of the nation's top three most wanted fugitives, Bulger has been running from a 1995 federal indictment for racketeering and murder for six years.

The FBI's WANTED poster for Bulger describes the 71-year-old gangster as devoted to physical fitness and "an avid reader with an interest in history" who frequents libraries and historic sites.

The FBI has investigated alleged Bulger sightings in Southern California, and in Mexico where he can obtain over-the-counter medication for a heart condition.

The FBI believes his companion on the lam is his girlfriend, Catherine E. Greig, who previously lived in Quincy.

## FBI admits questioning Bulger's sex preference

"We have no information that tells us he is no longer traveling with Catherine," Marcinkiewicz said. "We believe that he is."

Investigators need the public's help to catch Bulger, Marcinkiewicz emphasized.

"We encourage the public to be very, very vigilant and report all sightings of Whitey and Catherine no matter where they occur," she said.

Huff declined to discuss whether Tulsa police believe Greig is still hiding out with Bulger.

"I can't comment any further or it might jeopardize sources," he said.

Bulger, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi and the gang's hit man John Martorano have all been charged with Wheeler's murder.

Martorano has confessed to shooting Wheeler in the face 20 years ago while the owner of World Jai Alai sat in his Cadillac outside the Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa.

According to first-degree murder charges filed by the Tulsa County district attorney, Bulger and Flemmi retrieved guns from a secret room in a Boston home and sent the weapons to Tulsa by bus.

Martorano and a partner who is now deceased picked up the guns at the bus station and got word from former Jai Alai executive John Callahan that Wheeler would be playing golf on the afternoon of May 27, 1981.

Earlier, Callahan had given the hit men a description of Wheeler's Cadillac and license plate number.

Martorano claims the information was written by Jai Alai security head ***H. Paul Rico***, a former Boston FBI agent and handler of informants Bulger and Flemmi. Rico has not been charged in connection with the murder and denies any involvement.

GAY OR JUST HAPPY? Still on the lam, James 'Whitey' Bulger, right, shown here with not-on-the-lam Stephen 'The Rifleman' Flemmi, may be hiding out in gay communities or nudist facilities, according to law enforcement officials. HERALD FILE PHOTO

Photo Caption: GREIG: Allegedly still hiding out with Whitey.

**Load-Date:** March 16, 2001





## *FBI agent denies framing innocent man*

United Press International

May 4, 2001, Friday

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**Section:** GENERAL NEWS

**Length:** 1344 words

**Byline:** By P. MITCHELL PROTHERO

**Dateline:** WASHINGTON, May 3

### **Body**

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A former FBI agent told a congressional committee Thursday that he did not hide evidence that would have exonerated an innocent man for the 1965 murder he spent 30 years in jail for-despite having written numerous memos that named other men as suspects.

Former Special Agent *H. Paul Rico* told the House Government Reform Committee that despite providing a witness-Joseph "The Animal" Barboza-whose testimony convicted Joseph Salvati and several others for the murder of Edward "Teddy" Deegan in 1968, he did not tell defense lawyers about informant reports that named several other men as the culprits.

But Rico insisted that he only supplied Barboza to the prosecutors and did not knowingly allow him to commit perjury, adding that he assumed that a plethora of information pointing the finger at others had been supplied to the defense by someone else.

The testimony came as a shock, because Rico had previously said-through his attorney William Cagney-that he would refuse to testify unless granted immunity from a federal taskforce currently investigating the FBI use of informants in organized crime investigations over the last three decades.

Salvati, Peter Limone, Henry Tameleo and Louis Greco were all convicted for the Deegan murder-along with one of the real killers Roy French-and all except Salvati were sentenced to death. Salvati received life without the possibility of parole and the other death sentences were commuted to life after the Supreme Court outlawed the death penalty in 1972. The men were convicted-without any corroborative evidence-on the testimony of Barboza, who admitted to participating in the crime.

Evidence unearthed by a Justice Department task force investigating the use of informants by the FBI exonerated Salvati and Limone in January this year. Tameleo and Greco both died in prison.

The House Government Reform Committee subpoenaed Rico and his colleague Dennis Condon to testify as part of an investigation into the FBI's use of informants.

## FBI agent denies framing innocent man

The inquiry has potentially far-reaching consequences, and at its heart raises a disturbing question: In an overzealous effort to defeat the mob, did the FBI, in effect, become a partner in crime with mobsters in Boston and possibly elsewhere?

Led by Chairman Dan Burton, R-In., the committee pressed Rico for details of the Deegan investigation after a slew of internal FBI memos, local police reports and the testimony of two lawyers raised questions about the FBI's role.

F. Lee Bailey, who represented Barboza in later proceedings, and Joseph Balliro, who represented Tameleo in the Deegan trial, testified Thursday that Barboza later tried to recant his testimony and was discouraged and threatened by the FBI from doing so in 1970.

In response to the questions about why Salvati and the other men were convicted despite repeated statements from informants that named other suspects, Rico said that informant testimony was difficult to handle, compared to eyewitness testimony supplied by Barboza.

Rico said he had sent memos to FBI officials that detailed informant reports that Vincent James Flemmi had threatened to kill Deegan, including a report that Deegan's murder had been approved by reputed New England Mafia boss Raymond Patriarca and a dry run of the killing had been performed two days prior to the March 12, 1965 murder.

He also said he delivered an informant report that was sent to then-FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover a week after the murder which reported it had been committed by Vincent Flemmi, Romeo Martin, Ronald Casessa and Roy French. Only French was convicted of the crime with the others who were later exonerated.

Under questioning from Burton, Rico denied that Steven "The Rifleman" Flemmi, Vincent's brother, was the informant who named the alleged killers.

When Burton asked him who the informant had been, Rico replied, "I don't know."

When Burton followed up by asking whether Steven Flemmi was the source, Rico tentatively denied it.

"I don't think that Stevie Flemmi would have given me his brother," he said. "I'm under oath and pretty confident that it wasn't him."

Investigators and the committee suspect that Barboza added Salvati to his murder testimony to obscure the role of Vincent Flemmi in the killing and that the FBI either encouraged or turned a blind eye to the perjury because they wanted to protect Barboza's credibility in other mob trials. They also suspect that steps were taken to protect Steven Flemmi's role as an informant for the FBI.

When Rico denied that Steven Flemmi was the informant, Burton hastily called a recess, concerned-according to committee sources-that Rico might have committed perjury because of previous statements he had made that Flemmi was a top FBI informant. The legal counsel for the committee was concerned that if Rico did not understand the grave nature of the proceeding, his statement might have implications for the justice department task force investigating the case.

Burton reconvened the committee and read a stern warning to Rico that he was under oath, had the right to a lawyer and could be prosecuted under federal law for making false statements.

But Rico remained defiant.

"I am not taking my counsel's advice," he said to the committee. "My counsel advises me to take the Fifth Amendment until you people offer me immunity."

According to committee sources, Chief Counsel Jim Wilson had already approached Rico during the recess to warn about the consequences of lying under oath to the committee.

## FBI agent denies framing innocent man

"I'm 76 years old," the former FBI agent said, according to a witness. "What the f-k do you think you can do to me?"

Committee members-joined by Judiciary Committee member Rep. William Delahunt, D-Mass.-pushed him on why he allowed Barboza to testify against Salvati and the others when they had information that Flemmi wanted to kill Deegan. They also had evidence that Flemmi had taken part in the killing, and that a heavysset, bald man fitting his description was seen leaving the crime.

Rico was also asked about a statement that Barboza made to him and his partner, Dennis Condon, that Barboza would testify to several murders but would "never provide information that would allow James Vincent Flemmi to 'fry' but that he will consider furnishing information."

Rico said he did not remember such a statement-found in an FBI memo-and could not recall if it had been supplied to investigators on the Deegan killing.

Rep. Chris Shays, R-Ct., expressed disgust at Rico's inability to explain how so much crucial evidence was kept from the defense during the trial in 1967 to 1968, and surprise that he had chosen to testify. He also assailed the witness for his lack of remorse over having contributed to sending innocent me to prison for decades.

"My view is that you sent innocent men to jail and knew it, that you worked for organized crime and I never thought that you would come before this committee and testify," Shays said.

"We supplied the information we had available to local law enforcement," Rico replied. "I have faith in the jury system and the decisions that juries make."

"This is fascinating," Shays retorted. "How can you not get on bended knee and ask[Salvati]for an eternal pardon, even if you didn't know he was innocent. You don't seem to give a s-t."

When Shays asked Rico if he had any remorse at all for the situation, Rico responded belligerently.

"I feel we have a judicial system that has to eventually play itself out," he said. "It would be a nice movie, but no[remorse.]"

In his first public statement on the Salvati matter, current FBI Director Louis Freeh released a statement that said the allegations that the FBI ignored evidence were alarming and "warrant thorough investigation."

"Under our criminal justice system, no one should be convicted and sentenced contrary to information known to the federal government," he said. "As with the conviction earlier this week in the Birmingham civil rights bombing case, we cannot allow the egregious actions of thirty years ago to prevent us from doing now what is right and what must be done to ensure justice is ultimately served."

**Load-Date:** May 5, 2001

FBI agent doesn't apologize to wrongfully convicted man: Emotional testimony during hearings on FBI informants



## [FBI agent doesn't apologize to wrongfully convicted man: Emotional testimony during hearings on FBI informants](#)

Edmonton Journal (Alberta)

May 4, 2001 Friday Final Edition

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**Section:** World; Pg. A5; Crime

**Length:** 688 words

**Byline:** Shelley Murphy

**Dateline:** Washington

### **Body**

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After spending 30 years in prison for a murder he didn't commit, Joseph Salvati received profuse apologies and promises of compensation from members of U.S. Congress Thursday, but not a word of remorse from the FBI agent who helped put him away.

"What do you want, tears?" sneered retired agent **H. Paul Rico**, 76, as he conceded during a Congressional hearing that he now believes Salvati was framed by a vengeful hitman-turned-government witness for a 1965 gangland murder.

When asked by Representative Christopher Shays if he cared that Salvati's wife, Marie, had to raise their four children alone because FBI reports authored by Rico which would have helped Salvati prove his innocence were never turned over to the defence, Rico replied, "It would probably be a nice movie or something, but I don't know.

"I do not know everything that Joe Salvati did in his life," said Rico. "I don't know if Joe Salvati is innocent of everything."

The Boston Globe

But after listening to the Salvatis and three defence lawyers testify, Rico said he now believed Salvati was not guilty of the murder which put him in prison for three decades. "I was not convinced he was innocent until today," said Rico.

The surprising testimony came as the House Committee on Government Reform launched its first day of hearings into the FBI's handling of controversial informants -- including gangsters James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen Flemmi -- in its quest to dismantle the Mafia. Rico testified against the advice of his lawyer, who advised him to invoke his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination.

Rico is a prime target of a federal grand jury in Massachusetts that has been investigating wrongdoing by FBI agents.

## FBI agent doesn't apologize to wrongfully convicted man: Emotional testimony during hearings on FBI informants

Salvati and his wife, who both gave an emotional account of their last three decades that was halted by tears, were clearly disgusted by Rico's testimony.

"He wouldn't apologize," Salvati said. "He abused his power and he ruined 30 years of my life. It took 34 years for him to say that I was innocent. He could have said that 34 years ago."

The committee chaired by Indiana Republican Dan Burton heard overwhelming evidence that hitman Joseph "The Animal" Barboza lied about who participated in the 1965 slaying of hoodlum Edward "Teddy" Deegan in Chelsea, Mass., after striking a deal with the FBI to testify against local Mafiosi.

Called to testify were attorney Victor Garo, who spent 26 years trying to get Salvati's conviction overturned, and criminal defence lawyers F. Lee Bailey, who once represented Barboza, and Joseph Balliro, who said one of the real killers of Deegan, Vincent Flemmi, had confessed to him.

"The FBI has a nest of ruthless, cold-blooded, psychopathic killers," said Bailey, noting that Bulger, Flemmi and Flemmi's brother all allegedly killed people while working as informants.

"The federal government determined it was more important to protect informants than it was for innocent people to be framed," said Garo. "The federal government determined that Joe Salvati's life was expendable."

Salvati was freed from prison in 1997 after Gov. William Weld commuted his sentence amid mounting doubts about his guilt. In January, a state judge tossed out the convictions of Salvati and co-defendant Peter Limone, after newly-uncovered FBI documents suggested that the two men, and two others who died in prison, were wrongly convicted.

The reports revealed that informants told Rico that Deegan was going to be killed two days before the slaying. After the murder, Rico's informants identified Barboza and four other men as the killers -- and indicated that Barboza was lying about the involvement of Salvati, Limone, and the two other men.

Another FBI report revealed that Barboza's close friend, Vincent Flemmi, had been involved in the slaying, but Barboza was lying to protect him. Flemmi, now dead, was the brother of Stephen Flemmi, a longtime FBI informant recruited by Rico in 1965.

Balliro, who represented one of Salvati's co-defendants, said the defence never had a chance because FBI agents took the stand and gave credibility to Barboza's account of the murder.

## Graphic

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Photo: File Photo; Joseph Salvati, who spent 30 years in jail for a murder he didn't commit, pauses on Thursday, while testifying before the House Government Reform Committee hearing on the FBI's use of informants.

**Load-Date:** March 27, 2002



## **FBI agents aided mob informants, Mafia boss says**

The Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

February 13, 2004 Friday

All Editions

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A-08

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### **Body**

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In testimony to lawmakers, Francis "Cadillac Frank" Salemme paints a picture of FBI agents protecting their mob informants, warning them of indictments and even helping them murder enemies.

WASHINGTON (AP) - New England-based FBI agents gloated about framing six men for a 1965 gangland murder in Boston, according to a congressional transcript released yesterday that highlights the pervasive and deadly relationships law enforcement officers had with their mob informants.

In gritty and blunt details, New England Mafia boss Francis "Cadillac Frank" Salemme painted an unsettling picture of FBI agents protecting their mob informants, warning them of indictments and, at times, helping them murder troublesome enemies.

The wide-ranging interview done last summer reveals that deceased FBI agent **H. Paul Rico** helped Salemme set up a murder, and later warned him to leave town to avoid an impending indictment.

Salemme also gave lawmakers firsthand testimony that Rico and another agent, Dennis Condon, were "ecstatic" that six men, including Louie Greco and Joseph Salvati, were wrongly convicted for gunning down small-time hoodlum Edward "Teddy" Deegan.

"[Condon] made the statement, 'I wonder how Louie Greco likes it on death row, and he wasn't even there,'" said Salemme.

Rico had denied he helped frame innocent men for the murder.

Salvati served 30 years in prison, but was cleared in 2001 after the Justice Department released documents showing that FBI agents protecting their informants suppressed evidence that the murder was committed by members of the Winter Hill Gang, led by James "Whitey" Bulger.

Salemme also said Rico slipped him an address for a rival gang member, Edward "Punchy" McLaughlin, allowing Salemme and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi to find him and kill him.

## FBI agents aided mob informants, Mafia boss says

"We killed him at eight o'clock in the morning at a bus stop there, but that was a very, very important piece of information," said Salemme.

Salemme said mobsters such as Flemmi became informants because it allowed them to keep up their life of crime and be shielded from prosecution.

"It gave [Flemmi] that sense of security that he could continue his criminal activity and all he had to do was give up on jerks like me and he'd be all set," Salemme said.

The interview, conducted in secret as part of Congress' investigation into the FBI's use of mob informants, was sealed until now because Rico was facing a murder trial in Oklahoma. But Rico died last month before the trial began, enabling Congress to release the transcript.

The 154-page transcript, said House Government Reform Committee Chairman Tom Davis, will give the public "further insight into the improper, indeed, criminal relationship between Boston FBI agents and their murderous informants."

Salemme, who is in the federal witness-protection program, was granted immunity to testify before the committee. Also granted immunity was former University of Massachusetts president William Bulger, whose brother, Whitey, is on the FBI's Top Ten Most Wanted List and has been a fugitive since 1995.

Flemmi recently pleaded guilty to racketeering charges involving 10 murders.

**Load-Date:** February 24, 2004



## [FBI Agent Says Authorities Believed Hastings Would Get Money](#)

The Associated Press

January 27, 1983, Thursday, AM cycle

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**Section:** Domestic News

**Length:** 486 words

**Byline:** By ANNE S. CROWLEY, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** MIAMI

### **Body**

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The FBI believed U.S. District Judge Alcee Hastings would receive a \$125,000 bribe collected by a friend, but they arrested the friend before the money was passed on for fear it would be laundered, an agent testified Thursday.

In the second week of testimony in Hastings' trial for bribery and conspiracy, FBI agent William J. Murphy told a federal jury that attorney William Borders was arrested while collecting the money on Oct. 9, 1981 because agents were afraid they would lose track of the cash and see their case fall apart.

"We believed at that time that \$125,000 in \$100 bills was not going to go directly to you, but would have been laundered," said Murphy, who was in charge of the Hastings investigation.

Prosecutors Reid Weingarten and Robert Richter contend that Hastings and Borders, a Washington lawyer, conspired to take \$150,000 from two convicted racketeers by promising reduced sentences.

Hastings, 46, is charged with conspiracy to take a bribe and obstruction of justice.

Directing his own defense, Hastings charges that the FBI arrested Borders because agents feared they would lose the money or discover that the judge was not involved in the conspiracy. Hastings claims he is on trial because of his public criticism of the Reagan administration.

Hastings said late in the day that he would take the stand Friday to close his defense. U.S. District Judge Edward T. Gignoux told jurors they would probably get the case on Tuesday, after any prosecution rebuttal witnesses and closing arguments.

"Now the trial begins," Hastings said. "You'll hear it all tomorrow."

Borders, sentenced to five years in prison on his March 1982 bribery conviction, was arrested collecting the final installment of the bribe from an undercover agent posing as one of the racketeers. FBI agents have not been able to trace the \$25,000 paid to Borders a few weeks earlier.



FBI Agent Says Authorities Believed Hastings Would Get Money

Murphy said agents had planned to film the transaction in Agent H. Paul Rico's motel room but scrambled to make the arrest when Borders insisted that the two drive off in his car.

"Were you afraid that Mr. Borders might hurt Mr. Rico?" asked Hastings.

"That was one of our concerns," said Murphy, who added that Borders wasn't carrying a weapon when arrested. "If we lost the surveillance and Mr. Borders had taken the money to another location, we would not have been able to arrest him with the money.

"We wouldn't have had any way of knowing where the money went."

Asked Hastings: "You didn't know for a fact that I was going to receive any money from Mr. Borders, did you?"

Murphy: "My conclusion was that you were."

Hastings: "Based on what facts?...That I went out to dinner? That I made a phone call?"

Weingarten, who objected at that point, has argued that Hastings' appearance at a Miami Beach restaurant at a time set by Borders was one sign of the judge's participation in the deal. Hastings claims he went there to meet Borders, who never showed.



## **FBI AGENTS FACE SCRUTINY BY PROSECUTOR; QUESTIONS OF OBSTRUCTION IN JAI ALAI MURDER CASES**

Hartford Courant (Connecticut)

June 28, 1998 Sunday, STATEWIDE

Copyright 1998 The Hartford Courant Company

**Section:** MAIN; Pg. A1

**Length:** 1048 words

**Byline:** EDMUND MAHONY; Courant Staff Writer

### **Body**

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The U.S. Department of Justice has quietly assigned a federal prosecutor to decide whether FBI agents in Boston obstructed the investigation of a string of jai alai-related murders or otherwise broke the law in their relationship with two notorious informants.

The appointment of John Durham, the highly regarded deputy U.S. attorney in New Haven, suggests Justice Department concern over a growing scandal involving retired agents and their questionable relationships with gangster/informants James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi.

Among other things, Durham is expected to look into the apparent disappearance of evidence relevant to the nearly 20-year-old jai alai cases. Many investigators believe Bulger, Flemmi and their Winter Hill gang in Boston may have infiltrated World Jai Alai, which operated the fronton in north Hartford. The two former top echelon FBI informants have been suspects in the murders since the 1980s.

In one instance of missing evidence, according to investigators familiar with the matter, a document detailing payments believed to have been made by John B. Callahan, the murdered former president of World Jai Alai, cannot be located. It was last believed to have been in FBI custody. The sources would not elaborate on what one described as "the payoffs."

Investigative documents which could shed light on financial connections between World Jai Alai and the Winter Hill gang also are missing, the investigators said. Still other documents, stored elsewhere in the country, show signs of having been rummaged through and it is not known if they remain intact, the investigators said.

Suggestions of missing evidence, when combined with a string of disclosures made over the last six months at a hearing in U.S. District Court in Boston, paint a disturbing picture of the Boston FBI office's relationship with Bulger and Flemmi. The pair became two of New England's most notorious gangsters while simultaneously working as two of the FBI's most important informants.

## FBI AGENTS FACE SCRUTINY BY PROSECUTOR; QUESTIONS OF OBSTRUCTION IN JAI ALAI MURDER CASES

At the hearing before Judge Mark Wolf, a retired supervisor of the FBI's organized crime squad in Boston admitted taking \$7,000 and expensive gifts from Bulger and Flemmi. There has been testimony about bizarre social relationships between the gangsters and agents and about at least one leak of sensitive investigative information which may have led to a murder.

Retired agent John Connolly, once assigned to "handle" Bulger and Flemmi, invoked his privilege against self-incrimination rather than testify at the hearing.

Durham had little to say about his investigation.

"I've been asked by Washington to inquire into matters raised in the hearings before Judge Wolf," he said.

It is known, however, that Durham's assignment follows a largely ridiculed investigation last summer which was ordered by the Justice Department's office of professional responsibility and conducted by the FBI. The purpose of that investigation was to determine whether any current FBI employees broke the law in their dealings with Bulger and Flemmi.

Some of those interviewed in last summer's investigation dismissed it as superficial and destined to fail. The results have not been released.

Durham's investigation arises out of disclosures before Judge Wolf. It has no limits and could result in a racketeering indictment if evidence suggests a law enforcement conspiracy to protect Bulger and Flemmi from arrest.

The jai alai cases have for years been a compelling law enforcement who-done-it. The cases date to the middle 1970s, when the Boston-based owners of World Jai Alai, which operated the fronton in Hartford and others in Florida, decided to sell.

The owners hired Callahan as president. At the time, Callahan was an associate of the Winter Hill gang and was reputed to be the organization's financial expert. Callahan in turn hired retired FBI agent **H. Paul Rico** as his head of security. Rico was a legendary, if unorthodox, organized crime investigator from Boston who had recruited Bulger and Flemmi as informants.

Rico negotiated two potential sales, but both collapsed under bad publicity. The prospective buyers either represented or were rumored to be affiliated with organized crime figures.

Eventually, World Jai Alai's bankers arranged a sale to Roger Wheeler, a Tulsa, Okla. businessman who had made a fortune in the telecommunications industry.

Almost immediately, Wheeler began worrying that criminals from New England were trying to infiltrate his business. At about the same time, Callahan was forced to resign when authorities in Connecticut discovered his Winter Hill connections. Wheeler decided to sell his Hartford fronton and consolidate his operations far away in Florida.

Wheeler was shot between the eyes at his Tulsa country club in March 1981. Seven months later, a disaffected Winter Hill leg breaker named Edward Brian Halloran told the FBI that Bulger, Flemmi and Callahan tried to give him the contract to murder Wheeler. Halloran said additionally that Rico was in on the plan. Rico denies it.

Agents in the FBI's Boston office dismissed Halloran and never shared his information with investigators in Connecticut and Oklahoma, who were furiously investigating the Wheeler homicide. Shortly afterward, Halloran was gunned down on a Boston Street.

A retired FBI supervisor testified before Wolf last winter that he leaked Halloran's information, expecting that it would wind up with Bulger and Flemmi.

Two months later, Callahan's body was found stuffed in the trunk of his Cadillac at the Miami airport.

FBI AGENTS FACE SCRUTINY BY PROSECUTOR;QUESTIONS OF OBSTRUCTION IN JAI ALAI MURDER  
CASES

The hearings, which have reinvigorated the investigations, arise from efforts by Flemmi and three other gangsters to dismiss a 1995 racketeering indictment. The indictment was returned after the FBI, confronted by a mountain of evidence against Bulger and Flemmi, was forced to drop them as informants.

Bulger was also indicted. But Flemmi said Bulger was tipped off by a corrupt FBI agent and he remains a fugitive.

Flemmi is arguing that the charges against him should be dropped because the FBI promised him immunity for being an informant. His codefendants argue that the charges against them are based on a corrupt and improper relationship between the FBI and informants such as Bulger and Flemmi.

**Load-Date:** June 29, 1998

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## **FBI AGENTS FACE SCRUTINY BY PROSECUTOR; QUESTIONS OF OBSTRUCTION IN JAI ALAI MURDER CASES**

Hartford Courant (Connecticut)

June 28, 1998 Sunday, STATEWIDE

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**Section:** MAIN; Pg. A1

**Length:** 1048 words

**Byline:** EDMUND MAHONY; Courant Staff Writer

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Bulger was also indicted. But Flemmi said Bulger was tipped off by a corrupt FBI agent and he remains a fugitive.

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**Load-Date:** June 30, 1998

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End of Document



## *FBI agents helped Mob hit man avoid death penalty*

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

August 29, 2001, Wednesday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 456 words

**Dateline:** BOSTON

### **Body**

---

Boston FBI agents helped Mafia hit man Joseph Barboza avoid the death penalty in 1971 to keep him from recanting his testimony in a case that sent four innocent men to prison, according to former California officials.

Barboza's defense attorney, Marteen Miller, told The Boston Herald that he believed Barboza had no hope of avoiding the death penalty until FBI agents **H. Paul Rico** and Dennis Condon testified on his client's behalf.

"The oddsmakers or Lloyd's of London would have given a thousand to one that Barboza was going to go to the gas chamber with all the evidence against him," Miller said.

Miller, a retired Sonoma County, Calif., public defender, told the House Committee on Government Reform that he will testify at hearings, scheduled for September, that will address the FBI's involvement with organized crime figures who also served as police informants.

Barboza had claimed that he shot Santa Rosa thief Clayton Wilson, 26, in self-defense. Deegan's body was found in the Redwoods with a bullet in the back of his head.

His case was in trouble, players from both sides said, until the FBI agents got on the stand.

"When we got these guys up there raising their right hand before the jury and saying what a sweet guy he was, that was the death knell for any capital murder case because back then, you couldn't attack the FBI," said Edwin Cameron, Sonoma County prosecutors' chief investigator. "We knew we were screwed."

Barboza's trial was stopped, and prosecutors accepted Barboza's plea to second-degree murder with a five-year sentence.

At a May hearing in front of the Committee, Rico, now 78, expressed no remorse over the innocent men who spent decades in prison for the Chelsea murder of Edward Deegan, 35.

Two of the falsely convicted men, Louis Greco and Henry Tameleo, died in jail. Joseph Salvati, 68, and Peter Limone, 66, were recently released after serving more than 30 years.

Limone, Tameleo and Greco had ties to organized crime. Salvati owed Barboza some money.



## FBI agents helped Mob hit man avoid death penalty

Rico and Condon's own reports that revealed Barboza lied were uncovered last December during a Justice Department probe.

Barboza testified in the Deegan case in 1968, and in two other trials against organized crime figures. He then entered the Witness Protection Program and took up residence in Santa Rosa.

The Boston FBI declined comment, citing an ongoing Justice Department investigation.

Salvati's attorney, Victor J. Garo, said Barboza was a very good manipulator.

"The federal government made a deal with the devil and to keep that deal, they had to placate him and keep innocent people in jail," Garo said.

Barboza was killed Feb. 11, 1976, in San Francisco, reportedly by a Mob hit man.

**Load-Date:** August 30, 2001

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End of Document



## **FBI AGENTS WONDER WHO'S NEXT IN PROBE**

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The Boston Globe

January 23, 2000, Sunday

,THIRD EDITION

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**Section:** METRO/REGION;

**Length:** 1322 words

**Byline:** By Ralph Ranalli, Globe Correspondent

### **Body**

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The organized crime squad of the Boston office of the FBI was lionized as a national model in the 1980s, revered as the group that built the nation's first racketeering case against an entire Mafia organization and that secretly tape-recorded the mob's holiest of holies, an initiation ceremony complete with blood oaths and burnt religious cards.

Two decades later, because of the close ties agents forged with gangsters in order to bring down the Mafia, the program may gain new notoriety for a less noble reason, as part of the most heavily investigated field office in FBI history. Working in secret in separate parts of the state, tandem investigations are reviewing the actions of FBI agents, weighing whether their close ties to informants crossed the line into criminality. Already, the most celebrated of the mob chasers - former FBI agent John Connolly - has been indicted as an alleged racketeering conspirator, along with his two prized informants, James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen Flemmi.

And last week, FBI agent John Newton, a close friend of Connolly's, was notified that the bureau wants him fired for allegedly lying about his dealings with Connolly.

As the US Justice Department investigation centered in Boston and run by out-of-towners, including John Durham, a federal prosecutor from Connecticut, heads into its second year, more than a dozen current and former agents are being put under the microscope.

"This case is unique in the annals of the bureau," one top former FBI official said last week. "There have been investigations of agents and field offices before, but they have mostly been one-shot deals."

The investigation arose out of 1998 hearings in an earlier federal racketeering case brought against Bulger, Flemmi, reputed New England Mafia boss Francis P. "Cadillac Frank" Salemme and others.

After Flemmi alleged in 1997 that the FBI had given him de facto immunity from prosecution, US District Judge Mark L. Wolf held months of hearings that uncovered numerous instances where current and former FBI agents apparently used both illegal and unethical measures to protect their sources from prosecution.

## FBI AGENTS WONDER WHO'S NEXT IN PROBE

Among the worst of Wolf's post-hearing findings was that Connolly and his former supervisor, John Morris, may have revealed to Bulger and Flemmi the identities of "at least a dozen" other informants who might implicate them in crimes. At least two of those informants were later murdered: Edward Brian Halloran of South Boston and John McIntyre of Quincy, whose body is believed to have been one of three found buried in Dorchester this month.

Skeptics have long questioned the ability of the FBI to investigate itself in the wake of the sieges at Ruby Ridge and Waco, and the mishandling of evidence at the FBI Laboratory in Washington.

Questions were first raised about the bureau's commitment to probing its own conduct after its Office of Professional Responsibility looked into Flemmi's allegations and found no prosecutable crimes.

But now, even hard-core skeptics appear to view Durham's probe as the real thing and are asking different questions: Where is it going? Who's next?

Some observers who have followed Durham's probe see not one, but several groups of agents with differing levels of culpability, forming a series of concentric circles.

The innermost circle, composed of those most likely to face the brunt of Durham's scrutiny, includes those closest to Flemmi and Bulger. For decades, the two Winter Hill Gang chieftains were part of the Top Echelon Informant Program, which encouraged the recruitment of Mafia killers and career criminals as sources of inside information on the Italian-American Mafia.

Connolly, the agent closest to the pair and their longtime handler, has already been indicted. According to sources familiar with the probe, agents from the FBI's Office of Professional Responsibility have turned Connolly's life inside out, going over his financial records, scrutinizing his real estate dealings, even subpoenaing his barber.

Sources said now that Bulger's former top lieutenant, Kevin Weeks, is cooperating with authorities, it is widely expected that more charges will be added to the December indictment against Connolly.

The next most likely person to face charges is H. Paul Rico, a legendary former agent from Belmont who originally recruited Flemmi as an informant in the early 1960s.

Another former Bulger-Flemmi ally turned government witness, John Martorano, has reportedly said Rico participated in setting up the murder of Tulsa, Okla., businessman Roger Wheeler in May 1981.

Martorano's claim corroborates information given to the FBI in 1982 by Halloran. Federal prosecutors have alleged that Halloran was killed by Bulger and Flemmi to prevent him from disclosing their role in the Wheeler murder.

Two others in the inner circle have also been investigated: former agent and state secretary of public safety Dennis Condon, and Morris.

But Morris was given immunity from prosecution by US Attorney Donald K. Stern's office. Morris admitted taking \$7,000 in cash and numerous gifts from Bulger and Flemmi, as well as feeding them inside information.

The outer circles, sources familiar with the probe say, are composed of agents who were close to Connolly and who may have had occasional contact with him, Bulger, and Flemmi. Financial and other records have been subpoenaed from several agents and their spouses.

Sources familiar with the probe caution, however, that while agents may have acted unethically or even criminally, there is no guarantee that they will be indicted, since the statute of limitations on crimes such as obstruction of justice has long ago run out. And, in fact, most of the agents and former agents being questioned by investigators are considered potential witnesses against Connolly and his closest associates and are not themselves being targeted for prosecution.

But Barry Mawn, head of the Boston office of the FBI, hinted at a news conference that internal sanctions might be taken against some active agents.

## FBI AGENTS WONDER WHO'S NEXT IN PROBE

"I can't disclose some of the other things that are going on in the office," Mawn said.

Newton let Connolly, Bulger, and Flemmi use his South Boston apartment for meetings. His lawyer, George McMahon, said Newton will fight FBI dismissal proceedings against him in Washington, denying allegations that he lied to protect Connolly.

Other Connolly friends have also been scrutinized, including Special Agents Michael Buckley and Richard Carter and former agent Nicholas Gianturco. Gianturco admitted making a "mistake" in exchanging small gifts with Bulger and Flemmi on several occasions and hosting them for dinner in his Peabody home.

The outermost circle is composed of numerous agents who, either actively or by looking the other way, appear to have helped Bulger and Flemmi avoid prosecution, sources said.

According to testimony at the 1998 hearings, former Organized Crime Squad Supervisor Edward Quinn, for example, was sent to interview convicted marijuana trafficker Joseph Murray in 1989.

Murray alleged that Bulger and Flemmi had committed several murders, including Halloran's, and that they had paid bribes to Connolly and Newton. In his decision, Wolf found that Murray's murder accusations were "not given to the FBI agents responsible for the murders or indexed [in FBI files] in a way that would permit them to find it."

Special Agent James Lavin, meanwhile, was given pictures by a Boston Globe photographer that showed Boston city equipment being used to install guardrails outside a Bulger-controlled liquor store in South Boston. Instead of filing a report, Lavin kept the photos in his desk drawer for nearly a decade.

"While Rico, Morris and particularly Connolly were at the hub of the protection promised and provided to Flemmi," Wolf wrote in his 661-page decision on the hearings, "many of their colleagues and superiors in the FBI contributed by their conduct to that promise and its fulfillment."

## Graphic

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PHOTO, JOHN CONNOLLY Agent closest to Bulger / GLOBE FILE PHOTO

**Load-Date:** February 5, 2000



## **FBI aided killer - Hub FBI men helped Mob hit man escape death row**

The Boston Herald

August 29, 2001 Wednesday

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 896 words

**Byline:** By J.M. Lawrence

### **Body**

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Federal authorities from Boston helped Mob hit man Joseph Barboza avoid California's death row in 1971 to keep "The Animal" from recanting in a 1965 Massachusetts case that sent four innocent men to prison, former Santa Rosa officials have told Congressional investigators.

Barboza's defense attorney thought the New Bedford-born killer, who was in the Witness Protection Program and faced first-degree murder charges, had no hope until FBI agents **H. Paul Rico** and Dennis Condon testified on his behalf.

"The oddsmakers or Lloyd's of London would have given a thousand to one that Barboza was going to go to the gas chamber with all the evidence against him," Marteen Miller, retired Sonoma County public defender, told the Herald.

Miller has told the House Committee on Government Reform that he is willing to testify at hearings scheduled for late September about the cocky hit man who seemed to know the government would rescue him.

"He handled that case like it was a drunk-driving case, didn't bat an eye," Miller said.

Barboza's argument that he shot Santa Rosa thief Clayton Wilson, 26, in self defense was faltering until Rico and Condon took the stand, players on both sides of the case have told investigators.

"When we got these guys up there raising their right hand before the jury and saying what a sweet guy he was, that was the death knell for any capital murder case because back then you couldn't attack the FBI. We knew we were screwed," said Edwin Cameron, Sonoma County prosecutors' chief investigator.

Prosecutors stopped the trial and accepted Barboza's plea to second-degree murder with a five-year sentence.

"We were on one side and the FBI was on Joe Barboza's side," Cameron said. "I couldn't understand it, but I certainly do now."

## FBI aided killer - Hub FBI men helped Mob hit man escape death row

Unraveling what could be a 30-year cover-up, House investigators probing FBI corruption contend the Barboza trial must now be seen in a new light, sources said.

At a May hearing run by committee Chairman U.S. Rep. Dan Burton (R-Indiana), a defiant Rico, now 78, expressed no remorse over the wrongly accused men who spent decades in prison for the Chelsea murder of ex-con Edward "Teddy" Deegan, 35.

Louis Greco and Henry Tameleo died as old, sick men in jail while Joseph Salvati, 68, and Peter Limone, 66, were recently released after serving more than 30 years. Limone is suing the FBI and the Justice Department for \$ 375 million.

It was Rico and Condon's own FBI reports uncovered in yellowing FBI files last December during a Justice Department probe that revealed Barboza lied to the jury when he accused the four men of playing roles in the murder of the amateur boxer who offended Mob bosses.

Limone, Tameleo and Greco had ties to organized crime, while Salvati owed Barboza money.

After giving his turncoat testimony in the Deegan case in 1968 and during two other trials against the Mob, Barboza went into the newly created Witness Protection Program.

The FBI placed him in Santa Rosa, then population 50,000, under a new identity and enrolled him in cooking school without telling local officials. He worked in a ship's kitchen until he claimed a back injury and quit.

By 1971, Barboza faced first-degree murder charges in the death of Wilson, whose body was uncovered amid the Redwoods with a bullet to the back of the head. Evidence later showed Wilson had told his new buddy Barboza about a pile of stolen bearer bonds netted in a burglary.

Cameron recalled the Somoma County District Attorney's office was outraged when former Massachusetts U.S. Attorney Edward F. Harrington suddenly arrived to talk to Barboza in his cell.

"Out of the blue, Harrington showed up at the jail visiting Barboza without contacting us or anybody," Cameron said.

At the time, Barboza had already told his Boston attorney F. Lee Bailey and others that he wanted to recant his testimony in the Deegan case, Bailey told Congress in May.

Harrington, now a federal judge in Boston for 13 years, has not responded to Herald requests for an interview.

The Boston FBI declined comment, citing an ongoing Justice Department investigation.

Calls from the House Committee this summer sent Miller digging up old trial records stored in boxes in his garage.

He found the 42-pound transcript of Barboza's trial but discovered something odd. The pages containing Rico and Condon's testimony are gone.

"This is the strangest thing," Miller said. "I have the only copy and those two FBI men's testimony were missing. Obviously they disappeared before I got them, unless someone came through my house."

Congressional investigators have interviewed news reporters who covered the trial to attempt to reconstruct the agents' testimony.

Salvati's attorney, Victor J. Garo, said Barboza manipulated his manipulators.

"The federal government made a deal with the devil and to keep that deal, they had to placate him and keep innocent people in jail," Garo said.

The Medford attorney, who fought for Salvati's innocence for more than 25 years, claims Barboza committed other murders after testifying for the government.

FBI aided killer - Hub FBI men helped Mob hit man escape death row

"I have evidence that shows Barboza killed other people while in the Federal Witness Protection Program," Garo said.

He would not elaborate but said the murders will be discussed during the reform committee hearing.

A Mob hitman executed Barboza on Feb. 11, 1976, in San Francisco.

**Load-Date:** August 29, 2001

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FBI arrests James 'Whitey' Bulger, Boston mobster facing Miami-Dade murder charge; THE ARREST OF JAMES 'WHITEY' BULGER



**FBI arrests James 'Whitey' Bulger, Boston mobster facing Miami-Dade murder charge; THE ARREST OF JAMES 'WHITEY' BULGER**

The Miami Herald

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**Length:** 752 words

**Byline:** DAVID OVALLE

[dovalle@MiamiHerald.com](mailto:dovalle@MiamiHerald.com)

**Dateline:** June 23 2011

## **Body**

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James "Whitey" Bulger, captured Wednesday after 16 years on the lam, is most notorious for running a violent criminal enterprise in Boston, though the bloodshed authorities say he left behind in Miami helped cement his downfall.

The 81-year-old – at one time the "Most Wanted" FBI fugitive behind Osama bin Laden – will be sent back to Boston from Los Angeles to stand trial on a slew of federal charges. He also faces a murder charge in Oklahoma.

If Bulger lives long enough, he will be extradited to Miami-Dade, where he is charged with the 1982 slaying of former World Jai-Alai executive James Callahan, whose bullet-ridden corpse was found in a car trunk at Miami International Airport.

"If the gang hadn't killed Callahan in Miami, [law enforcement] probably would have never caught anybody. They screwed up," said retired Miami-Dade police homicide detective Shelton Merritt, the original investigator in the Callahan murder, who said he was "happy as a clam" at Bulger's arrest.

Bulger is believed to be responsible for at least 19 murders, and his relationship with the FBI's Boston field office proved a national scandal. His handler, FBI agent John J. Connolly Jr., shielded him for years, and was accused of tipping Bulger off to an impending federal arrest in 1995.

His capture comes less than three years after Connolly was convicted of second-degree murder in a Miami-Dade courtroom for his role in the Callahan murder. Connolly is serving 40 years in prison, but steadfastly maintains his innocence.



## FBI arrests James 'Whitey' Bulger, Boston mobster facing Miami-Dade murder charge; THE ARREST OF JAMES 'WHITEY' BULGER

"James 'Whitey' Bulger's criminal activities have been marked by the corpses his killers and associates have left behind in car trunks and alleyways," Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle said in a statement.

"After a 16-year delay, I will be working to ensure that a Miami jury has the opportunity to look him in the eyes and determine his fate, just as we did with his associate, ex-FBI agent John J. Connolly Jr."

Though Bulger was not present at the 2008 trial, his leadership role in the notorious Boston underworld Winter Hill gang in the '70s and '80s was fleshed out in exhaustive detail.

"Whitey Bulger's name was used as much as anyone's during the trial," recalled Miami-Dade Circuit Judge Stanford Blake, who presided over the proceeding. "He was the 'empty chair,' so to speak. Everyone knew Whitey Bulger's name by the time the trial was over."

Bruce Fleisher, one of Connolly's defense attorneys, said Bulger's capture has captivated South Florida's legal community.

"My phone has been ringing off the hook since early this morning," he said Thursday afternoon.

The saga of corruption and greed associated with Bulger's name became crime lore in Boston, where citizens often quipped, "Where's Whitey?" Bulger and Connolly served as loose inspirations for the 2006 Oscar-winning flick, *The Departed*.

Here in South Florida, the Winter Hill gang's ties ran deep — starting with legendary FBI agent ***H. Paul Rico***, who cultivated gangster Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, later Bulger's right-hand man and a key witness in Connolly's Miami trial.

Rico retired in 1975 to Miami, where he became chief of security at World Jai Alai. The Winter Hill gang later became involved in the jai alai business through Callahan, a Boston accountant and wannabe wise guy who once served as the company's president.

In the early '80s, the company's owner, Roger Wheeler, became suspicious of missing money, presumed to have been skimmed by Callahan's gangster buddies. Callahan asked the Winter Hill gang to kill Wheeler.

Bulger and Flemmi dispatched hit man John Martorano, who in 1981 felled Wheeler with a bullet between the eyes at a Tulsa golf course. Later, a Winter Hill associate, Edward Brian Halloran, was killed in Boston as he sought to cooperate with authorities in the Wheeler murder.

Prosecutors said the FBI's Connolly tipped off Bulger and Flemmi that Callahan, the one-time World Jai Alai president, would soon implicate them in Wheeler's slaying.

They are accused of sending Martorano to Miami to kill Callahan. On Aug. 1, 1982, Callahan was shot and stuffed into the trunk of his silver Cadillac. An airport parking attendant at MIA noticed the stench a few days later.

"I felt lousy. I didn't want to kill the guy," Martorano testified in the Miami-Dade trial. "I didn't want to kill a guy I cared enough to kill for the year before."

Martorano, who admitted committing 20 murders as part of the Winter Hill gang, served 12 years in prison and is now free. Flemmi is serving life in prison.

**Load-Date:** June 23, 2011



**FBI Blamed for Tulsa Probe Snag;  
Mob Quest Thwarts Roger Wheeler Murder Investigation, Report Says**

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)  
November 10, 1997 Monday  
FINAL HOME EDITION

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**Section:** NEWS;

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## **Body**

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HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) -- Efforts to solve the murder of Tulsa millionaire Roger Wheeler have been thwarted by the FBI's attempts to bring down the Mafia in Boston, investigators said in a report published Sunday.

"You can't justify not solving a murder case in order to do another kind of case. At least you shouldn't," a Connecticut prosecutor told The Hartford Courant.  
AP

As police from Connecticut, Massachusetts, Florida and Tulsa investigated the 1981 mob-style killing of Wheeler, owner of World Jai Alai, two Boston mobsters who could have offered information on the killing wound up dead themselves. Wheeler was shot to death while in his auto in the parking lot of Tulsa's Southern Hills Country Club on May 27, 1981.

Investigators said the prime suspects in Wheeler's killing turned out to be two highly placed mob informants, working with the Boston FBI. These investigators also claimed the Boston FBI protected their informants, James "Whitey" Bulger and Steven "The Rifleman" Flemmi.

Bulger is on the run as a fugitive, and Flemmi has been jailed awaiting trial. Tulsa police Sgt. Mike Huff, who continues to chase leads in Wheeler's killing, has confirmed that Bulger and Flemmi have been suspected by Tulsa police of involvement in the most infamous unsolved murder in city history.

## FBI Blamed for Tulsa Probe Snag; Mob Quest Thwarts Roger Wheeler Murder Investigation, Report Says

FBI agents and federal prosecutors said a court order bars them from talking about the Wheeler killing.

**H. Paul Rico**, a former FBI agent who recruited Bulger and Flemmi and worked for World Jai Alai, refused a request for an interview, saying he would testify at an ongoing federal hearing that is investigating how the FBI used its mob informants.

The Boston FBI for six weeks questioned the first of two potential informants in the death of Wheeler. The FBI determined Edward Brian Halloran, a disaffected member of Boston's Winter Hill Gang, was not a credible witness.

The FBI never shared any of Halloran's information with other police who were investigating Wheeler's death.

But according to a report on the FBI's talks with Halloran, he was at a meeting in January 1981 where Flemmi, Bulger and another gangster named John B. Callahan planned to kill Wheeler. Callahan was a former president of World Jai Alai, but stepped down amid allegations he had mob connections.

Callahan said at the meeting Wheeler was threatening to derail his \$ 1 million "operation" at World Jai Alai.

Wheeler had suspected someone was stealing from him soon after he bought World Jai Alai, which operated frontons in Florida and in Hartford. Shortly before his death, Wheeler sold the Hartford fronton and sent a son to investigate a computer system a friend of Callahan's had installed at the company's Miami, Fla., headquarters.

A year after Halloran told his story to the Boston FBI, he also was killed.

State investigators then said they turned their attention to Callahan, and hoped he would tell what he knew if threatened with a long jail term.

But Callahan had disappeared, so they started talking to Jeremiah O'Sullivan, the leader of New England's federal organized crime strike force who was working with Bulger and Flemmi to build a case against Jerry Angiulo, who led the Boston branch of the Patriarca crime family.

The notes from the meeting record O'Sullivan as saying Halloran's story could not be corroborated, and that Halloran was probably tailoring his statements to keep some other friends out of trouble.

Investigators said O'Sullivan never mentioned working with Bulger and Flemmi, the two men suspected in Wheeler's death. O'Sullivan refused a request for an interview, saying the matter was confidential.

A short while later, in August 1992, Callahan's decomposing body was

FBI Blamed for Tulsa Probe Snag; Mob Quest Thwarts Roger Wheeler Murder Investigation, Report Says

found in the trunk of his Cadillac at Miami International Airport.

Wheeler's death was never solved. Huff, the only investigator actively working on the case, hopes the facts will come out as court hearings continue in Boston on mobsters' relationship to the FBI.

"There has literally been not more than a week that goes by that investigation has not been followed up on," Huff said.

## Graphic

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PHOTO; Wheeler

**Load-Date:** November 11, 1997

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FBI brass had met in D.C. to talk about Bulger



## [FBI brass had met in D.C. to talk about Bulger](#)

The Boston Globe  
July 16, 2013 Tuesday

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**Section:** NEWS; Metro; Pg. B,3,33

**Length:** 888 words

**Byline:** By Shelley Murphy and Milton J. Valencia, Globe Staff

### **Body**

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Top FBI supervisors held a meeting at the bureau's headquarters in Washington, D.C., in May 1982 to decide what to do after the killing of a cooperating witness who had implicated James "Whitey" Bulger and his partner in an Oklahoma murder, according to testimony in Bulger's racketeering trial in federal court Monday.

Retired FBI agent Gerald J. Montanari told jurors that FBI agents from Boston, Miami, and Oklahoma met with supervisors to discuss "concerns that two high-level informants were suspects" in the Oklahoma murder of businessman Roger Wheeler. Moreover, retired FBI agent **H. Paul Rico**, who had still been working undercover for the bureau in a high-profile investigation, was also involved, the cooperating witness told authorities.

The meeting came two weeks after Bulger allegedly gunned down the witness, Edward "Brian" Halloran and Michael Donahue, after learning that Halloran had been giving the FBI information about the Oklahoma murder. Donahue was an innocent bystander who was giving Halloran a ride home.

Montanari testified Monday that he wanted the meeting "to bring the supervisors in Washington up to date" with his concerns that Bulger, a top informant in Boston, had just killed Halloran.

But even after Montanari raised his concerns, the FBI continued to use the gangster and his partner, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi as top-echelon informants, according to Montanari's testimony Monday.

"It was recommended that informants remain open in the Boston Division until substantiated information is received indicating that they should be closed," Robert Fitzpatrick, an assistant special agent in charge in Boston, wrote to his supervisor after the meeting on May 25, 1982.

The Washington meeting was attended by top supervisors including Sean McWeeney, who was in charge of the bureau's organized crime section. After the meeting, FBI supervisors ordered Boston agents to share Halloran's account of Wheeler's killing with Oklahoma investigators, who had been asking for assistance.

Montanari's testimony provided an overview of Halloran's cooperation with the FBI, which prosecutors say ultimately led to his death.

## FBI brass had met in D.C. to talk about Bulger

Bulger's former associate, Kevin Weeks, who said he served as lookout in the murder of Halloran, has testified that Bulger told him that he killed Halloran after he learned from his FBI handler, John J. Connolly Jr., that Halloran was talking to the FBI.

Halloran, a Winter Hill Gang associate, began cooperating in January 1982 after he was charged in state court with the slaying of George Pappas inside the Four Seas Restaurant in Boston's Chinatown.

Seeking a deal in his case, Halloran offered to provide information and testify against Bulger and Flemmi for their crimes, including the killing of Wheeler. He told the FBI that his close friend John Callahan, a Boston businessman who fraternized with organized crime figures and was a former president of World Jai Alai, had asked him to help Bulger, Flemmi, and John Martorano kill Wheeler, but that he did not want to get involved. Halloran told the FBI that Callahan later told him that Bulger's crew had done the killing.

Martorano testified earlier that Callahan asked him to kill Wheeler because he feared Wheeler would learn he was skimming profits from World Jai Alai, and that Bulger and Flemmi sanctioned the hit. Callahan also had a plan to take over the business and had promised payments to the Winter Hill Gang.

According to Halloran's account, Callahan told him that Rico would help them set up the murder. Rico was charged in 2003 in Wheeler's death but died while awaiting trial.

Montanari said Halloran offered to wear a wire, to see if he could get Callahan to talk about the killing. Montanari said that Halloran began "waffling" and refused to take a polygraph. He also did not want to go into the Witness Protection Program, though he had said he feared for his safety.

"He said if either Bulger or Flemmi had any indication he was cooperating, they would go to the extreme, even if it meant killing innocent bystanders or his family," he said.

Also Monday, Martorano's former girlfriend testified that she received money from Bulger's crew while she and Martorano were living in Florida while he was a fugitive.

Patricia (Lytle) Carlson, 52, originally from Somerville, said she was 18 when she fled in the 1970s with Martorano, 20 years her senior. She said she initially thought they were going on vacation, though she stayed with him during his 16 years in hiding, and had a son with him.

Martorano was arrested in Florida in January 1995. The next year, while he was in jail awaiting trial, according to Carlson, an associate of Flemmi's dropped \$10,000 off at her mother's house, which Carlson used for living expenses. Former Bulger associate Kevin Weeks testified earlier that the money came from Bulger.

During cross-examination by Bulger's lawyer, Hank Brennan, Carlson admitted that she helped Martorano while he was a fugitive, and lied to a grand jury in 1995, yet never faced any charges, unlike Bulger's girlfriend, Catherine Greig, who is serving eight years in prison for helping him evade capture for 16 years.

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**Load-Date:** July 16, 2013



## **FBI case rankles Congress**

The Patriot Ledger (Quincy, MA)

February 15, 2002 Friday

South\* Edition

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**Section:** NEWS,

**Length:** 437 words

**Byline:** Megan Reichgott/Patriot Ledger Washington Bureau

### **Body**

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Retired Boston agent declines to testify

Megan Reichgott

Patriot Ledger Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON -- A congressional investigation into ties between the Boston FBI and organized crime has contained all the elements of a Hollywood movie.

Lawmakers over the past two days have heard about the mob, illegal wiretaps and murder.

Before yesterday's hearings were over, a former agent with the Boston FBI took the Fifth Amendment, declining to testify about whether he refused to help California prosecutors develop a murder case against informant and convicted Mafia hit man Joseph Barboza.

The decision by the now-retired agent, **H. Paul Rico**, angered the lawmakers present, including Rep. William Delahunt, D-Quincy.

Delahunt called Barboza a "reprehensible psychopath" and liar who should not have received protection from the government.

Barboza became notorious in Boston during the 1960s, when he worked as a hit man for one of the city's gangs. He became the prosecution's star witness in three mob trials and helped send nine defendants to jail.

Later some of the convicted men were found to be innocent. As a result of his testimony, Barboza received a plea offer of second-degree murder, with a sentence of only five years.

The government thought Barboza was such a valuable witness that it created a new identity for him and sent him to Santa Rosa, Calif., making him the first person shielded under the Witness Protection Program.

## FBI case rankles Congress

Lawmen told the committee Wednesday that Barboza probably killed there at least three more times during the early 1970s. Witnesses also said two FBI agents and a federal prosecutor from Boston refused to help state prosecutors make their death penalty case because Barboza helped gain convictions back in Boston.

"It was the worst travesty of justice I ever saw," said Ed Cameron, an inspector for the Sonoma County, Calif., district attorney's office.

Committee Chairman Dan Burton, R-Ind., said the Boston FBI's handling of confidential informants tied to the mob had been a "disaster."

"We cannot have the FBI winking and looking the other way when their informants go on a crime spree," Burton said. "We had a bunch of criminals running around killing people under virtual FBI protection."

The committee's investigation has proceeded despite resistance from the U.S. Department of Justice, which has refused to hand over papers relating to the case. President Bush has invoked executive privilege to block their release.

"I've told the Justice Department, and I'll tell everyone here today, that we're not going to be satisfied until we've seen every one of those documents," Burton said.

**Load-Date:** April 30, 2002

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End of Document





## **FBI chief admits blunders in Salvati case**

The Boston Herald

May 17, 2001 Thursday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 490 words

**Byline:** By J.M. Lawrence

### **Body**

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FBI Director Louis J. Freeh yesterday acknowledged that the bureau helped send an innocent Boston man to prison for 30 years, but maintained that "the FBI of modern times" helped free Joseph Salvati.

"That is a very sad chapter in the history of this agency," Freeh told the House Appropriations Committee yesterday in Washington, D.C.

Freeh's remarks came under intense questioning from congressmen about recent FBI blunders.

Rep. David R. Obey (D-Wis.) brought up the Salvati case in connection with the bureau's withholding evidence in another case - Oklahoma federal building bomber Timothy McVeigh.

Salvati's attorney, Victor J. Garo, called Freeh's statement "a good first step in total closure of this matter."

"They are finally accepting responsibility for what their agents did," said Garo, who has threatened to file a multimillion dollar civil action against the FBI.

"Slowly but surely they're stepping up to the plate to say what they did was wrong. There is now a change in direction," said Garo, who has represented Salvati for 25 years.

In January, a Middlesex Superior Court judge ruled that Boston FBI agents **H. Paul Rico** and Dennis Condon withheld informant reports that would have aided the defense of Salvati and three other men accused of the 1965 murder of Edward "Teddy" Deegan in Chelsea.

Charles S. Prouty, special agent in charge of the Boston FBI, said earlier this year that the Boston office fulfilled its obligation in the case by sharing the informant report with Chelsea police.

Yesterday, Prouty issued a statement saying, "The Director speaks for the Boston FBI."

Prouty said Boston FBI agents worked with Garo and a Justice Department Task Force to uncover the 1965 informant reports that lead to Salvati's exoneration.

FBI chief admits blunders in Salvati case

"We will continue to cooperate in any way possible," Prouty said.

In his testimony to the congressional panel, Freeh attempted to draw a line between the old and new FBI.

"What should be noted, however, it was the FBI of modern times, the FBI of 1998, 1999 that not only uncovered that evidence but has brought to bear the facts and circumstances which will allow the just prosecution of people, including former people associated with our agency, who broke the law," he said.

Rico and Condon are under investigation by a grand jury.

Testifying before another House committee earlier this month, Rico said he now believes Salvati was innocent of the Deegan murder.

But the 76-year-old agent expressed no regrets about Salvati's three decades of wrongful imprisonment.

Photo Caption: FREED: Joseph Salvati and his granddaughter, Aleia, await word of his release from prison in January. Salvati, who was wrongly convicted in the murder of Edward 'Teddy' Deegan, served 30 years. Staff file photo by Matthew West

Photo Caption: HOT SEAT: FBI Director Louis Freeh testifies on Capitol Hill yesterday that the FBI helped wrongly imprison Joseph Salvati. AP photo

**Load-Date:** May 17, 2001

FBI confirms sighting of fugitive mob figure



## **FBI confirms sighting of fugitive mob figure**

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

January 2, 2004 Friday Final Home Edition

Copyright 2004 The Tulsa World

**Section:** NEWS; National; Crime; Pg. A17**Length:** 491 words**Byline:** Staff and Wire Reports

### **Body**

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BOSTON -- The FBI has confirmed an early 2003 sighting of fugitive Tulsa murder suspect James "Whitey" Bulger, but agency officials would not say where or exactly when he was seen.

The information was released Thursday -- four days before the ninth anniversary of the disappearance of Bulger, a former FBI informant who now is on the bureau's Ten Most Wanted List.

Bulger, 74, disappeared from the Boston area Jan. 5, 1995, just before he was indicted on charges of racketeering, extortion and drug-trafficking.

Bulger, the leader of Boston's Winter Hill Gang, is accused of involvement in 21 homicides, including that of Tulsa businessman Roger Wheeler.

The agency received 160 leads on Bulger's location -- including the most recent one -- following a previous confirmed sighting in London in September 2002.

Investigators believe that Bulger is traveling with his longtime companion, 52-year-old Catherine Greig, and that the two are in good health.

The FBI is offering a \$1 million reward for information leading to Bulger's arrest, and a task force has been established to search for him.

Bulger was charged in March 2001 in Tulsa County along with other Winter Hill gang members John Martorano and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi.

Martorano, the confessed hit man, pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and received a 15-year prison term for killing Wheeler as Wheeler sat in his car after playing a round of golf at Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa.

A plea deal that was unveiled in October calls for Flemmi to get a life term for the murder, to be served in federal custody and to run concurrently with a life sentence for federal crimes.

Former FBI agent **H. Paul Rico** was charged in October with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder in Wheeler's killing.

## FBI confirms sighting of fugitive mob figure

Bulger and Flemmi had been informants for him when he was an FBI agent, and after his retirement, he was the head of security for the Miami, Fla.-based World Jai Alai, a sports business Wheeler owned.

Prosecutors and investigators believe that he supplied the Winter Hill gang with information on how to find Wheeler in Tulsa.

Rico is in custody in Florida on the Tulsa County charge, but medical problems have slowed his extradition. His lawyers asked last month to have his competency examined, but Tulsa County prosecutors have objected, saying Rico should be brought to Tulsa before any mental exams are considered.

Bulger's brother John Bulger was convicted of perjury in April for withholding information about communicating with his fugitive brother, assisting him in paying for a safety deposit box and obtaining a false driver's license for him.

Another brother, William Bulger, was state Senate president for 17 years and later as University of Massachusetts president for more than seven years.

He was forced out in August by Gov. Mitt Romney and Attorney General Thomas Reilly, who said he hadn't done enough to assist authorities in the search for his fugitive brother.

**Load-Date:** January 3, 2004



## **FBI CORRUPTION CASE AIMED AT ONE MAN**

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The Boston Globe

October 18, 2000, Wednesday

,THIRD EDITION

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**Section:** METRO/REGION;

**Length:** 1604 words

**Byline:** By Shelley Murphy, Globe Staff

### **Body**

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Retired FBI agent John J. Connolly will stand alone tomorrow when he appears in federal court to answer charges that he leaked information to gangsters and informants James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen Flemmi that allegedly prompted them to kill two other FBI informants and a potential witness.

No fellow agents, no state or local police officers will face a judge that day, just Connolly, the only agent or officer to be charged in the case.

Given the swirl of allegations revealed during court hearings that unmasked the FBI's unholy alliance with Bulger and Flemmi, much more was expected, leaving investigators to answer a nagging question: Is that all there is?

US Attorney Donald K. Stern acknowledged last week that the explosive court hearings and widespread publicity about the ongoing investigation have fueled expectations that other former and current FBI agents would be prosecuted.

But Stern also conceded that prosecutors face formidable stumbling blocks. For one, it may be too late, legally, to bring charges against everyone implicated in wrongdoing in their dealings with Bulger and Flemmi. And not every ethical lapse, however blatant, constitutes a crime.

"Every misstep, even every violation of FBI regulations, doesn't automatically translate into a criminal prosecution," Stern said. "And that's doubly true when you're investigating actions that go back 25 years. We can only prosecute what is both provable beyond a reasonable doubt at trial and what is within the statute of limitations. Those are necessary and historic constraints on what our role as prosecutors is."

Most federal crimes carry a five-year statute of limitations, meaning the government has five years after a crime was committed to charge the suspect.

## FBI CORRUPTION CASE AIMED AT ONE MAN

But federal prosecutors are given much more leeway under RICO, the federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, which allows them to charge members of a racketeering enterprise with crimes that were committed decades earlier if at least one illegal act occurred within the past five years.

For each illegal act charged under RICO, prosecutors can reach back another 10 years from that date and charge members of the enterprise with other crimes that occurred within that decade.

In the past year, two former Bulger associates, John Martorano and Kevin Weeks, have been cooperating with investigators after cutting deals with the government and implicating Bulger and Flemmi in numerous murders. They have identified FBI agents, Boston police officers, and at least one former State Police officer who allegedly protected Bulger's organization over the years, according to sources familiar with the investigation.

Now the challenge for prosecutors trying to fold those agents or officers into a racketeering case is to prove that they were working on behalf of Bulger's group and committed at least one crime on behalf of the organization within the past five years.

"I'm confident that the Justice Task Force is hard at work," Stern said. "They're going to leave no stone unturned, and they're still at it. If there's any group of people who are determined to get the truth and prosecute who they can, they are doing it. They may not be able to get everyone, but it's not for lack of trying."

Last month, Bulger was charged with killing 18 people and Flemmi with killing 10. But the indictment also accuses an unidentified former law enforcement official of leaking wiretap information to a Flemmi intermediary as recently as last year. According to sources, the law enforcement officer is a retired State Police lieutenant whose home was recently raided by investigators.

The nine-count racketeering and obstruction of justice indictment against Connolly, who retired from the FBI in 1990 after a 22-year career, alleges that he committed crimes as recently as 1998 and as far back as 1976 to protect Bulger and his criminal organization.

The indictment alleges that Connolly took a diamond ring from Bulger and Flemmi in 1976; delivered bribes from the two gangsters to an admittedly corrupt FBI supervisor; and tipped the pair to investigations and instigated the slayings of one man in 1976 and two more in 1982 by telling Bulger and Flemmi that two of the victims were FBI informants and the other was a potential witness against them.

Connolly is also accused of tipping Bulger and Flemmi to flee on the eve of their January 1995 indictment on federal racketeering charges. Bulger has been a fugitive ever since, while Flemmi was captured and has been jailed without bail while awaiting trial in that case and three others. Flemmi is charged with obstruction of justice in the Connolly case.

Connolly has called the charges outrageous and contends his FBI supervisors approved his actions involving Bulger and Flemmi.

After his arrest, Flemmi launched a novel defense: He admitted that he and Bulger were longtime FBI informants and contended that the FBI had promised them that they could continue committing crimes, with the exception of murder, and that the FBI would protect them from prosecution. In exchange, Weeks says, Bulger and Flemmi provided the FBI with information about the activities of their rivals in the New England Mafia.

A parade of FBI agents, victims, and investigators from other law enforcement agencies testified throughout 1998 in hearings before US District Judge Mark L. Wolf, who ultimately refused to dismiss the case after rejecting Flemmi's claim that he had immunity from prosecution.

But the hearings sparked the intensive investigation that led to Connolly's indictment and revealed that other agents had acted unethically and, in some cases, criminally, while handling Bulger and Flemmi.

In at least two instances, FBI agents were dispatched to interview extortion victims who complained of having frightening confrontations with Bulger. Neither case was prosecuted, and Bulger remained an informant.

## FBI CORRUPTION CASE AIMED AT ONE MAN

On two occasions, other FBI informants reported that Bulger was involved in drug trafficking, but agents were dissuaded from launching an investigation after Connolly allegedly denied the allegations.

"The unfortunate truth is that John Connolly is not alone in his culpability," said defense attorney Anthony M. Cardinale, who represented New England Mafia boss Francis Salemme, a codefendant in the 1995 racketeering case with Bulger and Flemmi.

Salemme pleaded guilty to racketeering earlier this year and is serving an 11-year sentence.

"Certainly, they're taking the right steps, but in my opinion they are nowhere near the conclusion of their investigation," said Cardinale.

The public should withhold judgment on the success of the massive investigation, Cardinale said, until the grand jury investigating corruption by FBI agents and other law enforcement officers wraps up.

"Until the investigation is completed, I won't be surprised about anything that comes out of it," he said. "And I certainly wouldn't expect that this is the extent of their investigation."

Former FBI supervisor John Morris, testifying under a grant of immunity, admitted during the hearings that he pocketed bribes totaling \$7,000 from Bulger and Flemmi and said that Connolly delivered two of the payoffs, including \$1,000 that was tucked into the bottom of a case of expensive wine.

Morris also testified that he told Connolly in 1982 that Edward "Brian" Halloran was cooperating with the FBI and had implicated Bulger and Flemmi in the murder of Telex Corp. chairman Roger Wheeler, who was gunned down outside a Tulsa country club in May 1981.

Halloran had told the FBI that Bulger, Flemmi, and John Callahan, a Boston businessman and money launderer for Somerville's Winter Hill Gang, orchestrated Wheeler's murder because he suspected the gang was skimming from his sports-gambling company, World Jai Alai.

The indictment returned against Connolly last week alleges that he told Bulger and Flemmi that Halloran was an FBI informant and had implicated them in Wheeler's murder, prompting Bulger and others to gun down Halloran in May 1982 as he sat in a car outside a bar on South Boston's waterfront. Michael Donahue, who was giving Halloran a ride home, was also killed in the ambush.

Connolly is also accused of warning Bulger and Flemmi that Callahan was being sought as a witness by a federal grand jury investigating Wheeler's murder, prompting Bulger and Flemmi to hire a hitman to kill Callahan in August 1982.

Another retired FBI agent, ***H. Paul Rico***, is the focus of the ongoing investigation into the FBI's handling of the Halloran- Wheeler- Callahan case, according to sources familiar with the case.

Rico, the FBI agent who recruited Flemmi as an FBI informant in 1965, went to work as head of security for World Jai Alai when he retired from the bureau 25 years ago.

Martorano, a confessed hit man turned government witness who says he gunned down Wheeler on orders from Bulger and Flemmi, has told authorities that Rico assisted in the slaying by providing the killers with information on Wheeler's work and social habits, according to sources familiar with the probe.

Rico has vehemently denied any role in Wheeler's slaying.

"We've come a long way in the last year or so on so many fronts," said Stern.

Bulger, Flemmi, and Connolly all face sweeping federal indictments, he said, and since January investigators have unearthed the remains of five victims killed in the 1970s and 1980s from secret gravesites in Dorchester and Quincy.

FBI CORRUPTION CASE AIMED AT ONE MAN

"We have a number of things left to do, one of which is to catch Bulger and continue these investigations, so the facts will fall where they will, and prosecute these cases successfully to conclusion," he said.

## Graphic

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PHOTO, 1. JAMES BULGER 2. STEPHEN FLEMMI 3. JOHN J. CONNOLLY

**Load-Date:** October 19, 2000

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## *FBI director calls Salvati case a 'sad chapter' in FBI history*

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

May 16, 2001, Wednesday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 762 words

**Byline:** By DENISE LAVOIE, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** BOSTON

### **Body**

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FBI Director Louis Freeh on Wednesday called the FBI's role in the wrongful conviction of Joseph Salvati a "very sad chapter in the history" of the agency.

Salvati, 68, spent 30 years in prison for the murder of Edward "Teddy" Deegan before being exonerated earlier this year.

A judge concluded that FBI agents hid evidence that would have cleared Salvati because they wanted to protect informants who helped them crush the New England Mafia.

Earlier this year, prosecutors dropped the charges against Salvati and Peter Limone, 66, in the 1965 gangland slaying of Deegan, a small-time hoodlum who was gunned down in an alley in Chelsea.

Salvati's sentence was commuted in 1997 and he was released on parole. Limone was freed in January after spending 32 years behind bars.

Earlier this month, a House panel investigating the improper relationship between the Boston FBI office and its mob informants held a hearing on the Salvati case. Members of the House Government Reform Committee apologized to Salvati.

Freeh, testifying before a House Appropriations subcommittee Wednesday on the FBI's actions in the Timothy McVeigh case, acknowledged that FBI agents had evidence that could have cleared Salvati.

"That is a very sad chapter in the history of this agency," Freeh said.

The Boston office of the FBI agreed.

"(Freeh) stated that there is no greater travesty in our justice system than sending an innocent man to prison. The director speaks for the Boston FBI," special agent Charles Prouty said in a prepared statement

## FBI director calls Salvati case a 'sad chapter' in FBI history

"The Boston FBI has provided Mr. Salvati's attorney and the Justice Department Task Force with documents that could help reconstruct the events surrounding the murder of Edward Deegan," Prouty said. "We will continue to cooperate in any way possible. The Boston FBI is committed to ensuring that justice is served."

But Freeh was careful to note that the prosecution in the Deegan case happened more than 30 years ago, and the FBI has since changed.

"It was the FBI of modern times - the FBI of 1998, 1999 - that not only uncovered that evidence, but has brought to bear the facts and circumstances which will allow the just prosecution of people, including former people associated with our agency, who broke the law," he said.

Freeh made the statement before the subcommittee six days after the revelation that the FBI had withheld more than 3,000 documents from McVeigh's lawyers in the Oklahoma City bombing case.

Salvati's lawyer, Victor Garo, called Freeh's statement "the first step" toward the FBI accepting responsibility in the case.

"Even though the director of the FBI has acknowledged wrongdoing by the FBI ... how can you give back to Mr. Salvati, his wife and four children the over 30 years that they lost together as a family?" Garo said.

During the hearing earlier this month before the House Government Reform Committee, former FBI Agent **H. Paul Rico** expressed no remorse about what happened to Salvati.

Secret reports written by Rico showed that 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 not made known to defense lawyers.

Rico told the committee that he thought the FBI handled the case properly at the time. He said he had not been convinced of Salvati's innocence until hearing him testify before the committee.

In February, the Boston office said the agency did pass along the documents to local authorities. The FBI did not specify who the "local authorities" were, and would not comment further.

The Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, which prosecuted the case, denied receiving FBI confidential informant memos.

The documents showed FBI agents knew about the hit on Deegan ahead of time, and had a list of six men who did it.

FBI informant Vincent "Jimmy the Bear" Flemmi was on the list, but was never charged. Salvati, Limone and two others convicted for the crime were not on the list.

U.S. Rep. Dan Burton, R-Ind., called for the Congressional hearings after learning of the Salvati case and of separate allegations that Boston FBI agents covered up the crimes of alleged mobsters James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi to protect the two men, both prized informants in Boston.

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.

## Graphic

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FBI director calls Salvati case a 'sad chapter' in FBI history

With AP Photo

**Load-Date:** May 17, 2001

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## *FBI faces suits for 'framing' 4 in killing*

United Press International  
February 8, 2001, Thursday

Copyright 2001 U.P.I.

**Section:** GENERAL NEWS

**Length:** 491 words

**Dateline:** BOSTON, Feb. 8

### **Body**

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Attorneys for four men convicted more than three decades ago for a gangland slaying they didn't commit said Thursday civil suits were being prepared against the FBI and others for covering up evidence that would have cleared the men.

The FBI "knew" the men were being framed, but did nothing about it as they were convicted and sentenced to life in prison, attorney Victor Garo charged.

Then FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover and others "crossed over the line and became criminals themselves" when they remained silent because they knew that Joseph Salvati, Peter Limone, Louis Greco and Henry Tameleo were innocent of the 1965 killing of small-time hood Edward "Teddy" Deegan in Chelsea, Mass.

It was the FBI's "Day of Infamy," Garo said.

Salvati and Limone were freed recently and had their convictions vacated after FBI documents were uncovered supporting their claims they had been wrongly convicted. Greco and Tameleo died in prison.

Garo, who is representing Salvati, accused the FBI, Chelsea Police and the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office of covering up evidence proving the four had nothing to do with the slaying.

"There was one thing that has stayed true throughout the trial and the appellate review of this case, and that is the truth be damned," Garo said. He said authorities didn't want to know the truth and wanted only to "sustain the convictions."

Garo said the FBI and the Chelsea police "conspired to murder Joe Salvati," and "knew and had evidence" that Salvati "was innocent, but never let that evidence surface."

Attorney William Koski is preparing similar civil suits on behalf of Limone and the families of Tameleo and Greco.

Garo, indicating he'd prefer an out-of-court settlement, did not say when he would actually file Salvati's civil suit or how much compensation he would seek. He also said if ever there was a case of alleged FBI misconduct that should be investigated by Congress, "this is the case."

## FBI faces suits for 'framing' 4 in killing

"They have to be punished, no doubt about it," Salvati said at Thursday's news conference in Boston. "They have to pay."

A task force investigating corruption in the FBI's Boston office and agents' inappropriate relationship with underworld informants uncovered FBI reports from the mid-1960s that appear to show agents **H. Paul Rico** and Dennis Condon allowed the four to be framed to protect informant Vincent "The Bear" Flemmi, a reputed organized crime hit man.

The Boston Herald said it had obtained a 1965 Chelsea police report corroborating the FBI reports.

Rico was prevented from speaking out because of orders from his FBI bosses, his attorney has said.

The FBI allegedly knew the killing was committed by Mob hit man Joseph "The Animal" Barboza, the government's only witness in the case. Despite that knowledge, the FBI allowed Barboza to lie on the stand and implicate four innocent men in the slaying.

Barboza, later also killed, reportedly falsely accused Salvati because of a grudge over an old gambling debt.

**Load-Date:** February 9, 2001



## **FBI FRAME-UP SUIT TO PROCEED**

The Boston Globe  
July 18, 2003, Friday  
THIRD EDITION

Copyright 2003 Globe Newspaper Company

**Section:** METRO/REGION;

**Length:** 508 words

**Byline:** By Andrea Estes, Globe Staff

### **Body**

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Calling the charges "shocking" and "outrageous," a federal judge yesterday refused to throw out a civil lawsuit brought by a man who alleges that the government framed him for a murder he didn't commit.

Peter J. Limone, 69, who spent 33 years in prison for the murder of Edward Deegan, has accused the FBI of helping implicate him and two other men despite knowing they were innocent.

"It is hard to conceive of accusations that shake the legal system closer to its foundation, that would do more to challenge this nation's most basic assumptions of honesty, fairness, and trust in the administration of justice," wrote US District Court Judge Nancy Gertner.

"If they prove true . . . they offer a cautionary tale at a time when courts and legislatures seem more and more prone to arrogate unchecked authority to law enforcement officers and prosecutors - all in the name of "national security."

Gertner rejected motions to dismiss the case filed by the US government, former FBI agents **H. Paul Rico** and Dennis Condon, and former Boston police officer Frank Walsh.

Other defendants include former FBI agents John Connolly, John Morris, and James Handley, and former Chelsea police officer Robert Renfrew.

Limone, who is seeking damages for wrongful imprisonment, was convicted in 1968 of Deegan's murder along with Joseph Salvati, Louis Greco, and Henry Tameleo.

In the suit, Limone's lawyer argued that the FBI let the men take the rap for the actual killers because they were trying to cultivate one of the murderers, Vincent "Jimmy" Flemmi, as an informant.

Agents expressed no remorse, the suit alleged, because they assumed that since Limone, Greco, and Tameleo were Italians, they were involved in organized crime and had committed other crimes. Salvati is not a party to the suit.

## FBI FRAME-UP SUIT TO PROCEED

Gertner rejected the government's argument that the FBI agents' decisions were "discretionary functions," or judgment calls, that are immuned from lawsuits.

"Obviously conduct cannot be 'discretionary' if it violates the constitution, federal laws, or established agency policies and regulations," she wrote. "There can be no doubt that suborning perjury and fabricating evidence violate the constitution."

Peter Parker, who represents Rico, said he was "disappointed" by Gertner's ruling. "We're confident we're going to prevail once the facts are tested."

Limone was released in January 2001 and Salvati in 1997. The lawsuit seeks damages on behalf of the families of Greco and Tameleo, who died in prison.

Gertner's ruling comes four months after another federal judge dismissed similar lawsuits brought by families of men allegedly murdered by longtime FBI informants James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi and their associates.

US District Judge Reginald Lindsay threw out the cases brought by the families of John McIntyre of Quincy and Roger Wheeler of Oklahoma, who argued that the government should have protected the men from Bulger and Flemmi.

Lindsay ruled that the lawsuits were barred by the statute of limitations. The families have appealed.

**Load-Date:** July 19, 2003



## *FBI Handling of Mob Informants Condemned*

Associated Press Online

November 20, 2003 Thursday

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**Section:** WASHINGTON DATELINE

**Length:** 658 words

**Byline:** LOLITA C. BALDOR; Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** WASHINGTON

### **Body**

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While probing organized crime in New England since the 1960s, the FBI used killers as informants, shielded them from prosecution and knowingly sent innocent people to jail, House investigators said Thursday in concluding a two-year inquiry.

The bureau's conduct "must be considered one of the greatest failures in the history of federal law enforcement," according to the final report from the House Government Reform Committee.

"Federal law enforcement personnel tolerated and probably encouraged false testimony in a state death penalty case just to protect their criminal informants," said Rep. Dan Burton, who started the investigation when he was committee chairman.

"False testimony sent four innocent men to jail. They were made scapegoats in order to shield criminals," said Burton, R-Ind.

The FBI came under criticism for trying to stonewall investigators. Lawmakers complained that the bureau delayed giving them access to audio recordings and logs of conversations involving New England crime boss Raymond Patriarca that provided vital information on the 1965 murder of Edward "Teddy" Deegan.

"The Justice Department made it very difficult for this committee to conduct timely and effective oversight," the report said. "The FBI must improve management of its informant programs to ensure that agents are not corrupted. The committee will examine the current FBI's management, security, and discipline to prevent similar events in the future."

Lawmakers are pressing for more House hearings on the FBI's failure to cooperate.

"This is an unfinished project and I think the report acknowledges that," said one committee member, Rep. John Tierney, D-Mass.

"I would like to continue to investigate why the Justice Department was so recalcitrant in getting us the information. We should not tolerate that kind of behavior," he said.



## FBI Handling of Mob Informants Condemned

The FBI said in a statement that it has taken "significant steps" to improve the use of informants, who are vital to many investigations.

A senior FBI official, speaking on condition of anonymity, acknowledged that the bureau was not always as forthcoming as committee members wanted. The official said some information was withheld or delayed because it related to a court case involving FBI Agent John Connolly Jr., who was convicted last year of protecting his gangster informants.

The report concluded there is not enough evidence to find that former Massachusetts Senate President William Bulger used his political authority to punish those who investigated his brother, mob boss James "Whitey" Bulger.

Whitey Bulger, a former FBI informant who worked with Connolly, fled in 1995 and is on the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted" list. He is being sought in connection with 21 murders.

The report said there were some inconsistencies in William Bulger's testimony. His lawyer, Thomas Kiley, said the report exonerates his client, who was given immunity to testify.

"For any thinking person, this should end it," said Kiley. "But there is a cadre of Bulger bashers here who have spread these street legends for years and I don't harbor any illusion they're going to stop."

The report, while broadly condemning the FBI's practices, focuses on the Deegan murder and law enforcement efforts to protect informants, including Jimmy "The Bear" Flemmi and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi.

Four men were wrongly convicted of Deegan's murder - two died in prison and two served more than 30 years in prison - all due to what officials concluded was false testimony and the FBI's efforts to protect informants.

Jimmy Flemmi died in prison while serving time for a different murder. Stephen Flemmi recently pleaded guilty to racketeering charges involving 10 murders. Former FBI agent **H. Paul Rico**, 78, was arrested near Miami last month on murder charges. He has denied he helped frame innocent men for the Deegan murder.

On the Net:

House                      Government                      Reform                      Committee                      report:  
<http://reform.house.gov/GovReform/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=1885>

**Load-Date:** November 21, 2003



## **FBI hit with \$375m suit**

United Press International

July 25, 2001, Wednesday

Copyright 2001 U.P.I.

**Section:** GENERAL NEWS

**Length:** 391 words

**Dateline:** BOSTON, July 25

### **Body**

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An attorney has filed a \$375 million lawsuit against the federal government on behalf of three men sentenced to life in prison for a 1965 Boston gangland murder they didn't commit because FBI agents apparently concealed evidence showing they were innocent, reports said Wednesday.

Two of the men died in prison, while the other served 33 years before being freed earlier this year.

Peter J. Limone, 66, was released from prison in January after it was disclosed FBI agents **H. Paul Rico** and Dennis Condon allegedly hid evidence in the case to protect an underworld informant, Vincent "Jimmy the Bear" Flemmi, who actually was involved in the slaying of Edward "Teddy" Deegan.

"I hope it (the suit) can help make up for my family, for my children, my grandchildren, to make it a little easier for them," Limone said in Wednesday's Boston Globe.

The suit was filed Tuesday by attorney William T. Koski, who represents Limone and the estates of two others convicted in the case, Henry Tameleo and Louis Greco. Tameleo died in 1985 and Greco in 1995.

A fourth man convicted in the Deegan slaying, Joseph Salvati, had his life sentence commuted by Gov. William F. Weld in 1997. Salvati, who had served 30 years, also reportedly plans to sue the FBI and the U.S. Justice Department for framing him for murder.

"They made my family suffer," Limone said in Wednesday's Boston Herald. He wondered how his life and that of his four children and eight grandchildren might have been different if he'd been able to provide for them over the 33 years he spent in prison.

His wife, Olympic, said there is still bitterness over the forced separation. "That won't go away. There's no figure that they can put on 33 years."

Koski said he hoped the government would settle before the case goes to trial.

"We'd like to see something positive from the government on this," Koski said.

FBI hit with \$375m suit

Koski said the FBI knew in advance that Deegan was to be killed and that Flemmi and his best friend, Joseph "The Animal" Barboza, planned and carried out the gangland hit. Barboza was the government's key witness against Limone and the others, but later recanted his trial testimony. The suit alleges federal agents conspired to convince Barboza to withdraw his recantation.

Secret FBI documents disclosing the exculpatory information were uncovered by a Justice Department task force in December.

**Load-Date:** July 26, 2001

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End of Document

## FBI INFORMANTS CHARGED IN JAI ALAI KILLINGS; DESPITE ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT, FORMER AGENT NOT ARRESTED



**FBI INFORMANTS CHARGED IN JAI ALAI KILLINGS;  
DESPITE ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT, FORMER AGENT NOT ARRESTED**

Hartford Courant (Connecticut)

March 15, 2001 Thursday, 7 SPORTS FINAL

Copyright 2001 The Hartford Courant Company

**Section:** MAIN; Pg. A1

**Length:** 1259 words

**Byline:** By EDMUND H. MAHONY; Courant Staff Writer

## **Body**

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Prosecutors in Tulsa, Okla., and Miami helped move two frustrating Connecticut cases toward closure Wednesday, filing murder and conspiracy charges in the long-unsolved mob executions of a former owner and a president of World Jai Alai.

The charges, expected for months, were a poorly kept law enforcement secret. But they are significant nonetheless because they expose notorious FBI informants James J. "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi to the death penalty for two of the 20 or so murders they are suspected of committing while working for the bureau.

Accused Wednesday with Bulger and Flemmi in the deaths in Oklahoma and Florida was John V. Martorano, a prolific hit man aligned with their Boston-based Winter Hill Gang. Martorano, an admitted triggerman in both killings, has been cooperating with authorities in a bid for leniency.

The victims were Roger Wheeler Sr., a millionaire Tulsa businessman who bought World Jai Alai in the late 1970s, and John B. Callahan, a mob-connected Boston accountant who was president of the company before Wheeler took over. World Jai Alai, a parimutuel sport, operated frontons in Hartford and Florida in the 1970s.

Martorano's cooperation, beginning in 1999, was critical to the charges announced against Bulger and Flemmi on Wednesday. And it tends to support the long-held investigative theory that there was a link between the Winter Hill Gang, corrupt agents in the FBI's Boston office and at least three murders linked to World Jai Alai.

Information provided by Martorano and other gangsters who have since agreed to cooperate have led to the federal indictment of local, state and federal police officers in Massachusetts for cooperating with or covering up crimes committed by Bulger, Flemmi and their gang.

The odor of law enforcement corruption has made the jai alai investigations contentious for years. That contention was apparent Wednesday, particularly in Tulsa, where there were as many questions about who wasn't being charged in the Wheeler case as who was.

## FBI INFORMANTS CHARGED IN JAI ALAI KILLINGS;DESPITE ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT, FORMER AGENT NOT ARRESTED

The man who wasn't arrested was **H. Paul Rico**, a now retired FBI agent who spent most of his career in Boston investigating organized crime. He is credited with recruiting Flemmi as an informant in the 1960s. He retired from the bureau in the 1970s and went to work as World Jai Alai's vice president for security.

Rico was hired at World Jai Alai by Callahan. Not long afterward, Connecticut authorities who were investigating the then-recently legalized state jai alai industry, linked Callahan to the Winter Hill Gang. Martorano and another disaffected Winter Hill Gang member have accused Rico of involvement in Wheeler's death. Both said Rico's role was to help the Winter Hill Gang's killers find Wheeler near his home in Tulsa.

Despite intense pressure from Tulsa police and the Wheeler family, Tulsa County District Attorney Tim Harris declined to file charges against Rico on Wednesday. However, Harris said during an interview that Rico could be charged in the future.

"That decision has not been made," Harris said. "I don't want to nitpick with you. I would say that the decision to file on [Bulger, Flemmi and Martorano] has been made and potential other filing decisions of other subjects have not been made.

"This investigation is going to continue. It is my desire to zealously prosecute all those who are responsible for the murder of Roger Wheeler, and we will continue to evaluate all of the potential evidence and make what I consider to be objective prosecutorial decisions as time moves forward."

Harris disclosed his decision not to charge Rico during a law enforcement meeting in Tulsa on Friday attended by members of the Tulsa Police Department and David Wheeler, one of Wheeler's sons, all of whom pushed forcefully to have Rico charged.

David Wheeler said he was not permitted to bring a private attorney and a representative of the Oklahoma Attorney General's office to the meeting to support his contention that Rico be charged. David Wheeler said Wednesday he is disappointed that Rico was not charged.

Also attending the meeting Friday in Tulsa was Fred Wyshak, an assistant federal prosecutor from Boston who has been involved in investigating Bulger and Flemmi for at least six years. Two sources at the meeting said Wyshak concurred with Harris' view that the evidence against Rico would not, at present, support a conviction.

Rico remains a subject in a related federal investigation, based in Boston, of law enforcement corruption. That investigation is being directed by John H. Durham, an assistant U.S. Attorney in New Haven.

Durham recently made public previously secret FBI documents showing that Rico had evidence that four innocent men were convicted of a murder in Boston in the 1960s, but did not intervene. Those documents also suggested that Flemmi's brother, yet another Rico informant, was one of the real killers in that case. The brother was never charged.

Rico has consistently denied any wrongdoing. He declined to comment Wednesday.

Investigators in Boston, Tulsa, Miami and Hartford have long suspected that Wheeler was killed because he learned the Winter Hill Gang had penetrated World Jai Alai and was skimming profits. Wheeler was shot in the face at point-blank range as he sat in his Cadillac on May 27, 1981, after finishing his weekly round of golf at Tulsa's Southern Hills Country Club.

Many of the early investigative leads in the Wheeler homicide were uncovered by organized crime prosecutors and state police detectives in Connecticut. They were probing a number of irregularities in the newly legalized jai alai industry. They linked the Winter Hill Gang to World Jai Alai in the late 1970s. Although they suspected a skim, they couldn't conclusively prove it.

"This is a case that we banged our head against the wall on for years," said Kevin Kane, the New London County State's Attorney who, 20 years ago, worked the jai alai case. "Our tie to the case was that it seemed that the motive

FBI INFORMANTS CHARGED IN JAI ALAI KILLINGS;DESPITE ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT, FORMER  
AGENT NOT ARRESTED

in the Wheeler homicide was that he was about to take away the skim. But in spite of a massive effort, we were never able to get to the bottom on it."

Victor Garo, a Boston-area lawyer who says one of his clients served 30 years in prison after being framed by Rico, said he was bitterly disappointed by the decision in Tulsa.

Callahan was shot to death 15 months after Wheeler. His body, with a dime placed on his chest, was found in the trunk of a car at Miami International Airport. Investigators believed that the dime signified that Callahan's killer thought he was about to "drop a dime" and become an informant.

In the weeks before Callahan's body was discovered, authorities in Connecticut had begun an effort to persuade Callahan to become a cooperating witness and help them solve the Wheeler homicide. That theory has been confirmed by Martorano and another cooperating witness, whom Bulger and Flemmi are also suspected of killing.

Bulger and Flemmi were charged in a federal racketeering indictment in September with the murders of Wheeler and Callahan.

The charges announced Wednesday by prosecutors in Tulsa and Miami were state murder charges. Both face death sentences if convicted.

Flemmi is in custody in Massachusetts. Bulger has been a fugitive since 1995. Martorano is expected to plead guilty to a variety of charges in Massachusetts, Oklahoma and Florida and expects to be sentenced to 15 years in prison and join the federal witness protection program under the terms of his cooperation agreement.

**Load-Date:** March 15, 2001



## *FBI is slammed over informants*

Deseret News (Salt Lake City, Utah)

November 21, 2003, Friday

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**Section:** WIRE;

**Length:** 660 words

**Byline:** By Lolita C. Baldor Associated Press

### **Body**

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WASHINGTON -- While probing organized crime in New England since the 1960s, the FBI used killers as informants, shielded them from prosecution and knowingly sent innocent people to jail, House investigators said Thursday in concluding a two-year inquiry.

The bureau's conduct "must be considered one of the greatest failures in the history of federal law enforcement," according to the final report from the House Government Reform Committee.

"Federal law enforcement personnel tolerated and probably encouraged false testimony in a state death penalty case just to protect their criminal informants," said Rep. Dan Burton, who started the investigation when he was committee chairman.

"False testimony sent four innocent men to jail. They were made scapegoats in order to shield criminals," said Burton, R-Ind.

The FBI came under criticism for trying to stonewall investigators. Lawmakers complained that the bureau delayed giving them access to audio recordings and logs of conversations involving New England crime boss Raymond Patriarca that provided vital information on the 1965 murder of Edward "Teddy" Deegan.

"The Justice Department made it very difficult for this committee to conduct timely and effective oversight," the report said. "The FBI must improve management of its informant programs to ensure that agents are not corrupted. The committee will examine the current FBI's management, security and discipline to prevent similar events in the future."

Lawmakers are pressing for more House hearings on the FBI's failure to cooperate.

"This is an unfinished project, and I think the report acknowledges that," said one committee member, Rep. John Tierney, D-Mass.

"I would like to continue to investigate why the Justice Department was so recalcitrant in getting us the information. We should not tolerate that kind of behavior," he said.

## FBI is slammed over informants

The FBI said in a statement that it has taken "significant steps" to improve the use of informants, who are vital to many investigations.

A senior FBI official, speaking on condition of anonymity, acknowledged that the bureau was not always as forthcoming as committee members wanted. The official said some information was withheld or delayed because it related to a court case involving FBI Agent John Connolly Jr., who was convicted last year of protecting his gangster informants.

The report concluded there is not enough evidence to find that former Massachusetts Senate President William Bulger used his political authority to punish those who investigated his brother, mob boss James "Whitey" Bulger.

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"For any thinking person, this should end it," said Kiley. "But there is a cadre of Bulger bashers here who have spread these street legends for years and I don't harbor any illusion they're going to stop."

The report, while broadly condemning the FBI's practices, focuses on the Deegan murder and law enforcement efforts to protect informants, including Jimmy "The Bear" Flemmi and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi.

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Jimmy Flemmi died in prison while serving time for a different murder. Stephen Flemmi recently pleaded guilty to racketeering charges involving 10 murders. Former FBI agent **H. Paul Rico**, 78, was arrested near Miami last month on murder charges. He has denied he helped frame innocent men for the Deegan murder.

On the Net: House Government Reform Committee report:  
[reform.house.gov/GovReform/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=1885](http://reform.house.gov/GovReform/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=1885)

**Load-Date:** November 21, 2003



FBI KNEW WRONG MAN WAS CONVICTED OF MURDER; DOCUMENTS SHOW REPUTED MAFIA ASSOCIATE MAY HAVE BEEN FRAMED IN GANGLAND INCIDENT



**FBI KNEW WRONG MAN WAS CONVICTED OF MURDER;  
DOCUMENTS SHOW REPUTED MAFIA ASSOCIATE MAY HAVE BEEN  
FRAMED IN GANGLAND INCIDENT**

SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER

December 22, 2000, Friday

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**Section:** NEWS,

**Length:** 780 words

**Byline:** RALPH RANALLI The Boston Globe

**Dateline:** BOSTON

## **Body**

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Secret documents recently discovered in a Justice Department investigation of FBI corruption appear to show that the bureau knew that the wrong men were convicted of a 1965 gangland murder.

They also indicate that agents were told about the plot two days before it happened and apparently did nothing to stop it.

The reports, found at FBI headquarters in Washington, were turned over this week to lawyers for reputed Mafia associate Peter Limone, who has served 32 years in prison for the slaying of small-time hoodlum Edward "Teddy" Deegan.

They strongly suggest that the FBI's chief witness at the 1968 trial, legendary Boston hit man Joseph "The Animal" Barboza, framed Limone and several other men.

As Limone languished in prison for three decades, documents that might have proved his innocence sat in secret FBI informant files in Washington and were never turned over to the defense, attorney John Cavicchi said.

"This is a disgrace. If it weren't so tragic it would be laughable," said Cavicchi, who is handling Limone's bid to have his conviction overturned in Middlesex Superior Court.

Boston FBI spokeswoman Gail Marcinkiewicz declined comment.

The new documents also reveal for the first time that the brother of infamous gangster and FBI informant Stephen Flemmi was also successfully recruited as an FBI informant for five months in 1965 - even though other informants

FBI KNEW WRONG MAN WAS CONVICTED OF MURDER; DOCUMENTS SHOW REPUTED MAFIA ASSOCIATE MAY HAVE BEEN FRAMED IN GANGLAND INCIDENT

were telling the bureau that he was responsible for numerous killings and that he had vowed to become Boston's "No. 1 hit man."

FBI evaluation reports of Vincent "Jimmy the Bear" Flemmi's potential usefulness as an FBI mole show the chilling lengths the FBI was willing to go to in its clandestine organized crime informant program.

Special Agent Dennis Condon, for example, wrote one 1964 report that an unnamed informant said Jimmy Flemmi had boasted about becoming Boston's most prolific full-time assassin.

"Flemmi told him (the informant) that all he wants to do now is kill people, and that it is better than hitting banks," the report states. "Informant said Flemmi said that he feels he can now be the top hit man in this area and intends to be."

Another report said Flemmi was a suspect in the Deegan murder and several other killings, but that recruiting him as an informant was "worth the risk."

Even supporters of Limone and the other defendants, who claimed for years that they were the victims of an FBI frame-up, called the contents of the documents shocking.

Boston attorney Victor Garo, who represents Limone's co-defendant, Joseph Salvati, went as far as telling WBZ-TV, Channel 4, that the prosecution was an FBI "murder conspiracy" because the punishment for murder at the time was death in the electric chair.

Four of the defendants, including Limone and Salvati, actually received death sentences that were later changed to life.

The reports were turned over to Cavicchi, Garo and Suffolk County District Attorney Ralph Martin's office by Special U.S. Attorney John Durham, who for the last several years has been investigating corruption in the FBI's informant relationships with gangsters Stephen Flemmi and Whitey Bulger.

Durham could not be reached for comment.

One key report states that on March 10, 1965 - two days before the murder - an unidentified FBI informant told Special Agent **H. Paul Rico** that Jimmy Flemmi was planning to kill Deegan and that the murder had the blessing of then-New England Mafia boss Raymond Patriarca.

"Informant advised that he had just heard from Jimmy Flemmi, and Flemmi told the informant that Raymond Patriarca has put out the word that Edward 'Teddy' Deegan is to be 'hit,' and that a dry run has already been made and that a close associate of Deegan's has agreed to set him up," Rico's report states.

One day after the murder, another informant told Rico that Flemmi, Barboza and three other men had committed the crime.

Neither Limone, Salvati nor two other co-defendants, top New England Mafia adviser Henry Tameleo and underworld figure Louis Greco, were mentioned.

The information was forwarded to FBI headquarters in Director J. Edgar Hoover's name, although there is no indication whether Hoover himself actually saw it.

All four men were convicted. Tameleo and Greco died in prison, while Salvati's sentence was later commuted.

None of the information, Cavicchi said, was turned over to the defense in the case. Barboza, who was recruited as an FBI witness by Rico and Condon, was the key witness in the case and the only witness against Limone.

Privately, even law enforcement officials involved in the case were calling the new documents significant.

FBI KNEW WRONG MAN WAS CONVICTED OF MURDER;DOCUMENTS SHOW REPUTED MAFIA  
ASSOCIATE MAY HAVE BEEN FRAMED IN GANGLAND INCIDENT

"You don't have to be a rocket scientist to know that it's not trivial stuff," one official said.

**Load-Date:** December 23, 2000

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End of Document



## [FBI lies in mob murder case bring \\$100-million penalty](#)

The Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

July 27, 2007 Friday

All Editions

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A-01

**Length:** 745 words

**Byline:** DENISE LAVOIE, Associated Press

### **Body**

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Four men spent years in prison for a crime they did not commit after being framed with the help of two FBI agents in Boston.

BOSTON - In a stinging rebuke of the FBI, a federal judge yesterday 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 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.

## FBI lies in mob murder case bring \$100-million penalty

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.

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, cofounder 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.

**Load-Date:** July 31, 2007



## *FBI, mob informants prove equally treacherous in judge's ruling*

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

September 16, 1999, Thursday, PM cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 649 words

**Byline:** By JAY LINDSAY, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** BOSTON

### **Body**

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Nobody was safe from the "rats" after the Boston mob and FBI got together to make a deal.

Mob members informed on their own, then FBI agents turned on them to cover their own crimes. Among the innocent victims was a reporter forced to relocate after the FBI leaked him word of its mob links.

Those details were just a few of those released Wednesday in U.S. District Court Judge Mark L. Wolf's ruling in the case of Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi.

In the 661-page decision, Wolf refused to throw out a racketeering indictment against the mobster-turned-informant. He also traced the 30-year alliance between New England's underworld and the FBI - a relationship both sides profited and suffered from.

In the end, each side proved equally adept at using threats and betrayal to achieve their ends.

Here are some of the key players, and details of their treachery included in the court decision:

James "Whitey" Bulger: The Irish mobster was inclined to become an FBI snitch because he believed the agency hated the Italian mob as much as he did, and he was grateful for how FBI agent H. Paul Rico treated his family during a stint in jail.

At Rico's urging, Bulger became an informant, supplying information on mob rivals while enjoying immunity from prosecution for his own criminal activities, which may have including gambling, race-fixing and murder.

Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi: The FBI began recruiting Flemmi in 1965, while Flemmi was involved in a fierce gang war. It pitched itself as an ally against the Italian mob, with whom Flemmi had a tense relationship.

Over the next 25 years, Flemmi climbed the ranks, enjoying FBI protection for alleged crimes including murder while betraying major underworld figures like Frank "Cadillac Frank" Salemme.

## FBI, mob informants prove equally treacherous in judge's ruling

John Morris: The FBI agent in charge of "handling" Bulger and Flemmi, Morris leaked a story to The Boston Globe, knowing it could get his informants killed.

Morris was fearful that if Bulger and Flemmi were prosecuted, he'd face charges for his activities, which included warning them of impending investigations and taking money from them. Morris detailed Bulger's role as an FBI informant to The Globe, knowing the Italian mob, or others, might kill Bulger and his partner, Flemmi.

John Connolly: Another FBI handler, Connolly was tight with Bulger and Flemmi, and apparently knew his top informers were killers. "The government put me in business with murderers," he said. Judge Wolf said both he and Morris saw their sources as important to their own status and careers.

Thomas Daly: The FBI agent told Globe reporter Kevin Cullen that Bulger would think nothing of "clipping" him if Cullen reported that the FBI protected Bulger in a race-fixing case Daly was investigating.

The comment was a clear threat to Cullen to kill the story, Wolf said. The Globe published Cullen's story anyway, but moved Cullen and his wife from their South Boston home to protect them.

Angelo "Sonny" Mercurio: This "made" member of La Cosa Nostra, an Italian phrase for the mob meaning "This Thing of Ours," became an FBI informant after growing disenchanted with the mafia because it ignored him during a mid-1980s prison term. By contrast, Flemmi and Bulger sent his girlfriend \$ 100 weekly while he was away.

After he became an informant, federal agents learned Mercurio was involved in a gang hit in which William Grasso was killed and Saleme was shot. Wanting to protect a good source, the FBI did nothing with the information.

John Martorano: After simmering four years in jail awaiting a racketeering trial, the hit man implicated Bulger and Flemmi in a string of felonies because he believed they turned him in. Martorano was so bent on revenge that he confessed to 20 murders, even though it likely meant a longer prison sentence than he would have received if he'd stayed silent.

**Load-Date:** September 16, 1999



## **FBI, mob informants prove equally treacherous in Salemme ruling**

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

September 15, 1999, Wednesday, AM cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 595 words

**Byline:** By JAY LINDSAY, Associated Press

**Dateline:** BOSTON

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James "Whitey" Bulger: The Irish mobster was inclined to become an FBI snitch for two reasons: he believed they hated the Italian mob as much as he did, and he was grateful to FBI agent **H. Paul Rico** for the way Rico treated his family during a stint in jail.

At Rico's urging, Bulger became an informant, supplying information on mob rivals while enjoying immunity from prosecution for his own criminal activities, which may have including gambling, race-fixing and murder.

Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi: The FBI began recruiting Flemmi in 1965, while Flemmi was involved in a fierce gang war. It pitched itself as an ally against the Italian mob, with whom Flemmi had a tense relationship.

Over the next 25 years, Flemmi climbed the ranks, enjoying FBI protection for alleged crimes including murder while betraying major underworld figures like Frank "Cadillac Frank" Salemme.



## FBI, mob informants prove equally treacherous in Salemme ruling

John Morris: The FBI agent in charge of "handling" Bulger and Flemmi, Morris leaked a story to The Boston Globe, knowing it could get his informants killed.

Morris was fearful that if Bulger and Flemmi were prosecuted, he'd be charged for his crimes, which included warning them of an impending investigation. In June, Morris detailed Bulger's role as an FBI informant to The Globe, knowing the Italian mob, or others, might kill Bulger and his partner, Flemmi.

Thomas Daly: The FBI agent told Globe reporter Kevin Cullen that Bulger would think nothing of "clipping" him if Cullen reported that the FBI protected Bulger in a race-fixing case Daly was investigating.

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**Load-Date:** September 15, 1999



## *FBI, Mobsters Have Cozy Relations*

Associated Press Online

May 16, 1998; Saturday 13:20 Eastern Time

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**Section:** Domestic, non-Washington, general news item

**Length:** 1703 words

**Byline:** ERICA NOONAN

**Dateline:** BOSTON

### **Body**

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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?

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 hours, then days, bearing witness to the fact that the FBI in Boston had protected some gangsters and sacrificed 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 an Oklahoma businessman, according to testimony. That squealer later took a bullet. A lot of bullets.

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## FBI, Mobsters Have Cozy Relations

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.

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 that may be tainted by 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.

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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.

## FBI, Mobsters Have Cozy Relations

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.

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 still believe today, saved Gianturco's life and drew Bulger and Flemmi into the FBI fold. An amazing 20 years followed.

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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.

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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 a Tulsa, Okla., country club in 1981.

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, who was arrested but never convicted.

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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.

## FBI, Mobsters Have Cozy Relations

After two years, Connolly and pack of other agents had enough secret tapes to arrest the 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.

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.

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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 faintly and waved back.

FBI, Mobsters Have Cozy Relations

**Load-Date:** May 16, 1998

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FBI-mob ties imperil case Agents allegedly looked the other way to protect informants



*FBI-mob ties imperil case*  
*Agents allegedly looked the other way to protect informants*

Ventura County Star (California)

May 17, 1998, Sunday

Copyright 1998 Ventura County Star

**Section:** News; Pg. A13

**Length:** 1186 words

**Byline:** Erica Noonan The Associated Press

## **Body**

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**Load-Date:** May 18, 1998

FBI PROGRAM PROBED; A CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE STRUGGLES TO GET ANSWERS ABOUT A  
DECADES-OLD FBI INFORMANT PROGRAM.



**FBI PROGRAM PROBED;  
A CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE STRUGGLES TO GET ANSWERS ABOUT  
A DECADES-OLD FBI INFORMANT PROGRAM.**

Hartford Courant (Connecticut)

February 14, 2002 Thursday, 7 SPORTS FINAL

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**Section:** MAIN; Pg. A19

**Length:** 1085 words

**Byline:** By EDMUND H. MAHONY; Courant Staff Writer

**Dateline:** WASHINGTON --

## **Body**

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A group of retired criminal justice professionals struggled to explain Wednesday how a government-protected gangster from Boston beat a California murder charge, provoking a fresh round of accusations in Congress that the Bush administration is blocking an investigation of the FBI's informant program.

"For decades, federal law enforcement did terrible things up in New England, and they were successful in covering it up," said U.S. Rep. Dan Burton, R-Ind., chairman of the House Committee on Government Reform. "And now the Justice Department, today, in 2002, continues to make it hard to find out what happened. We're not going to tolerate that."

U.S. Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., ranking Democrat on the committee, called the FBI's involvement with the subject of the California case -- a mob murderer named Joe Barboza -- "an egregious example of law enforcement abuses." Waxman said the abuse is compounded by the Justice Department's refusal to disclose documents that could explain what happened.

The committee has been investigating the FBI's informant program, particularly in New England, for more than a year. Wednesday's hearing was convened to examine the "extraordinary" steps the FBI took to protect Barboza, who became the federal government's first-ever protected witness in 1969.

Barboza, who reportedly killed 26 or 27 people, became the star prosecution witness at three sensational Mafia trials in Boston in the late 1960s after agreeing to cooperate with the FBI.

In an earlier hearing before the committee, a witness told the committee that the FBI instructed Barboza to lie to implicate innocent men in crimes. Justice Department records that have become public strongly suggest Barboza's testimony led to the conviction and imprisonment of at least a half-dozen innocent men.

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Late last year, in response to a subpoena for additional Justice Department records, the Bush administration -- acting on the recommendation of a divided Justice Department -- refused to turn over the requested documents, exercising its executive privilege for the first time.

Bush said he was concerned that public examination of documents reflecting how federal lawyers reach prosecutorial decisions could "politicize the criminal justice process."

Bush set off howls of protest in Congress, where members complained he was interfering with the legislative branch's oversight responsibility. Burton has threatened to sue the administration.

The continuing row over executive privilege was re-ignited Wednesday by the testimony of two retired police investigators and a retired public defender from Santa Rosa, Calif. At the conclusion of the Mafia trials in Boston, the federal government gave Barboza a false identity and relocated him to Santa Rosa. Within a year he killed a California man and, by 1970, the three officials were involved in his state murder trial in Santa Rosa.

In their testimony Wednesday, all three expressed bafflement at what they called the highly unusual steps the Justice Department took to assist Barboza's defense while, at the same time, refusing to help California prosecutors trying to execute him for murder.

"I never, ever, once got a return telephone call," district attorney's office investigator Ed Cameron said about his 10 requests to the FBI for information about Barboza.

Cameron said that when federal authorities in Boston did talk to his office, they strung it along with offers of useless information. He said federal officials in Boston never once provided anything of value.

"No sir," Cameron testified. "We got romanced, but never kissed."

The public defender's office in Santa Rosa had an entirely different experience.

"I think we rolled 7s and 11s in this case," said Marteen Miller, the public defender who represented Barboza.

Miller said his big payoff came when three federal officials closely involved with Barboza in Boston stunned him by agreeing to testify as defense witnesses. Those officials -- FBI agents H. Paul Rico and Dennis Condon and former federal mob prosecutor Edward F. Harrington -- described Barboza as a valuable and truthful law enforcement asset.

Prosecutors believed that the FBI's involvement in Barboza's defense so weakened their case that they dropped the charge against him to second-degree murder. He pleaded guilty, was sentenced to five years to life and was released from prison after serving about four years.

The three Californians testified that they are puzzled still over why the Justice Department went to such lengths for Barboza. Rico and Harrington are expected to testify before the committee today and will be asked that question. Condon, claiming poor health, will be questioned privately by committee staff at his home outside Boston next week.

The California witnesses raised as many questions as they answered Wednesday.

For example, they could not explain why the Justice Department, in correspondence obtained by the committee, discussed allowing a state district attorney's investigator from Boston to testify for Barboza in California, even though he had not been asked to do so by the defense. The correspondence suggests federal prosecutors independently were planning Barboza's state defense.

One of the California witnesses, a Sonoma County deputy sheriff, said that even agents assigned to the FBI office in San Francisco were grumbling in private about colleagues from the East Coast going to work for a cold-blooded killer like Barboza.

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And the Californians said that Barboza was paroled from prison on the second-degree murder conviction under mysterious circumstances.

Cameron, the district attorney's investigator, said Barboza was secretly whisked off to a Montana prison. Despite a pointed request for information, Cameron said, he was never able to learn where Barboza was serving his four-year sentence.

All three of the Californians said they were stunned to learn that Barboza had been paroled after serving four years. They said they were not consulted. It is normal practice for a convict's attorney and prosecutor to be notified when he is eligible for a parole hearing.

Miller, the public defender, said he got a letter from Barboza that suggested even Barboza was surprised.

In the letter, Barboza wrote to a Miller assistant: "The parole board said this was the fastest hearing in the history of Montana: 'Here, you made parole.' I didn't even say one word! Except thank you. And I floated out in a dream that I never thought would come true."

**Load-Date:** February 14, 2002

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## *FBI rebuked for wrongful convictions in mob case*

Deseret Morning News (Salt Lake City)

July 27, 2007 Friday

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**Length:** 889 words

**Byline:** Denise Lavoie Associated Press

### **Body**

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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 1965 murder of Edward "Teddy" Deegan, a small-time thug shot in an alley.

Gertner said Boston FBI agents knew mob hit man 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.

## FBI rebuked for wrongful convictions in mob case

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 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.

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.

Attorneys 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. Associated Press writer Nancy Rabinowitz contributed to this report.

**Load-Date:** July 27, 2007

FBI rebuked for wrongful convictions in mob case

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FBI recruiter heads to stand



## *FBI recruiter heads to stand*

United Press International

January 9, 1998, Friday, BC cycle

Copyright 1998 U.P.I.

**Section:** Domestic News**Length:** 211 words**Dateline:** BOSTON, Jan. 9

### **Body**

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A federal judge conducting hearings in Boston into alleged FBI misconduct involving underworld informants hears today from the man who reportedly recruited two of them. **H. Paul Rico** is the FBI agent said to have recruited James "Whitey" Bulger and his associate in the Irish Winter Hill gang, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, to act as informants for the FBI against rival Italian mobsters. FBI memos unveiled in U.S. District Court Thursday show at least some of the city's underworld leaders had their own informants inside law enforcement agencies.

The notes showed the mobsters even had sophisticated debugging equipment to make sure the feds or state and local police weren't eavesdropping on their secret conversations. One memo said the FBI considered Bulger, as head of the Irish gang in Boston, to be essentially equal to the boss of Boston's Italian mob, Generra "Jerry" Angiulo, and as such was given the FBI's highest designation as a "top echelon" informer. Judge Mark Wolf is holding the hearings to determine if racketeering charges against Bulger and Flemmi and several associates should be dropped on grounds they were promised immunity for being FBI informants. ---

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**Load-Date:** January 10, 1998

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## **FBI REPORTEDLY HID KEY EVIDENCE DOCUMENTS SHOW IT KNEW OF DEEGAN SLAYING PLOT IN '65**

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The Boston Globe

December 21, 2000, Thursday

,THIRD EDITION

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**Section:** METRO/REGION;

**Length:** 843 words

**Byline:** By Ralph Ranalli, Globe Correspondent

### **Body**

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Secret documents recently discovered in a Justice Department probe of FBI corruption appear to show that the bureau knew not only that the wrong men were convicted of a 1965 gangland murder, but also that agents were told about the plot two days before it happened and apparently did nothing to stop it.

The reports, found at FBI headquarters in Washington, were turned over yesterday to lawyers for reputed Mafia associate Peter J. Limone, who has served 32 years in prison for the slaying of small-time hoodlum Edward "Teddy" Deegan in Chelsea. They strongly suggest that the FBI's chief witness at the 1968 trial, legendary Boston hit man Joseph "The Animal" Barboza, framed Limone and several other men.

As Limone languished in prison for three decades, documents that might have proved his innocence sat in secret FBI informant files in Washington and were never turned over to the defense, attorney John Cavicchi of East Boston said yesterday.

"This is a disgrace. If it weren't so tragic it would be laughable," said Cavicchi, who is handling Limone's bid to have his conviction overturned in Middlesex Superior Court.

Boston FBI spokeswoman Gail Marcinkiewicz declined comment.

The new documents also reveal for the first time that the brother of infamous gangster and FBI informant Stephen Flemmi was also successfully recruited as an FBI informant for five months in 1965 - even though other informants were telling the bureau that he was responsible for numerous killings and that he had vowed to become Boston's "No. 1 hit man."

FBI evaluation reports of Vincent J. "Jimmy the Bear" Flemmi's potential usefulness as an FBI mole show the chilling lengths the FBI was willing to go to in its clandestine organized crime informant program.

FBI REPORTEDLY HID KEY EVIDENCE DOCUMENTS SHOW IT KNEW OF DEEGAN SLAYING PLOT IN  
'65

Special Agent Dennis Condon, for example, wrote one 1964 report that an unnamed informant said Jimmy Flemmi had boasted about becoming Boston's most prolific full-time assassin.

"Flemmi told him [the informant] that all he wants to do now is kill people, and that it is better than hitting banks," the report states. "Informant said Flemmi said that he feels he can now be the top hit man in this area and intends to be."

Another report said Flemmi was a suspect in the Deegan murder and several other killings, but that recruiting him as an informant was "worth the risk."

Even supporters of Limone and the other defendants, who contended for years that they were the victims of an FBI frame-up, called the contents of the documents shocking.

Boston lawyer Victor Garo, who represents Limone's co-defendant, Joseph Salvati, went as far as telling WBZ-TV (Channel 4) that the prosecution was an FBI "murder conspiracy" because the punishment for murder at the time was death in the electric chair. Four of the defendants, including Limone and Salvati, received death sentences that were later changed to life.

The reports were turned over to Cavicchi, Garo, and Suffolk District Attorney Ralph Martin II's office yesterday by Special US Attorney John Durham, who for the last several years has been investigating corruption in the FBI's informant relationships with gangsters Stephen Flemmi and Whitey Bulger.

Durham could not be reached for comment yesterday.

One key report states that on March 10, 1965 - two days before the murder - an unidentified FBI informant told Special Agent **H. Paul Rico** that Jimmy Flemmi was planning to kill Deegan and that the murder had the blessing of then-New England Mafia boss Raymond L.S. Patriarca.

"Informant advised that he had just heard from Jimmy Flemmi, and Flemmi told the informant that Raymond Patriarca has put out the word that Edward 'Teddy' Deegan is to be 'hit,' and that a dry run has already been made and that a close associate of Deegan's has agreed to set him up," Rico's report states.

One day after the murder, another informant told Rico that Flemmi, Barboza, and three other men had committed the crime.

Neither Limone, Salvati, nor two other co-defendants, top New England Mafia advisor Henry Tameleo and underworld figure Louis Greco, were mentioned. The information was forwarded to FBI headquarters in director J. Edgar Hoover's name, although there is no indication whether Hoover himself actually saw it.

All four men were convicted. Tameleo and Greco died in prison, while Salvati's sentence was later commuted.

None of the information, Cavicchi said, was turned over to the defense in the case. Barboza, who was recruited as an FBI witness by Rico and Condon, was the key witness and the only witness against Limone. Privately, even law enforcement officials involved in the case were calling the new documents significant.

"You don't have to be a rocket scientist to know that it's not trivial stuff," one official said.

In a statement released by a spokesman yesterday, however, Martin said only that his office "is intent on pursuing the truth about the Deegan murder, wherever it leads us."

Limone's family expressed new optimism yesterday.

"Obviously we're very excited. It has just been a terrible tragedy what was done to this man," said nephew Frank Limone.

FBI REPORTEDLY HID KEY EVIDENCE DOCUMENTS SHOW IT KNEW OF DEEGAN SLAYING PLOT IN  
'65

## Graphic

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PHOTO, 1. EDWARD DEEGAN 2. PETER J. LIMONE 3. JIMMY FLEMMI

**Load-Date:** December 21, 2000

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FBI'S COZY TIES TO MOBSTERS THREATEN BOSTON RACKETEERING CASE; CRIME: FEDERAL AGENTS PROTECTED TWO SECRET INFORMANTS, EVEN EXCHANGED GIFTS, TESTIMONY SHOWS. TH....



**FBI'S COZY TIES TO MOBSTERS THREATEN BOSTON RACKETEERING  
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EVEN EXCHANGED GIFTS, TESTIMONY SHOWS. THE RELATIONSHIP PUTS  
PROSECUTION OF MAJOR FIGURES IN JEOPARDY.**

Los Angeles Times  
May 24, 1998, Sunday,  
Bulldog Edition

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**Section:** Part A; Page 2; Advance Desk; Wire

**Length:** 1700 words

**Byline:** ERICA NOONAN, ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Dateline:** BOSTON

## **Body**

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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, 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 upward 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 Administration conference in Georgia?

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.

FBI'S COZY TIES TO MOBSTERS THREATEN BOSTON RACKETEERING CASE; CRIME: FEDERAL AGENTS PROTECTED TWO SECRET INFORMANTS, EVEN EXCHANGED GIFTS, TESTIMONY SHOWS. TH....

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

While scores of other mobsters went to prison 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 an Oklahoma businessman, according to testimony. That squealer later took a bullet. A lot of bullets.

\*

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.

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 last 15 years, paving the way for new trials for the likes of New England Mafia boss Raymond "Junior" Patriarca of Providence, R.I., and Boston mob boss Gennaro "Jerry" Angiulo, both serving long sentences in federal prisons.

\*

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.

Reared 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 prison.

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 with 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.

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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.

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.

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 still believe today, saved Gianturco's life and drew Bulger and Flemmi into the FBI fold. An amazing 20 years followed.

\*

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 prison, 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.

\*

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 a Tulsa, Okla., country club in 1981.

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.

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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 down the job.

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, who was arrested but never convicted.

\*

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 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.

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 wiretaps 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.

\*

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.

FBI'S COZY TIES TO MOBSTERS THREATEN BOSTON RACKETEERING CASE; CRIME: FEDERAL AGENTS PROTECTED TWO SECRET INFORMANTS, EVEN EXCHANGED GIFTS, TESTIMONY SHOWS. TH....

Flemmi was not so lucky.

Today Flemmi, 62, along with archrival Salemme, now 64, are incarcerated in the same cellblock 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 faintly and waved back.

## Graphic

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PHOTO: Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, left, and James J. "Whitey" Bulger, in four views at right, were FBI informants for 20 years. Now, Flemmi is charged with racketeering and extortion, but his FBI ties could free him and spring others already in prison. Bulger is a fugitive. PHOTOGRAPHER: Associated Press

**Load-Date:** May 24, 1998



FBI shocker; Testimony from agent has chilling effect



**FBI shocker;**  
**Testimony from agent has chilling effect**

Sunday Telegram (Massachusetts)

May 06, 2001 Sunday,

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** INSIGHT;; IN OUR OPINION;**Length:** 169 words**Body**

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The chilling testimony of former FBI agent **H. Paul Rico** before the Government Reform Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives last week spoke volumes about how badly out of hand things were in the bureau's Boston office in the last few decades.

Although the ex-agent had prior knowledge of a 1968 mob murder that indicated Joseph Salvati was wrongly convicted, he expressed absolutely no remorse for the travesty of justice that put an innocent man behind bars for nearly 30 years.

Questioned about his callous attitude, he shot back, "What do you want, tears?"

Such defiant indifference to justice and fair play seems to have been widespread in the Boston FBI office of that era. Recent revelations have seriously undermined the credibility of the whole agency.

Nothing can restore the 30 years that Mr. Salvati and his family lost. We can only hope that a much-needed overhaul of FBI procedures on use of criminal informants will prevent future injustices and fade the dark stain the flawed policies have wrought.

**Load-Date:** May 8, 2001

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## [FBI's misconduct yields nearly \\$102M for wrongful convictions](#)

The York Dispatch (Pennsylvania)

July 27, 2007 Friday

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**Section:** NATIONAL

**Length:** 860 words

**Byline:** DENISE LAVOIE The Associated Press

### **Body**

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BOSTON -- In a stinging rebuke of the FBI, a federal judge 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 yesterday 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.

## FBI's misconduct yields nearly \$102M for wrongful convictions

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 ... 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 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.

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.

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.

## Graphic

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FBI's misconduct yields nearly \$102M for wrongful convictions

Jennifer Medrano kisses her grandfather, Joseph Salvati, outside the Federal Courthouse in Boston. (Stephan Savoia/AP photo)

Limone

**Load-Date:** July 27, 2007

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***FBI's relationship with mobsters threatens cases;  
Judge to decide if it was too cozy***

Florida Times-Union (Jacksonville, FL)

May 17, 1998 Sunday,

City Edition

Copyright 1998 The Florida Times-Union

**Section:** NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL;

**Length:** 1351 words

## **Body**

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BOSTON -- The retired FBI agent walked to the witness stand, still looking the part. Gray suit. Nondescript tie. Silver hair. Eyes straight ahead.

Then came the questions that made him squirm a bit.

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?

Associated Press

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?

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 and sacrificed less powerful thugs in the pursuit of inside information.

While scores of 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 an Oklahoma businessman, according to testimony. That squealer later took a bullet. CLAIM OF IMMUNITY

FBI's relationship with mobsters threatens cases; Judge to decide if it was too cozy

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.

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 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.

**BULGER AND FLEMMI**

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 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.

He and Flemmi were known to authorities as part of the Winter Hill Gang, a motley crew of hoods of Italian and Irish descent.

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

For years, Flemmi and Bulger played cat and mouse games with police. But in the late 1970s, the pressure was not coming from the law, but from other local thugs fighting for territory.

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

In 1978, FBI agent John Connolly -- one of several agents from Bulger's neighborhood -- got a 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 that night.

Gianturco, undercover on a truck hijacking case, had been discovered.

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

**COZY RELATIONSHIP**

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.

FBI's relationship with mobsters threatens cases; Judge to decide if it was too cozy

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. SNITCH TAKEN OUT

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 a Tulsa, Okla., country club in 1981.

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

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 a bar in South Boston. They were shot and killed. MAKING TAPES

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 other agents had enough 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.

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

Again, FBI agents asked a judge for a warrant to plant a wiretap. And once more, they left out one important part: Their tips came from sources 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 the wire taps used against them be thrown out and the men freed.

If the judge had known the truth about Flemmi and Bulger, 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 the wiretaps met this test, defense lawyers say, when the agency had such good sources already on the inside. WHERE ARE THEY 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.

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

He hasn't been seen since.

Flemmi was not so lucky.

FBI's relationship with mobsters threatens cases; Judge to decide if it was too cozy

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

## Graphic

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Photo: (b/w) Mug: Bulger

**Load-Date:** May 19, 1998

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FBI stung by record payout; Agents withheld evidence, let 4 men wrongly go to jail



## **FBI stung by record payout; Agents withheld evidence, let 4 men wrongly go to jail**

The Houston Chronicle

July 27, 2007 Friday

3 STAR EDITION

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**Section:** A; Pg. 3

**Length:** 515 words

**Byline:** DENISE LAVOIE, Associated Press

**Dateline:** BOSTON

### **Body**

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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 1965 murder of Edward "Teddy" Deegan, a small-time thug.

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.

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.

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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 is a fugitive.

FBI stung by record payout; Agents withheld evidence, let 4 men wrongly go to jail

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.

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 as "absurd."

A Boston FBI spokeswoman referred calls to the Department of Justice. Charles Miller, a Justice spokesman, said officials there 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.

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.

Rico, arrested in 2003 on murder and conspiracy charges in the 1981 killing of an Oklahoma businessman, died in state custody in 2004 while awaiting trial.

Attorneys for Condon could not be reached.

## Graphic

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Photos: 1. RESTITUTION: After spending almost 30 years in jail for a murder he didn't commit, Joseph Salvati and grandson Michael learned they would share in a \$101.7 million settlement for the wrongful conviction; 2. FREED: Peter Limone, exonerated in 2001, and his wife, Olympia, also share in the award.

1-2. STEPHAN SAVOIA PHOTOS : ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Load-Date:** July 27, 2007



## *FBI suspected leaks to Mob*

The Boston Herald

December 15, 1997 Monday

ALL EDITIONS

Copyright 1997 Boston Herald Inc.

**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 329 words

**Byline:** By RALPH RANALLI

### **Body**

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South Florida investigators probing the 1982 murder of a Mob-connected Winchester financier were told by Boston FBI agents that they didn't trust their own office to keep sensitive information secret, documents obtained by the Herald show.

According to a Metro-Dade Police Department report on the murder of 45-year-old John "Jack" Callahan, two FBI agents were working with Metro-Dade detectives trying to tie the murder to Callahan's associate with World Jai Alai, a Miami-based sports gambling company.

While discussing World Jai Alai and its security director, former ex-Boston FBI Agent ***H. Paul Rico***, the two agents mentioned that they were "somewhat concerned about possible leaks within their own organization."

The possibility of FBI leaks has appeared several times in the last few years in connection to the bureau's organized crime investigations.

When gangster-informant James "Whitey" Bulger was able to elude capture after being indicted in 1995, there was speculation that he had been tipped off by his old FBI contacts.

That speculation was confirmed this summer by Bulger cohort Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi of Quincy, who in addition to admitting he was also an informant, said in an affidavit that he and Bulger had been leaked word of the impending charges as part of their "continuing relationship" with the FBI.

Another one-time FBI informant, Winter Hill Gang enforcer Edward Brian Halloran, may have been killed because others learned of his affiliation with the bureau.

In fact, the Metro-Dade Police report states that the 1982 Halloran murder (believed to be connected to the Callahan slaying) "most likely" resulted from the fact that "it apparently became public knowledge that Mr. Halloran was informing to the FBI."

Halloran told the FBI that he had been offered a murder contract on a Tulsa, Okla., businessman by Callahan, Bulger and Flemmi.

FBI suspected leaks to Mob

He was cut loose as "unreliable" by the FBI shortly before he was murdered.

**Load-Date:** December 15, 1997

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## *FBI suspected leaks to Mob*

The Boston Herald

December 15, 1997 Sunday

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**Section:** NEWS;

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**Load-Date:** December 15, 1997

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## FBI TAKES HIT IN MOB RULING; JUDGE: BOSTON AGENTS CRIPPLED INVESTIGATIONS TO PROTECT INFORMANTS



**FBI TAKES HIT IN MOB RULING;  
JUDGE: BOSTON AGENTS CRIPPLED INVESTIGATIONS TO PROTECT  
INFORMANTS**

Hartford Courant (Connecticut)

September 16, 1999 Thursday, STATEWIDE

Copyright 1999 The Hartford Courant Company

**Section:** MAIN; Pg. A1**Length:** 1614 words**Byline:** EDMUND MAHONY And LYNNE TUOHY; Courant Staff Writers**Dateline:** BOSTON --**Body**

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A federal judge on Wednesday sharply criticized FBI agents for taking potentially criminal measures -- perhaps even inciting a murder -- in an extraordinary, decadeslong effort to protect the local FBI division's two most notorious informants.

In one instance cited by U.S. District Court Judge Mark L. Wolf in a withering, 661-page decision, FBI agents, aware of the implications of what they were doing, provided information to informants James "Whitey" Bulger and Steven "The Rifleman" Flemmi that, the judge concluded, probably led to the slaying of another gangster who was informing on them.

The wide-ranging decision, which touched on 30 years of sensational crimes in and around Boston, was technically a ruling on pretrial motions filed by Flemmi and other gangsters in a 1995 racketeering case. But Wolf went to great lengths to condemn certain FBI agents in Boston for entering into a tainted relationship with the two informants that crippled investigations around the country into crimes ranging from mob assassinations to the criminal penetration of the jai alai industry.

He said that, for years, FBI agents repeatedly lied and stonewalled other investigators who were trying to build cases against Bulger and Flemmi, who were suspects in numerous murders. In some cases, he said, certain agents provided the two with information they used to thwart multimillion dollar investigations. The reason: Wolf said the FBI was as interested in protecting individual careers and shielding the bureau from embarrassment as it was in protecting the flow of sensitive criminal intelligence Bulger and Flemmi were providing.

"From the FBI's perspective, exposure of its agents' conduct had the foreseeable potential to reveal an extraordinary effort to protect Bulger and Flemmi that involved serious impropriety, if not illegality," Wolf wrote.

## FBI TAKES HIT IN MOB RULING; JUDGE: BOSTON AGENTS CRIPPLED INVESTIGATIONS TO PROTECT INFORMANTS

Wolf's decision characterizes Bulger and Flemmi as valuable confidential mob informants since the 1960s. But he wrote that the two were known to be violent felons and probably murderers. Under U.S. Department of Justice guidelines, the two should have been dropped as informants when they became murder suspects.

"The evidence in this case indicates that the Attorney General's Guidelines were routinely ignored with regard to Top Echelon informants generally," Wolf wrote. "As the government acknowledges, it is clear that they were regularly disregarded concerning Bulger and Flemmi."

In the ruling, Wolf denied a motion by Flemmi -- at least for the short term -- that he should be spared prosecution on the racketeering indictment because he was such a valued, Top Echelon FBI informant that FBI agents had promised to protect him from prosecution for crimes short of murder.

Wolf concluded that Flemmi was promised protection, but not outright immunity from prosecution by the FBI. As a result, the judge threw out some of the evidence against Flemmi, but stopped short of an outright dismissal of the indictment. He said he could dismiss the rest of the evidence after additional hearings.

In what can be called the closest thing to a victory for prosecutors in Wolf's decision, he rejected a motion by one of Flemmi's co-defendants that a secretly made FBI recording of a Mafia initiation ceremony in 1989 be suppressed as evidence.

Wolf's decision peels back a layer of law enforcement secrecy from a case that has frustrated police agencies across the country for two decades: an investigation of murder and corruption in the jai alai industry.

The judge writes that Bulger and Flemmi have been the two principal suspects in three jai alai-related murders, including the 1981 assassination of Roger Wheeler Sr., the owner of World Jai Alai. Wheeler's company operated frontons in Hartford and Florida.

Wolf said agents in Boston, obsessed with protecting their prized informants, withheld information from colleagues in the FBI, as well as police in Oklahoma and Florida who from the start suspected Bulger and Flemmi in the jai alai cases.

Wolf's decision had been anticipated for months in New England legal circles. It is expected to provide more ammunition for FBI critics who have been lining up since disclosures were made earlier this summer that the bureau may have tried to cover up evidence that it fired incendiary weapons at the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas.

Bulger, Flemmi and three other gangsters were indicted on racketeering charges in 1995. The prosecution has been tied up in complicated pretrial maneuverings since then, including nearly a year of hearings in 1998 in which every week seemed to deliver another bombshell disclosure about FBI misbehavior.

Two other defendants in the case -- Patriarca crime family boss Francis "Cadillac Frank" Salemme and Patriarca soldier Robert DeLuca -- have motions pending and could benefit from Wolf's conclusions that Flemmi's value as an informant was tainted by his criminal behavior.

The final defendant under indictment in the case, John Martorano, has been placed in protective custody after agreeing to become a prosecution witness against Bulger and Flemmi. Martorano is said to be so infuriated that his erstwhile criminal partners were informing on him for years that he decided to retaliate.

Martorano last week signed an agreement with prosecutors in which he admits committing 20 murders; many, he says, on the instructions of Bulger and Flemmi. Even if Wolf dismisses more evidence against Flemmi, Martorano's information could put Flemmi in prison for life.

Defense lawyers reacted gleefully to Wolf's ruling at a daylong round of press conferences.



## FBI TAKES HIT IN MOB RULING; JUDGE: BOSTON AGENTS CRIPPLED INVESTIGATIONS TO PROTECT INFORMANTS

"You couldn't be human and not be disgusted at the level of treachery Flemmi and Bulger engaged in," said John Mitchell of Manhattan, one of the lawyers representing Salemme. Of the FBI, he said, "You don't get in bed with known murderers to make gambling cases. Forget Waco. Forget Ruby Ridge. It's all right here. We have an agency that's an outrage."

Boston lawyer Anthony M. Cardinale, who also represents Salemme, predicted Wolf's ruling would bolster Salemme's argument that the charges against him should be dismissed on grounds of outrageous government conduct.

"This is much more than just a little reprimand," Cardinale said.

Massachusetts U.S. Attorney Donald K. Stern issued a terse statement applauding the ruling's denial -- at least temporarily -- of the motions to dismiss and lamented the need for additional hearings.

Wolf referred extensively to the jai alai investigation, and his findings illustrate how FBI agents, whose careers flourished in direct proportion to the information they were getting from Bulger and Flemmi, fudged reports, withheld information or otherwise lied to protect the two informants.

Some of the reports written by FBI agents about Flemmi's exploits as an informant were patently transparent, including one written in 1966 by H. Paul Rico, the agent who first recruited Flemmi to help the bureau's fight against the Italian Mafia.

In the report, Rico describes questioning Flemmi about the murder of one Cornelius Hughes. Flemmi had complained that Hughes wanted to kill him.

Flemmi "was asked if he had any idea of who committed the murder, and he advised that he had an excellent idea who committed the murder but it would be better if he did not say anything about the murder."

The jai alai murders took place at a time when Rico had retired from the FBI and had been hired as a top executive at World Jai Alai. During the same period, Bulger and Flemmi were providing stunning information in a Mafia prosecution that was the top priority of the FBI's Boston division. Their Winter Hill gang was suspected by police in Connecticut and three other states of skimming money from World Jai Alai.

Wheeler was killed after he began investigating such skimming. Also killed was John B. Callahan, a Winter Hill associate who was once president of World Jai Alai.

Wolf's most startling disclosures about jai alai concern the murder of Edward Brian Halloran, a disaffected Winter Hill leg-breaker who was trying to become an FBI informant himself and join the federal witness protection program.

Not knowing that Bulger and Flemmi were already prized informants, he approached the FBI in Boston and implicated them in Wheeler's murder.

Wolf said John Morris, then a supervisor of the Boston division's organized crime squad, informed John Connolly, an agent in the FBI's Boston office, of Halloran's charges.

"Morris expected that Connolly would tell Bulger and Flemmi," Wolf wrote. "Connolly told Bulger and Flemmi about Halloran's cooperation and claims."

In early May 1982, the FBI denied Halloran's request to join the witness protection program and turned him out on the street. On May 11, he was gunned down outside a South Boston restaurant.

"The next time that Morris asked Connolly to tip Flemmi off to an investigation," Wolf wrote, "he added that he 'did not want another Halloran' -- meaning another murder."

Wolf said that, during the same period, Bulger and Flemmi passed a message to Morris that they "really liked him" and hoped that Morris would let them know if he ever needed anything.

FBI TAKES HIT IN MOB RULING; JUDGE: BOSTON AGENTS CRIPPLED INVESTIGATIONS TO PROTECT INFORMANTS

Morris took them up on the offer, the judge wrote. Several weeks after Halloran's death, the married Morris was attending a training session in Georgia and wanted his girlfriend, his secretary at the FBI, to join him. He also wanted Bulger and Flemmi to pay for her plane ticket.

Wolf said Connolly delivered \$1,000 provided by the two informants to the secretary at the FBI's offices.

It was the first of \$7,000 in payments Morris took from Bulger and Flemmi, according to evidence.

**Load-Date:** September 16, 1999

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FBI urged Hub return, Flemmi says; Prosecutor insists informant 'made a conscious choice'



**FBI urged Hub return, Flemmi says;  
Prosecutor insists informant 'made a conscious choice'**

The Boston Globe

August 26, 1998, Wednesday, City Edition

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**Section:** METRO/REGION; Pg. B1

**Length:** 751 words

**Byline:** By Patricia Nealon, Globe Staff

## **Body**

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To hear mobster/informant Stephen Flemmi tell it from the witness stand, he just wanted to go straight. But the FBI wouldn't let him.

He liked Canada, his home on the lam, and his job at a color-printing company. By 1974, five years after he was charged with blowing up a lawyer's car in Boston, Flemmi had applied for a Canadian passport and considered secretly sending for his family.

So when he talked to his former FBI handler, **H. Paul Rico**, that spring, Flemmi said, he was unhappy when Rico urged him to return home.

"I wasn't ready to come back," Flemmi testified yesterday in federal court, his fourth day on the witness stand. "He convinced me to come back."

Within months of returning to Boston in May 1974, Flemmi said the car-bombing charge was dropped - evidence, he claims, of an immunity deal he had cut with Rico. Back in town, Flemmi claims, he was coaxed back into a life of crime so that he could position himself to feed the bureau information on his Mafia associates.

"I fell back into the same pattern more or less," Flemmi testified. "But it was more at the insistence of the government."

The government had a different view.

Through a series of questions, most of which Flemmi refused to answer, Assistant US Attorney Fred M. Wyshak Jr. asked about the owner of the garage where Flemmi ran his auto sales business: Winter Hill gangster Howard Winter.

Wyshak asked about Flemmi's criminal associates, who had taken over his loan-sharking business while he was in Canada. The prosecutor argued that the car-bombing case was dropped not because Rico had intervened, but because a key witness had testified in the trial of Francis Salemme that Flemmi was not at the scene of the bombing.

FBI urged Hub return, Flemmi says; Prosecutor insists informant 'made a conscious choice'

Salemme was convicted and two others were acquitted. Charges against Flemmi eventually were dropped. Flemmi admitted following the bombing case in the Boston newspapers while in Montreal.

"You made a conscious choice to be a criminal again," Wyshak asserted, "and you made a conscious choice to be an FBI informant." Under Wyshak's questioning, Flemmi acknowledged that he never told his longtime FBI contact, agent John Connolly, that he wanted to cut his ties to the bureau.

But Flemmi, who funneled information to the FBI over the course of 30 years, insisted he wanted to quit. "I felt it was distasteful. I wanted to get out."

Asked which was more distasteful, being a criminal or being an informant, Flemmi replied: "If I was asked, I'd say informant."

Flemmi is trying to convince US District Judge Mark L. Wolf that a series of FBI agents and supervisors promised him and his criminal partner, fugitive James "Whitey" Bulger, immunity from prosecution in exchange for information on the Mafia that they provided the bureau. Flemmi contends he and Bulger were given permission to commit any crime short of murder.

If he killed someone, "all bets would be off," said Flemmi, who is charged in a 1995 indictment with killing four men and has been suspected in several other murders. But he said he did not believe that his involvement in murders would negate the immunity deal covering all other crimes.

The government denies that any valid immunity agreement exists. If such promises were made, they amounted to FBI misconduct and the agreement is not legally defensible.

In his fourth day of cross-examination by federal prosecutors, Flemmi said he did not believe his FBI handlers acted improperly or illegally when they tipped him off to investigations or indictments or scared away merchants who complained to the FBI about his company's strong-arm approach to installing vending machines.

"That may be the way government works," Flemmi said. "That may be standard procedure for them. The law works in mysterious ways. . . . Whatever they want to do, they can do it and get away with it."

Asked what authority Connolly or other agents had to promise him immunity from prosecution, Flemmi said, "He's the US government. When I look at him, I'm looking at the US government."

Later, Flemmi dismissed Wyshak's suggestion that the "protection" Flemmi received from his FBI handlers amounted to obstruction of justice.

"I believe I was performing a service for the US government in my role as an informant," he said.

Wyshak angrily retorted, "Were you providing a service to the US government by controlling the flow of drugs into South Boston?"

"I'll assert the Fifth on that," replied Flemmi. "I can understand why you're getting mad, too."

**Load-Date:** August 26, 1998



## *FBI used Whitey, despite his ties to 3 murders*

The Boston Herald

July 7, 1997 Monday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 685 words

**Byline:** By Ralph Ranalli

### **Body**

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The FBI kept using South Boston crime boss James "Whitey" Bulger and henchman Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi as informants for years even though they were never cleared of possible involvement in three murders, the Herald has learned.

Sources familiar with the FBI's own probe of the murders say Bulger and Flemmi are still considered suspects in the unsolved slayings of an Oklahoma businessman, a shady Boston financier and a fringe underworld associate during a 15-month span in 1981 and 1982.

"It was more a matter that there wasn't enough evidence to bring charges," one source said.

The accounts by sources who probed the murders appear to raise more troubling questions about whether the FBI ignored its own informant guidelines during its decades-long relationships with prize sources Bulger, 67, and Flemmi, 63.

The bureau's dream moles had made possible the FBI's greatest success to date against the Mafia, the secret bugging of Boston underboss Jerry Angiulo's North End headquarters in 1981.

Before they were indicted for racketeering in 1995, they helped the FBI bag an even bigger prize - the first-ever bugging of a La Cosa Nostra induction ceremony in Medford.

The 1989 Medford tapes were the first irrefutable proof of the American Mafia's existence in a half-century of anti-Mob efforts.

Then in a series of unprecedented court hearings last month, the Justice Department and the FBI admitted that Bulger and Flemmi were both longtime informants, but insisted they were never authorized to commit crimes beyond illegal gambling.

Flemmi, however, countered with a blockbuster affidavit charging that he and Bulger had received carte blanche from an FBI organized crime unit supervisor to commit any crime they wanted as long as they didn't "clip anyone."

## FBI used Whitey, despite his ties to 3 murders

But some sources familiar with the murders of Tulsa, Okla. businessman Roger Wheeler, Brian Halloran and Boston financier John Callahan still believe the two Winter Hill Gang members couldn't even live within guidelines that loose.

The Herald reported last year the underworld associate, Halloran, was also a full-fledged FBI informant, who even wore a concealed "wire" at the bureau's request.

According to FBI internal reports, Halloran told the bureau that Bulger, Flemmi and Callahan had offered him a murder contract on Telex Corp. owner Wheeler.

Halloran told his FBI handlers that he turned down the hit, but that the 55-year-old Wheeler was murdered anyway in May 1981.

Halloran was eventually dropped by the FBI as an informant because he was deemed "unreliable," sources say. He was gunned down in South Boston on May 11, 1982.

The 45-year-old Callahan, the only other man privy to the incriminating conversation Halloran described, was found dead in the trunk of his Cadillac in August 1982.

According to sources close to the FBI's own probe of the slayings, Bulger and Flemmi were never cleared of involvement in the murders.

Under FBI guidelines on handling informants, just the possibility that an informant may be involved with a violent crime is supposed to trigger an extensive review process.

Answers to the questions raised by these source accounts may come during the misconduct hearing scheduled for August, when more than two dozen current and former federal prosecutors, FBI supervisors and agents are expected to be called as witnesses.

One key figure in the hearings - at least as far as the Halloran-Wheeler questions are concerned - could be retired FBI agent **H. Paul Rico**.

Sources have identified Rico as the agent principally responsible for recruiting Bulger and Flemmi. In fact, according to law enforcement sources, Rico also unsuccessfully tried to recruit current Mob boss Francis P. "Cadillac Frank" Salemme.

Rico left the FBI in 1975 to become chief of security for World Jai Alai, a Miami-based sports gambling business.

Rico was hired by Callahan, who was then World Jai Alai's president. Wheeler, the founder of communications giant Telex Corp., was the owner of World Jai Alai at the time of his death.

Rico, who is retired, did not return calls seeking comment.

**Load-Date:** July 7, 1997

## FBI VICTIM GETS AN APOLOGY

**FBI VICTIM GETS AN APOLOGY**

The Columbian (Vancouver, WA.)

May 4, 2001, Friday

Copyright 2001 The Columbian Publishing Co.

**Section:** World/Nation; Pg. a8**Length:** 316 words**Byline:** KEN MAGUIRE, Associated Press writer**Body**

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WASHINGTON -- 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.

Members of the House Government Reform Committee told Salvati and his wife, Marie, that 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.

Joseph Salvati, 68, and Peter 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, who testified that he believes the FBI coached Joseph "The Animal" Barboza the prosecution's key witness on how to lie on the witness stand.

Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Conn., told Salvati he was "profoundly sorry" for what happened.

There was no such regret, however, from former FBI Agent **H. Paul Rico**.

He Salvati's ordeal would "be a nice movie."

## FBI VICTIM GETS AN APOLOGY

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."

## Graphic

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Agency ruined his life: Joseph Salvati, a man who spent decades behind bars after being wrongfully convicted, is sworn in at a hearing on Capitol Hill on Thursday.

**Load-Date:** May 4, 2001

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## *Federal Appeals Court Asked To Block Prosecution Of Federal Judge*

The Associated Press

June 28, 1982, Monday, AM cycle

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**Section:** Domestic News

**Length:** 420 words

**Byline:** By SCOTT SHEPARD, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** ATLANTA

### **Body**

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Attorneys for a federal judge charged with conspiracy to fix a case argued Monday that no federal judge can be prosecuted for any crime as long as he remains in office.

A federal judge must resign or be impeached by Congress if he is to be prosecuted, attorney Terence J. Anderson told a three-judge panel of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Anderson represents U.S. District Judge Alcee Hastings of Miami. Hastings was indicted by a federal grand jury in Miami last December on charges of conspiracy to commit bribery and obstruction of justice.

When Hastings was appointed to the federal bench in 1979, he became Florida's first black federal judge.

Indicted with him was a close friend, Washington, D.C., attorney William A. Borders Jr., former president of the mostly black National Bar Association.

To allow the prosecution of a sitting federal judge would have a "chilling effect" on the entire federal judiciary, Anderson argued.

The federal judiciary must not be subjected to the "whims of federal prosecutors," he said. Judges must remain "secure in their offices" \_ free from coercion and "fear that one wrong step will destroy their career," Anderson added.

But Robert Richter, a prosecutor with the U.S. Department of Justice, argued that the U.S. Constitution does not guarantee federal judges immunity from criminal prosecution.

"Judges always have been and always will be subject to criminal laws without having to be removed from office first," Richter told the court.

"All citizens are subject to the wrath of prosecutors," he said. At Borders' trial, government prosecutors contended that Borders solicited a bribe from an undercover federal agent.

## Federal Appeals Court Asked To Block Prosecution Of Federal Judge

The agent, **H. Paul Rico**, said there was a deal that called for Hastings to reduce to probation the three-year sentences he had given two convicted racketeers, Fort Lauderdale brothers Frank and Thomas Romano, once Borders had been given \$150,000.

Borders received \$25,000 in "up-front" money, the government said.

In addition, the government said, Hastings ordered the return of \$845,000 in forfeited assets to the Romanos.

The government says the sentences were not reduced only because it moved in and arrested Borders.

Last month Borders, a member of the finance committee of former President Carter's re-election campaign, was given the maximum penalty of four five-year prison terms and fined \$35,000. He is appealing the verdict.

Lawyers for Hastings have indicated they will take their case to the U.S. Supreme Court if the appeals court turns them down.

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## FEDERAL JUDGE DEFENDS FBI DEAL WITH HIT MAN

Hartford Courant (Connecticut)

February 15, 2002 Friday, 7 SPORTS FINAL

Copyright 2002 The Hartford Courant Company

**Section:** MAIN; Pg. A23

**Length:** 911 words

**Byline:** By EDMUND H. MAHONY; Courant Staff Writer

**Dateline:** WASHINGTON --

### **Body**

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A federal judge gamely defended a 30-year-old government deal with a mob hit man Thursday, but faltered when pressed with the question that has consumed a congressional committee: How was the hit man allowed to send innocent men to prison?

U.S. District Judge Edward F. Harrington, accustomed to the lofty insulation of the federal bench in Boston, suffered three and a half hours of hostile questions as a witness before Congress. He was interrogated about his role in developing one of the most notorious cooperating federal witnesses ever, Joseph "The Animal" Barboza.

In the course of its investigation of abuses in the FBI informant program, the House Committee on Government Reform has accumulated evidence suggesting that Barboza, the government's first-ever protected witness, helped convict innocent men by giving false testimony. What the committee was trying to learn through its pointed questioning of Harrington -- a former federal organized crime prosecutor -- is whether FBI agents and prosecutors allowed Barboza to lie and, if so, why.

Harrington, who worked closely with Barboza in the 1960s and '70s, was just as pointed in denying that lies were told and in defending the informant program run in Boston by the FBI and Department of Justice. But committee members, inquiring about obscure events that took place three decades ago, clearly weren't accepting his explanations.

"It stretches credulity, Judge," Committee Chairman Dan Burton, an Indiana Republican, complained after one hot exchange about Barboza.

Harrington wasn't supposed to absorb so much of the committee's attention Thursday. Another scheduled witness, **H. Paul Rico** -- a former Harrington colleague and decorated FBI mob investigator -- unexpectedly and uncharacteristically avoided taking any questions by invoking his Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination.

"I am accompanied by counsel today," a frail-looking Rico mumbled. "On advice of counsel it is my intent to invoke my Fifth Amendment right to remain silent in response to every question asked by the committee today."

## FEDERAL JUDGE DEFENDS FBI DEAL WITH HIT MAN

Rico, who with his FBI partner Dennis Condon recruited Barboza as a cooperating witness in 1967, was remarkably subdued compared to his appearance before the committee in May. He then testified against the advice of his lawyer and without heed to warnings from committee Counsel James Wilson that his answers could get him into legal difficulty.

"What are you going to do to me, Mr. Wilson?" Rico asked during a recess in May, poking Wilson in the chest with an index finger. "I'm 79 years old. What the ... are you going to do to me?"

During that testimony in May, Rico snapped, "What do you want, tears?" when informed that Barboza's testimony had sent an innocent Boston man named Joseph Salvati to prison for 30 years for the murder of a hoodlum named Edward "Teddy" Deegan.

It was the committee's turn to prod Rico on Thursday.

"Don't you think it looks like you're hiding something?" Rep. Robert Barr, R-Ga., asked. Rico simply invoked the Fifth Amendment again. Barr replied: "I hope you sleep well at night."

The committee's thick sheaf of briefing papers suggested that Rico would have been sharply questioned had he testified Thursday. Instead, Harrington, who worked closely with Rico and Condon, was asked about the same subjects: the recruitment of Barboza, Barboza's role in convicting Salvati and the lengths to which the Justice Department went to defend Barboza after he killed a California man while in the witness protection program. The man was one of Barboza's 27 known victims.

Some law enforcement experts in New England believe that rogue FBI agents used Barboza as part of a cynical plan to imprison suspected gangsters the government could not convict legitimately.

Harrington acknowledged that in April and May of 1967, he studied secret FBI evidence that showed Barboza and a partner were behind the Deegan murder and actually obtained permission to kill Deegan from New England mob boss Raymond L.S. Patriarca. That evidence came from a secret, illegal microphone the FBI planted in Patriarca's office.

The information from the microphone could have been used by Salvati to refute the murder charge later lodged against him for Deegan's murder. What's more, it could have been used to charge Patriarca, who was being prosecuted by Harrington in an unrelated case, with Deegan's murder.

However, Harrington said Thursday he never disclosed the microphone evidence to Salvati's defense lawyer. By the time Salvati was indicted for the Deegan murder five months later, Harrington said, he had forgotten about the evidence in the press of other matters. Salvati was convicted.

Burton said he found Harrington's claim of memory lapse incredible because in 1967, the prosecution of mob boss Patriarca was of national importance. Burton said a prosecutor like Harrington would have jumped at a chance to charge Patriarca with an additional murder. Burton implied that the government hid the microphone evidence as a favor to Barboza.

"For you to say you didn't remember it just stretches my imagination," Burton said. "That would have stuck in your memory like a hot iron because you were after Patriarca."

Harrington repeatedly denied Burton's version of events. He also said federal efforts to defend Barboza from the murder charge in California were necessary to recruit other criminals to the fledgling witness protection program.

## Graphic

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FEDERAL JUDGE DEFENDS FBI DEAL WITH HIT MAN

PHOTO: (B&W), ASSOCIATED PRESS; PHOTO: FEDERAL JUDGE Edward J. Harrington, a former prosecutor, testified Thursday before the House Government Reform Committee.

**Load-Date:** February 15, 2002

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## [Federal judge orders government to pay \\$102M for wrongful convictions in Boston mob murder](#)

The Newton Kansan (Kansas)

July 27, 2007 Friday

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**Section:** TOPSTORIES

**Length:** 861 words

### **Body**

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BOSTON (AP) - 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 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.

## Federal judge orders government to pay \$102M for wrongful convictions in Boston 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 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.

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.

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.

**Load-Date:** August 7, 2014

Federal judge orders government to pay \$102M for wrongful convictions in Boston mob murder

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## [Federal judge orders government to pay \\$102M for wrongful convictions in Boston mob murder](#)

The Associated Press

July 26, 2007 Thursday 10:27 PM GMT

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**Section:** DOMESTIC NEWS

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**Byline:** By DENISE LAVOIE, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** BOSTON

### **Body**

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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.

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

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Federal judge orders government to pay \$102M for wrongful convictions in Boston mob murder

Associated Press writer Nancy Rabinowitz contributed to this report.

**Load-Date:** July 27, 2007

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## [Federal judge orders U.S. government to pay \\$102 million for wrongful convictions in Boston mob murder](#)

Associated Press International

July 27, 2007 Friday 12:04 AM GMT

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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**Byline:** By DENISE LAVOIE, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** BOSTON

### **Body**

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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 (euro74.15 million) award is the largest ever in a wrongful-conviction case.

Gertner awarded \$26 million (euro18.95 million) to Limone, \$29 million (euro21.13 million) to Salvati, \$13 million (euro9.47 million) to Tameleo's estate and \$28 million (euro20.41 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 (euro730,000). The men's 10 children were each awarded \$250,000 (euro182,190).

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 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.

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, Oklahoma, businessman. Rico died in state custody in 2004 while awaiting trial.

Attorneys 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.

Federal judge orders U.S. government to pay \$102 million for wrongful convictions in Boston mob murder

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

Associated Press writer Nancy Rabinowitz contributed to this report.

**Load-Date:** July 27, 2007

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End of Document



## [Federal Judge Pleads with Senate to Throw Out Impeachment Charges](#)

The Associated Press

March 15, 1989, Wednesday, AM cycle

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**Section:** Washington Dateline

**Length:** 649 words

**Byline:** By MIKE ROBINSON, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** WASHINGTON

### **Body**

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A federal judge, making a personal plea during an extraordinary appearance on the Senate floor, urged senators Wednesday to throw out impeachment charges that he plotted to get a \$150,000 bribe and lied about it at his trial.

Saying a jury has acquitted him, District Judge Alcee L. Hastings of Miami told senators: "The jury system is the cornerstone of justice in America and to tamper with it lightly is to send a message that is both pernicious and dangerous."

Many senators sat in silence listening to the 52-year-old first black federal judge in Florida history as he made his appeal.

The proceeding was held only to hear the plea by Hastings for dismissal of 16 of the 17 articles of impeachment approved Aug. 3 by a House vote of 413-3.

The Senate planned to wait until Thursday to rule on Hastings' motion to dismiss. Evidence in the case is set to be heard later by a special Senate committee.

Hastings called on the senators to dismiss charges that he conspired with attorney William Borders to obtain a payoff and then committed perjury at his 1983 trial, which ended in acquittal.

He was not seeking dismissal of the charge that he disclosed secret wiretap information and thus torpedoed a federal investigation. But he did deny that he had done so.

Standing in the well of the Senate, Hastings recalled in a firm voice how he had fought the charges against him at his trial.

"I proclaimed my innocence then as I have from the outset and as I do now," Hastings said. He said that when the jury delivered its verdict after 17 hours of deliberations each of the jurors stood and said, "Not guilty."

"Five years of postacquittal investigation has produced no new evidence that wasn't available to the prosecution," Hastings said.

## Federal Judge Pleads with Senate to Throw Out Impeachment Charges

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jack Brooks, D-Texas, urged the Senate to proceed with the impeachment, declaring that Hastings had "conspired to sell his public office for personal gain."

"He subverted our judicial process by repeatedly lying under oath," Brooks told the Senate. "Today, Judge Hastings asks you to ignore his corrupt conduct. ... In doing so, he asks you to rely on a tainted jury verdict."

Brooks also read a statement from absent Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., a leading House proponent of civil rights on the House Judiciary Committee.

The Conyers statement said the "evidence established that Alcee Hastings ... did in fact commit high crimes and misdemeanors which justify his impeachment."

"We did not wage the civil rights struggle simply to replace one form of judicial corruption with another," the Conyers statement said.

The proceeding is not the same as a criminal trial in a court. If convicted, Hastings would remain free but would be removed from the bench and denied his \$89,500 annual salary.

According to the charges, Hastings plotted with Borders in 1981 to obtain a \$150,000 bribe from two brothers, Frank and Tom Romano, convicted of skimming from a Teamsters pension fund loan.

Prosecutors say that in return, Hastings was planning to wipe out three-year sentences he had imposed on the brothers. He also allegedly was prepared to restore more than \$1 million forfeited by the brothers.

Borders, a prominent Washington criminal lawyer, was convicted in a separate trial and sentenced to five years in prison. His appeals failed.

The Romano brothers, both of whom have since died, never took part in the alleged bribe conspiracy. They were offered a chance to do so and made it clear that they were uninterested. Their refusal complicated matters for the FBI, which already had Borders under investigation.

To keep the investigation alive, retired FBI agent **H. Paul Rico** posed as Frank Romano and agreed to pay the bribe, prosecutors say.

Borders was arrested Oct. 9, 1981, as he drove out of a suburban Virginia parking lot with Rico and with a garment bag packed with \$125,000 in cash.

FBI agents arrested Hastings in Miami that night.





## *Fed hypocrites show no mercy to Hub youths*

The Boston Herald

September 21, 2003 Sunday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 602 words

**Byline:** By PETER GELZINIS

### **Body**

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As far as criminal enterprises go, are we REALLY supposed to believe that the Esmond Street Crew of Dorchester was ever in the same league with the Bulger Group of South Boston?

Now, Darryl Green, 26, and Branden Morris, 20, might well be a couple of stone killers. But are they any more deserving of the death penalty than, say, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi? Or his fugitive sidekick, James "Whitey" Bulger?

At 69, Stevie was killing people excuse me, ALLEGEDLY killing people, long before these two black kids were born.

Yet, on Friday, per order of U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft, state charges against Green, Morris and three buddies were ratcheted up to a federal offense worthy of the death penalty.

Obviously, hypocrisy doesn't seem to hinder Ashcroft's zeal to bring the death penalty to every state.

In three weeks, at the same courthouse where two gangbangers were tuned up for lethal injections, Flemmi will finally stand trial in the mother of all local racketeering cases.

In grisly detail, we will hear how Flemmi's former girlfriend, Debra Davis, was strangled in Stevie's mother's house - which happened to be 10 feet away from Billy Bulger's house.

There should be a vivid account of how both Whitey and Stevie allegedly conspired to strangle Flemmi's own stepdaughter, Debbie Hussey. Throughout the fall, witnesses will describe how Stevie and Whitey used torture and murder to solidify the criminal fortunes of the Bulger Group.

The Flemmi trial has the potential to become a virtual encyclopedia of organized crime in Boston over the last 40 years. But one thing it will never become is a death penalty case. Not here, anyway.

## Fed hypocrites show no mercy to Hub youths

And we all know why. For most of Flemmi's gangster life he was in bed with the federal government. He was the darling of at least two loathsome FBI agents: **H. Paul Rico** and John "Zip" Connolly, now serving 10 years as an FBI racketeer.

Now, state courts in Oklahoma and Florida have a powerful urge to put Flemmi to death for two respective murders. But look for the same federal government, so eager to execute two Esmond Street boys, to intercede on Flemmi's behalf by helping him to broker a deal allowing him to die in prison.

Friday, as Green and Morris were being arraigned on federal RICO charges up on the seventh floor, some 250 people waded through 38 pages of questions on the second floor. Their answers might put them on a jury that will decide the fate of admitted killer Gary Lee Sampson. In the end, the FBI's bumbling role in this case might well be dismissed. But can it be overlooked?

An FBI clerk went to jail for blowing off the phone call Sampson made to the Boston office, BEFORE he went on to kill three people. Could that phone call have changed the fates of Jonathan Rizzo, Philip McCloskey and Robert "Eli" Whitney? The cruel truth is we will never really know.

By stepping in to seize control of a case Suffolk County DA Dan Conley's investigators helped to build, the feds only undercut the credibility of his office in the neighborhoods where it counts the most, Conley said.

"We're asking people to support us, to give us information, to trust us," Conley said yesterday. "We're down there every single day, trying to build bridges to the ministers, the crime watch groups, community activists. None of these folks want to see these kids (Green and Morris) put to death. Once they realize we have no control in these matters, then our word means nothing."

And it's those bonds forged with the community, Conley pointed out, that have helped reduce violent street crime. Not the death penalty.

**Load-Date:** September 21, 2003



## [Feds allegedly helped hit man beat slay rap](#)

The Boston Herald

July 28, 2001 Saturday

ALL EDITIONS

Copyright 2001 Boston Herald Inc.

**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 581 words

**Byline:** By J. M. LAWRENCE

### **Body**

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Congressional investigators believe federal authorities in Boston helped Mob turncoat Joseph "The Animal" Barboza fight a 1970 murder rap to buy his silence and keep four men in prison for a murder they didn't commit, sources said.

"It's a sad story because the simple truth is bad things happened and nobody stepped up to the plate to fix the bad thing," said a House Government Reform Committee source.

Now digging up records in San Francisco, where Barboza killed a man while in the Witness Protection Program, the committee is moving ahead with its probe into federal corruption in Boston law enforcement in years past.

After Barboza killed a San Francisco thug over stolen bonds, former Boston FBI agents ***H. Paul Rico*** and Dennis Condon, as well as the federal head of the Organized Crime Strike Force, Edward F. Harrington, interceded on the hit man's behalf with California authorities, the committee found. Harrington, now a federal judge, may be called to testify before Congress this fall.

Condon, who missed a May date with Congress, citing illness, will be called again, sources said.

In May, Rico gave stunning testimony to the committee defending himself and offering no sympathy for the four innocent men who languished in prison for decades.

According to committee staff, Congress wants to hear why the government continued to protect Barboza. He remained in the Witness Protection Program even after shooting Ricky Clay Wilson and was suspected of killing at least three more people.

Lawyers for Peter J. Limone, who spent 33 years in prison for the murder of low-level hoodlum Teddy Deegan before a judge vacated his conviction in February, say they know why.

"They knowingly conspired with Barboza in his use of perjured testimony to secure the guilty convictions of Peter Limone, Henry Tameleo and Louis Greco, which resulted in these men receiving the death penalty for something

Feds allegedly helped hit man beat slay rap

they had nothing to do with," said attorney William T. Koski, who last week filed a \$ 325 million civil claim against the FBI.

Barboza was the government's sole witness to Deegan's murder.

FBI reports from the 1960s uncovered by a Justice Department Task Force last fall show Barboza perjured himself to protect his best friend and fellow hit man Vincent J. "The Bear" Flemmi, who also was an FBI informant.

But Vincent Flemmi later confessed his role in the Deegan crime to his attorney, Joseph J. Balliro Sr., and said Limone, Tameleo, Greco and another wrongly convicted man, Joseph Salvati, were not involved.

Committee investigators theorize that the government wanted the men's convictions in an all-out war on the mafia ordered by then-FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover.

Salvati, who drew Barboza's ire over an unpaid gambling debt and spent 30 years in prison, was merely seen as "collateral damage," according to one committee source.

Barboza recanted in July 1970 to his attorney F. Lee Bailey, the lawyer said in a sworn affidavit many years after Barboza died.

The DA in California charged Barboza with first-degree murder but Barboza was later allowed to plead to second-degree murder and spent four years in prison.

"Behind the scenes, Teddy Harrington was going out there talking to Barboza," another source familiar with the case said. "Why did the FBI and the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Justice Department go out there?"

Harrington, 67, could not be reached for comment.

Photo Caption: BARBOZA: Killed man while in Witness Protection Program.

**Load-Date:** July 28, 2001



## *Feds argue Wheeler kin too late with damage suit*

The Boston Herald  
June 8, 2002 Saturday  
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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 468 words

**Byline:** By J.M. LAWRENCE

### **Body**

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Their millionaire father was executed at his golf course by Boston gangsters working as informants for the FBI, but now the Justice Department says the Wheeler family and other victims of James "Whitey" Bulger's gang should get nothing for their losses.

In documents released yesterday in federal court, Justice Department attorneys asked U.S. District Judge Reginald C. Lindsay to throw out the Wheelers' case against the FBI for filing the \$ 860 million lawsuit too late. Opting once again to use a "statute of limitations defense" in a Bulger-era civil suit against the government, DOJ argues the clock started ticking four years ago.

That's when disgraced former FBI supervisor John Morris first told a federal judge about informant Bulger's connection to Roger Wheeler's 1981 murder. The two-year window to sue the government then slammed shut in 2000, the lawyers claim. DOJ attorneys submitted Roger's son David Wheeler's May 1998 interview with "60 Minutes," along with a pile of newspaper clips and Tulsa TV news reports, as proof the family knew they had a claim and missed their shot.

"I can understand them bringing these defenses in a technical case," said the Wheeler's outraged attorney Frank A. Libby Jr. "But this isn't every case." Libby called the DOJ move a "tactical decision made across the board" in the collection of suits over informants Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi.

The legal move heaped more agony on Wheeler's widow and children, according to their attorney, but came as little surprise to a family who believe their own government has spent 20 years protecting their father's killers.

"The family is very frustrated as a group," David Wheeler said in an earlier interview. "We have laws and we're taught to obey laws and if someone doesn't, well, the cops are there to get them. But in this case, the cops were there to help him out."

Compounding the family's grief is mounting evidence that retired Boston FBI agent ***H. Paul Rico*** may have played a direct role in Wheeler's murder. Rico was director of security for Wheeler's company, World Jai Alai.

### Feds argue Wheeler kin too late with damage suit

During the corruption trial last month of Bulger's handler ex-agent John J. Connolly, Bulger gang hit man John Martorano testified that Rico provided the list of Wheeler's habits and his address. Martorano admitted he killed Wheeler because the Tulsa exec wouldn't sell his company to the gang.

Judge Lindsay has already denied similar government efforts to quash a \$ 36 million lawsuit filed by the family of Michael Donahue. He was an "unintended victim" when Bulger riddled FBI informant Brian Halloran with bullets in 1982, according to testimony.

But Donahue's killing received far less publicity over the years than the Wheeler case and in 1998 when the Bulger-FBI connection first unraveled.

**Load-Date:** June 8, 2002

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## *Feds closing in on former FBI agent Rico*

The Boston Herald

January 10, 2001 Wednesday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 705 words

**Byline:** By J.M. LAWRENCE

### **Body**

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Federal authorities are moving closer to bringing charges against a once-celebrated Boston FBI agent whose close connections with organized crime now implicate him in the 1981 murder of a Tulsa business executive, sources said.

***H. Paul Rico***, who cultivated gangsters as informants in the 1960s to bring down the Mob, later ran security for Roger Wheeler's World Jai Alai shortly before a hit man shot the executive in the face.

"Mr. Rico was definitely involved in my father's murder," said Wheeler's son David. "It's just taken the police 20 years to get through the obstacles raised by FBI corruption."

Wheeler was murdered after he discovered the Winter Hill gang was skimming profits from World Jai Alai, a court game and form of legalized gambling played in Florida, Rhode Island and Connecticut. Rico, 73, is now retired and living in Florida.

His attorney, William Cagney, declined comment yesterday on the allegations against his client in the Wheeler case.

John Durham, the head of a special Justice Department task force probing corruption in the Boston FBI, met earlier this week with Tulsa investigators, the Herald has learned.

"Rico is the top of the food chain in this," said a source familiar with the events at World Jai Alai.

When Rico left the FBI in 1975, he was hired to oversee security for the sport by reputed Winter Hill gang money man John B. Callahan.

"You gotta ask yourself what were his intentions. What was he doing at Jai Alai? What was his real role?" said David Wheeler, who has spent half of his life unraveling his father's murder.

Callahan then left the company and Roger Wheeler bought the operation in 1977. The exec then discovered his profits disappearing and died while sitting in his Cadillac after playing a round of golf at a Tulsa country club.

## Feds closing in on former FBI agent Rico

No one from the Justice Department task force could be reached for comment yesterday.

Tulsa County District Attorney Timothy Harris said he could not discuss suspects in the Wheeler case.

Harris is now reviewing thousands of pages of reports and evidence filed last week by Tulsa police who spent 20 years investigating Wheeler's death.

For the Tulsa officers, the break in the Wheeler murder came from explosive revelations in Boston over the last several years that notorious Winter Hill gangsters James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi were FBI informants for decades.

The revelations prompted longtime Winter Hill hit man John Martorano to cut a deal confessing to a string of Mob hits, including the murder of Roger Wheeler.

Martorano has told authorities that Rico was in on the plan to kill Wheeler, sources say.

The hit man's story corroborates the tale that another Winter Hill gangster told federal officials just before he was killed.

Brian Halloran tried to get into the Witness Protection Program by ratting out his gang's alleged plot to kill Wheeler. He also implicated Rico.

But Halloran was denied federal protection and was gunned down on the South Boston waterfront in 1982. He was unaware that the gang's leaders were working as FBI informants with Rico's successor, agent John Connolly, as their handler.

In the late 1960s, Rico withheld an informant's report that would have helped exonerate four men who were sentenced to life in prison for a gangland murder.

One of the men, Peter J. Limone, served 33 years and was released last Friday after a judge reviewed Rico's long hidden reports. Durham released 26 pages of old FBI reports from Rico's files on Dec. 19 that show Limone was innocent.

Now age 66, Limone, who had once been scheduled to die in the electric chair, called Rico "scum" as he left court.

Two other defendants in the case died in prison and a third, Joseph Salvati, had his sentence commuted three years ago but is still seeking exoneration.

Rico cannot be blamed for the men's imprisonment, the former agent's attorney said yesterday.

Orders laid down by then-FBI director J. Edgar Hoover kept information in the murder of Edward Deegan locked away in FBI files all these years, Cagney said.

"He was bound by the hierarchy," Cagney said. "All of that went to Rico's supervisors and he can't release that without permission of his supervisors."

**Load-Date:** January 10, 2001





## *Feds dig for mob victims in Hopkinton*

The Boston Herald

November 14, 2001 Wednesday

ALL EDITIONS

Copyright 2001 Boston Herald Inc.

**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 837 words

**Byline:** By Maggie Mulvihill, Jonathan Wells and Franci Richardson

### **Body**

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Armed with information from former New England Mafia boss Francis P. "Cadillac Frank" Salemme, authorities began digging yesterday in Hopkinton for the bodies of two brothers allegedly murdered by Salemme and gangster Stephen "the Rifleman" Flemmi, 34 years ago.

Salemme, 67, who has been cooperating in the ongoing probe of Boston crime lord James J. "Whitey" Bulger, Flemmi and their allies in local law enforcement, told authorities precisely where the bodies of Edward J. "Wimpy" Bennett and his brother, Walter Bennett, were buried, sources said.

Salemme, who is imprisoned in Kentucky, was flown to Boston last week and led investigators to the rifle range at the Hopkinton Sportsman's Association and indicated where the Bennetts' remains could be found, sources said.

"He pointed the spot right out," said one law enforcement source. At the end of the day yesterday, authorities had not recovered any human remains, but they are expected to resume digging early this morning.

Massachusetts State Police Maj. Thomas Foley, who is heading the criminal investigation into the Bulger gang, refused to say yesterday who investigators were looking for in the ground at the Hopkinton hunting club.

"This is a long period of time we're dealing with. It's based on long-term memory," Foley said, confirming only that the excavation was expected to yield at least one organized crime murder victim. "We wouldn't start a dig like this unless we were confident we'd be successful."

Before they were murdered in 1967, Edward and Walter Bennett, along with brother William Bennett, controlled a large gaming and loan-sharking enterprise in Dorchester and Roxbury.

Salemme and Flemmi carried out the Bennett murders to curry favor with New England Mafia bosses who felt the Bennett brothers were operating on their turf, officials have said.

According to court documents, Edward Bennett was killed in January 1967 and Walter was slain the following April. Neither body was ever found.

## Feds dig for mob victims in Hopkinton

William Bennett, who had pledged to avenge his brothers' murders, was found dead in a snowbank in Dorchester eight months later.

If the Bennett brothers' remains are found, it will bring to eight the number of alleged Bulger and Flemmi murder victims dug out of Massachusetts soil.

Since January 2000 authorities have unearthed six bodies from makeshift graves in Dorchester and Quincy. Investigators were directed to those burial grounds by Bulger's longtime lieutenant, Kevin Weeks, who is in prison and cooperating.

Flemmi, 67, is currently charged with 10 murders, but the Bennett brothers are not among them. In May, as part of a plea bargain, federal prosecutors withdrew those murder charges and Flemmi pleaded guilty to multiple racketeering charges. In August, he was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison but has yet to go on trial for the other murders.

It was unclear yesterday what benefit Salemme might derive by directing authorities to the Hopkinton grave site, considering the federal government dismissed charges that he participated in the Bennett murders when he pleaded guilty in 1999 to racketeering and other crimes.

Sources said Salemme's chief motivation was revenge against Flemmi, his longtime criminal partner, who secretly served for decades as an informant for the Boston FBI, providing incriminating evidence against local Mafia figures.

One law enforcement source said yesterday Salemme "wants more time off" the three years that remain on his federal sentence.

Salemme's decision to lead authorities to a Mob graveyard could be just a warm-up for much more damaging testimony he is expected to give. In March, the Herald reported that Salemme has agreed to testify against Flemmi, Bulger and the two former FBI agents who handled them as informants - John J. Connolly Jr. and **H. Paul Rico**.

According to a sealed federal court filing examined by the Herald, Salemme has already provided information to the grand jury on Connolly, Flemmi and Bulger. In addition, Salemme has agreed to provide "significant additional assistance" in the federal government's ongoing probe of Rico's dealings with Flemmi as an informant and the agent's possible involvement in a 1981 murder.

Connolly is awaiting trial on an array of criminal charges involving his extraordinarily close relationship with Bulger and Flemmi.

Bulger, who is charged with killing 19 people, disappeared in 1995 shortly before he was indicted. He has been a fugitive since and is now ranked second on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted List - behind Osama bin Laden - with a \$ 1 million reward offered for information leading to his capture.

In December, 1999, Salemme told a federal grand jury that Connolly, the former FBI agent, tipped Flemmi to the impending 1995 indictment against Salemme, Flemmi and Bulger. Flemmi was arrested in downtown Boston as he prepared to flee, and Salemme and Bulger went on the lam.

Caption: SALEMME: Ex-Mob boss led investigators to site.

Caption: FOLEY: Top investigator mum on identities.

**Load-Date:** November 14, 2001



## *Feds probe investigators in Teamster case*

The Boston Herald

June 12, 2002 Wednesday

ALL EDITIONS

Copyright 2002 Boston Herald Inc.

**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 783 words

**Byline:** By Jack Sullivan and J.M. Lawrence

### **Body**

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Federal agents probing racketeering allegations against local Teamsters officials including president George W. Cashman are eyeing criminal charges against other government investigators for attempting to derail the case, sources said yesterday.

Agents from the Office of Labor Racketeering are investigating allegations that current and former members from the U.S. Customs and Massachusetts State Police used Richard "The Fat Man" Chicofsky, a now-disgraced FBI informant, to levy bogus corruption charges against two investigators probing Teamsters in an effort to get them removed from the case, sources told the Herald.

Officials at the U.S. Attorney's Office and the labor racketeering office declined comment on the obstruction of justice probe, which is outlined in a sealed motion by prosecutors.

"We would not have any comment on any investigation we may or may not be involved with," said Dennis Kurdek, special agent in charge of the Boston office of labor racketeering.

Cashman and other union officials are the subject of a nearly three-year grand jury probe into allegations of kickbacks, shakedowns, extortion and bribery of companies including television and movie producers who film in Massachusetts as well as strong-arming and intimidation of rival union members.

Most of those being investigated in the probe are close associates of convicted FBI agent John Connolly, one of Chicofsky's many handlers during his time as a bureau snitch, said sources.

Sources said investigators are probing a former state trooper who now runs his own security agency as well as a former FBI and CIA informant turned private investigator who employed Connolly as a consultant and who is close to Cashman.

The investigation is also focusing on members of the Customs money laundering group, one of whose members used Chicofsky as an informant. Chicofsky has alleged the Customs agent extorted money from him for drugs.

## Feds probe investigators in Teamster case

Some of those being investigated are also former members of the Metropolitan Police, who were represented by Local 25 before being merged with the state police.

The obstruction of justice probe came to light last week when attorneys for Cashman, who was forced to resign from the Massport Board of Directors following his indictment, petitioned U.S. District Court magistrate judge Joyce Alexander for the personnel records of the two agents who were falsely charged.

The agents, one from the labor racketeering office and the other from the Drug Enforcement Administration, are veterans who have investigated high-profile cases including the so-called Charlestown "Code of Silence."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Theodore Chuang referred to the obstruction of justice probe in his opposition to the motion for the files and Alexander turned down the request. But she ordered prosecutors to hand over any information in the files that would support Cashman's defense.

"You know what's exculpatory," Alexander said.

Sources also told the Herald the federal grand jury was moved from Boston to Worcester because witnesses were being intimidated after testifying.

Chicofsky, who could not be reached for comment, was an FBI informant for more than 40 years. He was recruited by ***H. Paul Rico***, the retired head of the Boston FBI office who allegedly withheld information that resulted in three innocent men spending decades in prison for murder.

Rico also allegedly had close ties to fugitive mob boss James J. "Whitey" Bulger and his partner, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi and has been named in affidavits in Tulsa, Okla., as being involved in the 1981 murder of World Jai Alai president Roger Wheeler.

Chicofsky also fed information to Connolly as well as other members of the Boston FBI office who have come under scrutiny for covering up the crimes of Bulger and Flemmi.

The new probe comes as a Local 25 member, who was indicted in January on racketeering charges the same day Cashman was hit with a 179-count indictment on bribery, conspiracy and embezzlement, has decided to change his plea to guilty and cooperate in the Cashman investigation.

John "Mick" Murray, 47, of Charlestown, an ex-con with ties to Bulger, will plead guilty on July 1 to embezzlement, extortion, racketeering and theft for shaking down a Southie bookmaker, stealing computer equipment from UPS trucks and attempting to defraud the union pension and welfare fund.

Sources confirmed that Murray, who is suspended from his job as a part-time paper hauler at the Herald, has agreed to cooperate against Cashman, but no deal has yet been worked out for a sentence recommendation.

In court last week, assistant U.S. Attorney Fred Wyshak called Murray "the centerpiece" of the case.

**Load-Date:** June 12, 2002



## *Feds' rat wakes up to find: Payback's a snitch*

The Boston Herald

September 10, 1999 Friday

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Copyright 1999 Boston Herald Inc.

**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 691 words

**Byline:** By Howie Carr

### **Body**

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Steve Flemmi got the word in his cell Wednesday afternoon. Another con walked by, banging on the bars of his cell.

"Hey Flemmi," the guy said, "I think you're gonna be on TV tonight."

The early news? Mother of God, Steve Flemmi didn't know what to do. The Rifleman has turned into the vampire of the Plymouth House of Correction. No one's ever seen him before sunset.

But he had to know. He walked downstairs, watched in silence as Dan Rea broke the story, then headed back to his cell. He picked up his books and headed to his new favorite place.

The Jehovah's Witnesses meeting.

It must really suck being Steve Flemmi right now.

As the months have turned into years, he's remained in denial. Every other sentence he starts with, "When I get outta here "

In your dreams, Stevie.

By now Stevie's rationalized this "betrayal." Look at all Stevie did for Johnny - planning to frame him for a planned hit on Larry Zannino, telling the FBI Johnny was a pimp, giving him all that work when he was on the lam after Whitey ratted him out on the race-fixing thing

And this is the reward Stevie gets from his old pal. Headlines on the front page and a mug shot that makes Johnny look like John Belushi's twin brother.

"Don't think Stevie wouldn't have done the exact same thing to Johnny if he could have," somebody was saying yesterday. "This was a rat race, literally, and for the first time ever, Johnny was a faster rat than Stevie."

## Feds' rat wakes up to find: Payback's a snitch

Can you believe it, Johnny doesn't trust the FBI. Which is odd, because the joke is the G-men had a safehouse all picked out for him.

In Waco.

So now we have "the list," or at least the list as a work in progress. And when your list gets that big, with that many dead bodies on it, you get better word of mouth than "The Sixth Sense."

For instance, after they hit Indian Joe Notarangeli during lunch hour in a crowded restaurant in Medford Square in 1973, all the bookies who were laying off to Indian Joe were summoned to the Holiday Inn on the Somerville-Charlestown line. Talk about a hostile takeover.

One of the bookies asked them why they clipped Indian Joe like that, in front of so many witnesses, in broad daylight.

"Because," the boss replied, "we wanted to show everyone how easy it is."

Which it was, at least when the FBI was in your pocket. Stevie's FBI handler, **H. Paul Rico**, used to ask Stevie how some plug-ugly was doing, and Stevie would reply, "He's on the Hit Parade."

About 10 minutes later, he'd be number one. With a bullet.

Now what's left of the Bulger mob is trying to point the finger at Martorano. They trot out a broken-down flatfoot and he peddles his wares to crooked scribes who don't ask him his relationship to the bentest of the bent feds.

Funny how nobody's asked yet why Martorano hit the black guy who had the two teenagers with him in the South End. The reason he had to go was, he dissed Stevie. Flemmi ordered the hit.

Granted, Johnny's one sick bastard. But here's how Whitey and Stevie paid him back for the Wheeler hit in Oklahoma. It was Johnny and another on-the-run pal of his, an old-time Somerville strongarm named Joe McDonald.

So they whack the guy and go back on the lam. And a couple of months later, McDonald sends word to Winter Hill that he's coming home, and what does Whitey do? He tells the feds when Joe'll be coming through Grand Central on the train. They pinch him.

Meanwhile, Whitey Bulger, age 70 years and one week, remains at large. There's nobody left for him to rat out, at least on his side of the law.

But how about trading up for C-3, the FBI's organized-crime squad? They say Whitey taped everything, and if he did, he's still a player, because if there's anybody the G's want more than gangsters, it's crooked feds.

Meanwhile, wherever he was last week, do you think Whitey saw the story in The Irish Times about Hibernian surnames.

"The Co. Wexford surname of Bolger-Bulger is from O'Bolguidhur (bolg, belly, and odhar.) Yellow belly."

Yellow belly. Works for me.

Photo Caption: FLEMMI: In the rat race Rifleman was outrun.

Photo Caption: BULGER: Whitey could still trade for G-men's heads.

**Load-Date:** September 10, 1999

Feds' rat wakes up to find: Payback's a snitch

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## **Feds: Salvati imprisonment predates law permitting suit**

The Boston Herald

October 22, 2003 Wednesday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 308 words

**Byline:** By J. M. LAWRENCE

### **Body**

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Justice Department lawyers claim Joseph Salvati can't sue over the 30 years he spent wrongly imprisoned for a 1965 mob murder because Congress didn't vote to allow such lawsuits against the FBI until 1974.

In a motion made public yesterday, the government asked U. S. District Court Judge Nancy Gertner to throw out Salvati's \$ 300 million lawsuit.

"Because the torts of malicious prosecution and false imprisonment were allegedly committed by FBI agents prior to the date of enactment of the measure, plaintiff's suit is barred," Assistant U.S. Attorney Mary McElroy Leach told the court.

The government's latest legal maneuvering outraged Salvati's lawyers and upped the ante in the Hollywood portrayal of the North End truck driver's lifelong struggle to prove his innocence. DreamWorks SKG bought the rights to the saga in July.

Salvati's lawyer Victor J. Garo said the Justice Department just won't admit it robbed Salvati, Peter Limone, Henry Tameleo and Louis Greco of their lives when Boston FBI agents ***H. Paul Rico*** and Dennis Condon let their prize witness, Joseph Barboza, falsely accuse the four men of killing Edward "Teddy" Deegan.

"They are now stating that the framing of innocent people through the criminal activities of those involved in the federal government are non-actionable," Garo said.

Rico, now 78, faces first-degree murder charges in connection with a 1981 mob murder in Tulsa. In 2001, a Justice Department Task Force uncovered evidence proving Rico and Condon withheld evidence pointing to Salvati's innocence.

Paul Martinek, editor in chief of Lawyers Weekly USA, said the government has a "strong argument," which three circuit courts have already upheld in other cases.

"Our goal is to get this case tried next year and their goal is to outlive all of us," said Limone's attorney, Julianne Balliro.



Feds: Salvati imprisonment predates law permitting suit

**Load-Date:** October 22, 2003

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End of Document



## [Feds want Salvati hearing transcript](#)

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

May 4, 2001, Friday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 580 words

**Byline:** By KEN MAGUIRE, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** WASHINGTON

### **Body**

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The Justice Department, probing the Boston FBI office's cozy relationship with mob informants, has requested transcripts of a hearing in which a former FBI agent who is under investigation testified.

Ex-Agent **H. Paul Rico** surprised the House Government Reform Committee Thursday by testifying at a hearing on the case of Joseph Salvati, who spent 30 years in prison for a murder he didn't commit. Rico and others are under investigation by a Justice Department task force.

Rico testified against the advice of his attorney, who told him to invoke his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination. The committee was contacted Friday.

"One of the guys at Justice called and said, 'Whatever you can get us, obviously it's very important to us,'" committee spokesman Mark Corallo said.

The hearing was videotaped and committee staffers made copies Friday for the Justice Department, Corallo said. A transcript of the seven-hour hearing will be available in two weeks, he added, and copies of it will be provided as well.

The other witnesses were Salvati, his wife, Marie, their lawyer, Victor J. Garo, and defense attorneys F. Lee Bailey and Joseph Balliro, Sr.

Neither the Justice Department nor the FBI would comment.

The Justice official did not mention Rico, Corallo said, adding, "But that's the only thing they'd be interested in."

Rico's attorney, William Cagney, did not immediately return a telephone call seeking comment. However, Rico told committee members Thursday: "I believe the FBI handled it properly."

Rico testified that he and partner Dennis Condon met with a key witness before the Salvati trial, but denied conspiring to lie and convict Salvati.

## Feds want Salvati hearing transcript

Salvati, 68, was convicted of the 1965 murder of Edward Deegan and remained in prison until 1997. He was exonerated this year when a judge determined that FBI agents hid testimony that would have proven Salvati and others innocent.

An FBI memo written by Rico showed that an informant told FBI agents of plans for the slaying before Deegan was killed and provided names of those involved. Salvati's name was not included.

Bailey, who briefly represented Joseph "The Animal" Barboza, testified that he believes FBI agents coached Barboza to concoct a story about Salvati's involvement in the Deegan murder.

The Boston FBI office had been accused of protecting informants, including James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, because they helped bring down top New England mobsters.

Those men and John Martorano are accused in the 1981 death of Tulsa executive Roger Wheeler.

Bulger, a fugitive since 1995 on racketeering-related charges, is on the FBI's "Most Wanted" list. Flemmi is in federal custody and faces multiple indictments in Boston.

The three also are charged in the 1982 Florida murder of Boston businessman John Callahan. Martorano pleaded guilty in March to killing Callahan to keep him from telling investigators about links between World Jai Alai and the Winter Hill gang.

Plea agreements in both cases were worked out 20 months ago among Oklahoma, Florida and federal prosecutors.

A federal racketeering indictment unsealed in Boston last fall implicated Bulger, Flemmi and their associates in 21 murders, including the Wheeler and Callahan killings.

Rico has not been charged and denies wrongdoing. Ex-FBI agent John J. Connolly has been charged with racketeering and obstruction of justice for his handling of Bulger and Flemmi.

**Load-Date:** May 5, 2001

## FEEDING TUBE TO BE REMOVED

**FEEDING TUBE TO BE REMOVED**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

October 15, 2003 Wednesday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2003 P.G. Publishing Co.

**Section:** NATIONAL,; NATIONAL BRIEFS**Length:** 676 words**Body**

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PINELLAS PARK, Fla. -- An appeals court yesterday refused to block the removal of a severely brain-damaged woman's feeding tube, one of the last hopes her parents had for keeping her alive.

The state court in Lakeland rejected motions by an attorney for the parents of Terri Schiavo, who is scheduled to have the feeding tube removed today at her husband's request. Schiavo, 39, is expected to die within two weeks after the tube is removed. She's been in a vegetative state since suffering a heart attack in 1990.

Michael Schiavo says he is carrying out his wife's wishes that she not be kept alive artificially. The parents, Bob and Mary Schindler, say their daughter could be rehabilitated. Doctors disagree.

Mob-FBI ties

BOSTON -- Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, a gangster at the center of a scandal over the cozy relationship between the Boston FBI and its mob informants, pleaded guilty yesterday to racketeering charges involving 10 murders.

In a plea deal allowing him to get life in prison instead of the death penalty, Flemmi accused his former FBI handler of helping to set up a murder.

He cut the deal with prosecutors earlier this month after fingering ***H. Paul Rico*** for allegedly helping to set up the 1981 murder of Oklahoma businessman Roger Wheeler. Flemmi admitted to his role in the murder of Wheeler.

Rico, 78, who retired from the FBI in 1975, was arrested in Florida last week in Wheeler's killing.

Wen Ho Lee case

WASHINGTON -- A federal judge has ordered five reporters to reveal their sources for stories that portrayed Wen Ho Lee, a former nuclear weapons scientist, as a chief suspect in a Chinese espionage investigation.

Lee is suing the Energy Department and Justice Department alleging government officials provided private information about him to reporters and suggested he was a suspect in an investigation into the possible theft of nuclear secrets from Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico.

## FEEDING TUBE TO BE REMOVED

Lee was indicted in December 1999 on 59 felony counts alleging he mishandled nuclear weapons information. He was held in solitary confinement for nine months, then was released in September 2000 after pleading guilty to a single felony count.

The judge apologized to him, saying the government's handling of the case "embarrassed our entire nation and each of us who is a citizen of it."

GI form letter

SEATTLE -- In the past month, newspapers across the country have received letters signed by U.S. soldiers with overwhelmingly positive descriptions of their work in Iraq.

But the messages home, published in at least 11 papers, were identical form letters written by the command staff for the 2nd Battalion of the 503rd Airborne Infantry Regiment, then signed by the soldiers.

The Olympian newspaper in Olympia, Wash., first became concerned last month when it received two letters -- identical except for the signatures -- a few days apart, Managing Editor Jerry Wakefield said yesterday.

The Olympian, a Gannett newspaper, forwarded the letters to Gannett News Service, which discovered that at least 11 newspapers, including The Boston Globe, had published the letters.

Also in the nation

Mechanics for the nation's third-largest public transportation system went on strike yesterday, forcing hundreds of thousands of Los Angeles commuters to scramble for alternate transportation for the second time in three years....Rodney King has been arrested for allegedly punching his girlfriend, less than two months after he was sentenced for driving under the influence. King, whose videotaped beating by police officers sparked the Los Angeles riots of 1992, was booked for investigation of domestic violence....The University of South Florida's president is replacing the dean of the medical school after admonishing him for asking his staff to contribute to a lawmakers' campaign for U.S. Senate. Robert Daugherty met with President Judy Genshaft on Monday, during which she told him she will search for a new dean. It is illegal in Florida for public employees to solicit or collect contributions in government facilities.

**Load-Date:** October 15, 2003



## [Fla. jail investigates reported assault on accused FBI retiree](#)

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

January 20, 2004, Tuesday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional

**Length:** 446 words

**Byline:** By KELLY KURT, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** TULSA, Okla.

### **Body**

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Florida jail authorities are investigating allegations a former FBI agent was assaulted before his extradition to Tulsa, where he died Friday facing murder charges.

Even before **H. Paul Rico's** death, the Miami-Dade County Jail was investigating reports by his attorney that the ailing 78-year-old was assaulted Dec. 5 while in custody, jail spokeswoman Janelle Hall said.

No incident report or complaint about such an attack had been found, she said.

"We are reviewing his file and investigating and seeing if there were any other records of assault" on him, Hall said.

Rico's attorney, Garvin Isaacs, said in court filings that his client suffered hallucinations after the alleged assault. A psychiatrist who examined Rico in Oklahoma found him competent, but with little memory of the alleged attack.

Tulsa County prosecutors said a doctor in Florida found that Rico's bruises came from an incorrect dosage of blood thinning medication.

Rico was moved to Tulsa by private air ambulance on Jan. 8 to face charges he helped his former mob informants arrange the 1981 slaying of businessman Roger Wheeler.

Tulsa County jail officials hospitalized Rico midweek to check his health. Isaacs pushed for Rico's release, saying he had lost 53 pounds in custody, suffered heart problems that required a pacemaker and was gravely ill.

It could be weeks before the state medical examiner's office rules whether Rico died of natural or other causes, said Scott Evans, the office's administrative officer. Numerous tests and a review of medical records are under way.

Rico was under guard at the time of his death, police said.

He appeared via a video feed from the jail for his arraignment last Wednesday. But he was hospitalized during Friday's competency hearing.

Fla. jail investigates reported assault on accused FBI retiree

After taking testimony from witnesses, including Rico's wife and two daughters, a judge put Rico's criminal trial on hold and ordered him to undergo a mental evaluation.

Rico's arrest at his Florida home Oct. 9 came after former Boston FBI informant and Winter Hill Gang member Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, implicated him in Wheeler's death.

Rico served as security chief at Wheeler's World Jai Alai in Florida at the time of the slaying.

Murder charges were filed in March 2001 in Tulsa County against Flemmi, James "Whitey" Bulger and John Martorano. Martorano pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and received a 15-year prison term for carrying out the hit on Wheeler.

Flemmi pleaded guilty in October to racketeering charges related to 10 murders, including Wheeler's, and awaits sentencing Jan. 27.

Bulger, who is on the FBI's "10 Most Wanted" list, remains a fugitive.

**Load-Date:** January 21, 2004



## *Flemmi admits role in Wheeler murder*

Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

October 15, 2003 Wednesday Final Home Edition

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**Section:** TOPSTORYP1; Pg. A1

**Length:** 1268 words

**Byline:** BILL BRAUN World Staff Writer

### **Body**

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Gangster informant Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi pleaded guilty Tuesday in Boston to racketeering charges linked to 10 murders in a deal that calls for him to take a life sentence for the murder of Roger Wheeler of Tulsa.

Tulsa County District Attorney Tim Harris said Flemmi provided "insider" information that was important in his decision to file murder and conspiracy counts against former FBI Agent ***H. Paul Rico*** in the 1981 slaying.

Based upon Flemmi's willingness to cooperate with three prosecuting jurisdictions, Harris said, he made a "measured and calculated decision" to abandon any possibility of a death sentence for Flemmi in the Wheeler case.

The plea deal with Flemmi, 69, calls for a life prison term for the Tulsa County murder, to be served in federal custody and to run concurrently with a life sentence for federal crimes.

Flemmi "realizes he is going to die in the penitentiary," but the assurance that he would not face a death sentence "meant a whole lot to him" and was necessary to secure his cooperation, said Harris, who recently spoke with Flemmi in Boston.

David Wheeler, one of Roger Wheeler's sons, said Tuesday: "We are making progress. It is substantial progress."

Flemmi, a key figure in the scandal over the cozy relationship between the Boston FBI and its organized crime informants, is listed as a potential prosecution witness against Rico, his former FBI handler, in the Wheeler case, according to an amended charge that was filed Tuesday in Tulsa County.

Rico was arrested last week in Florida. An extradition hearing that was scheduled for Tuesday has been delayed until Friday.

Harris said at a press conference Tuesday that "no decision has been made" regarding whether he will seek the death penalty for Rico, 78.

Wheeler, the chairman of Telex Corp., which was based in Tulsa, was shot once in the head with a .38-caliber revolver May 27, 1981, at Southern Hills Country Club.



## Flemmi admits role in Wheeler murder

Investigators have long theorized that the killing was ordered by Boston gangsters and was linked to Wheeler's 1978 purchase of World Jai Alai -- a sport on which bets are placed -- and his suspicion that money was being skimmed from the company.

After retiring from the FBI, Rico was in charge of security and parking at World Jai Alai arenas in Florida.

Charges filed last week accuse Rico of providing the confessed hit man, John V. Martorano, and the alleged getaway driver, Joseph McDonald, with a general description of Wheeler, along with Wheeler's home and work addresses and his car's make, model and tag number.

According to the charges, John B. Callahan -- then a former World Jai Alai president -- told the Boston-based Winter Hill Gang members Flemmi and James "Whitey" Bulger in April 1981 that Callahan and others were attempting to buy World Jai Alai.

Callahan proposed that Flemmi, Bulger and other Winter Hill gangsters "would be paid \$10,000 per week" from proceeds taken from the parking concessions of World Jai Alai "for the protection provided," the charges state.

A Tulsa police affidavit publicly filed Tuesday -- and previously sealed by court order -- identified Flemmi as a "cooperating defendant" who began working as an informant for Rico in 1965.

The affidavit by Tulsa Police Sgt. Mike Huff said that Flemmi said he met with Callahan and Bulger in Boston in May 1981 and that Callahan said that "he, Rico and others wanted to have Mr. Wheeler killed in Tulsa."

Two days later, Flemmi called Rico in Miami, Fla., and "Rico confirmed that he and others wanted" Wheeler killed, Huff wrote.

Flemmi said he and Bulger got "equipment" -- a .38-caliber revolver, a .22-caliber pistol with a silencer, a machine gun with a silencer, a shim used to unlock cars and a car body dent puller -- from a hidden compartment in a Boston basement and shipped it by bus to the waiting Martorano and the now-deceased McDonald in Tulsa, according to documents filed Tuesday.

Huff's affidavit said "Flemmi told law enforcement officers that Callahan paid Martorano \$50,000" for Wheeler's murder, with the money divided among Bulger, Flemmi, Martorano and McDonald.

Flemmi said that in August 1982 -- more than a year after the killing -- he and Martorano met with Rico in Miami "to discuss the profits they were promised as a result of the Wheeler murder. Flemmi says that Rico told them no money was available because the planned purchase of World Jai Alai did not happen," Huff's affidavit said.

Tulsa County Special District Judge Cliff Smith ordered last week that Huff's affidavit be sealed and an arrest warrant issued for Rico. Harris said he asked that documents be sealed.

The order Smith signed a week ago indicated a need to keep the affidavit sealed -- as well as not to file an amended charge that added Rico as a defendant -- because of a concern about jeopardizing "an ongoing criminal investigation and/or arrest" of Rico.

Harris said he was concerned about public safety and flight issues if records publicly disclosed, prior to Rico's arrest in Florida, that he was being sought on charges.

At Smith's order, the previously sealed affidavit by Huff, the arrest warrant and the judicial seal order were made available to public view Tuesday.

Meanwhile in Boston, relatives of murder victims packed into court to hear Flemmi's pleas. Many were visibly shaken as they listened to grisly details. Some sobbed as they heard how their loved ones were strangled or shot in the head and then dumped into shallow graves by Flemmi or other gang members.

## Flemmi admits role in Wheeler murder

Steve Davis, whose sister Debra is one of the victims, had to be removed from the courtroom after hearing gruesome details of her slaying. He repeatedly shouted expletives at Flemmi and said, "You make me sick."

Flemmi, a leader in the gang that ran loan-sharking, drug and gambling rackets in the Boston area, listened impassively as a prosecutor described the killings. After pleading guilty to 17 separate charges linked to 10 murders, Flemmi apologized.

"I'd like to extend my deepest apologies to the families, the victims, my family, the public at large and the court," Flemmi said. "I truly am sorry. I hope they forgive me."

Flemmi's sentencing in Boston is set for Jan. 27.

Harris said it was uncertain when Flemmi will be brought to Tulsa County to enter pleas to counts of first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder that were filed in March 2001.

The charges filed by Harris named Flemmi, Martorano and Bulger, who is a fugitive.

Martorano, 62, has cooperated with authorities. He pleaded guilty in May 2001 to a reduced charge of second-degree murder and was sentenced to 15 years in prison for killing Wheeler.

Dade County, Fla., prosecutors indicted Bulger, Flemmi and Martorano in 2001 in the 1982 murder of Callahan, whose bullet-riddled body was found in a car trunk at Miami International Airport. Flemmi's deal also calls for him to get a life sentence in the Florida case, to run concurrently with his federal time and to be served in a federal institution.

The developments are the latest twists in a long-running scandal over the Boston FBI's relationship with underworld informants.

In Tulsa on Tuesday, David Wheeler noted the "historic" level of "FBI corruption" and called upon U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft to move the search for Bulger -- who is on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted list -- to the U.S. Marshals Service.

Former Boston FBI Agent John Connolly Jr. was convicted last year of protecting gangsters, including Bulger, who is sought in connection with 21 killings. Bulger, now 74, has been a fugitive since 1995.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

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**Load-Date:** October 16, 2003



## [Flemmi deal; 'Rifleman' cops plea to variety of racketeering charges](#)

The Boston Herald  
May 15, 2001 Tuesday  
ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 881 words

**Byline:** By JONATHAN WELLS and MAGGIE MULVIHILL

### **Body**

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Notorious organized crime figure and reputed killer Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi has struck a deal with federal prosecutors to plead guilty to a slew of criminal charges in exchange for a recommended sentence of 10 years, sources said yesterday.

The plea agreement, expected to be made public today, will dispense with multiple charges of racketeering, extortion, obstruction of justice, loan-sharking, illegal gambling and money laundering brought against Flemmi in 1995, 1997 and 1999, the sources said.

Flemmi, who also served as an FBI informant for nearly 30 years, will reportedly plead guilty to each charge in those three indictments with one notable exception: the 1967 murders of three brothers, Edward, Walter and William Bennett.

Because Flemmi, 66, has been in prison awaiting trial since January 1995, the anticipated 10-year sentence would actually add only about three-and-a-half years to Flemmi's jail time.

The deal will not affect an October 2000 federal indictment that charged Flemmi with 10 murders nor will it relieve Flemmi of capital murder charges filed against him in Tulsa, Okla., and Miami, Fla., according to the sources.

The victims in those murders include criminal associates and rivals, two former girlfriends of Flemmi and a legitimate businessman from Tulsa, Okla.

Sources said that under the plea agreement Flemmi is not required to provide any information or assistance to government investigators, who continue to probe not only Flemmi and his cohort, fugitive crime lord James J. "Whitey" Bulger, 71, but also FBI agents in Boston who developed close working relationships with the violent gangsters.

Bulger has been a fugitive since he and Flemmi were first indicted in 1995 and is now on the FBI's 10 Most Wanted list.

## Flemmi deal; 'Rifleman' cops plea to variety of racketeering charges

There has been speculation that Flemmi may offer to provide incriminating information on the FBI agents he dealt with - retired agents **H. Paul Rico** and John J. Connolly Jr. - in an attempt to avoid the death penalty in the Oklahoma and Florida cases.

Connolly has already been indicted for leaking information to Bulger and Flemmi that resulted in the murder of one witness and two informants, allegedly by the two crime bosses.

Rico's attorney William Cagney said yesterday that he's already bracing for accusations from Flemmi against Rico, his former FBI handler.

"If Flemmi isn't thinking of something to say about Rico, he's nuts because he knows they're looking at Rico," Cagney said.

"They're all looking for the get-out-of-jail-free card," he added, referring in part to former Bulger gang hit man John Martorano, who has cut a deal with the government and accused Rico of involvement in the 1981 murder of Tulsa business mogul Roger Wheeler.

Tomorrow, a hearing is set before U.S. District Court Judge Mark L. Wolf where, sources said, Flemmi will plead guilty under the terms of the agreement.

Flemmi's lawyers had been working on a deal for several months with prosecutors in U.S. Attorney Donald Stern's office. Flemmi's first trial on the 1994 charges was scheduled to begin yesterday in federal court.

Acting U.S. Attorney James B. Farmer last night declined comment on Flemmi's deal.

Two lawyers representing Flemmi, Kenneth Fishman and Michael Natola, could not be reached for comment.

The partial resolution of the Flemmi case, if it is finalized, appears to have benefits for both sides. Flemmi, who has had trouble finding a lawyer to handle his most recent indictments, can now focus on the murder charges. He also avoids, for now, going to trial for the murders of the three Bennett brothers.

The federal government will avoid the high cost of a series of lengthy trials.

Members of the Bennett family met yesterday morning with prosecutors in Stern's office and state police who have been investigating Flemmi, a source said.

Although they were briefed on the Flemmi deal, they still don't know the location of the missing bodies of two of the three Bennett brothers.

William Bennett, whose father was allegedly murdered by Flemmi, said he could not discuss the agreement.

Federal prosecutors "are doing the best they can. That's the best way I can put it," he said.

In 1995, a federal grand jury returned indictments against Flemmi, Bulger and other gangsters associated with Irish and Italian organized crime.

Flemmi was charged with loansharking, conspiracy and money laundering stemming from his ties to both Bulger's South Boston Irish organized crime ring and the New England Italian Mafia. He was accused of being the bridge that linked the Irish and Italian mobs.

In March of 1997 Flemmi was indicted by a federal grand jury charging he and a Back Bay real estate executive with running a \$ 4 million money laundering scheme.

The 103-count indictment said Flemmi and Group Boston Real Estate president Michael Carucci invested millions from Flemmi's organized crime activities in various real estate projects in the Boston area to conceal the illegal funds.

Flemmi deal; 'Rifleman' cops plea to variety of racketeering charges

In 1999, Flemmi, Bulger and ex-FBI agent Connolly were indicted together for racketeering and obstruction of justice. Among other charges, the trio were accused of giving \$ 7,000 in bribes to an FBI supervisor in exchange for sensitive law enforcement information used to protect Bulger and Flemmi.

**Load-Date:** May 15, 2001

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Flemmi details favors from FBI; Says Bulger left town after getting tip from Morris



***Flemmi details favors from FBI;  
Says Bulger left town after getting tip from Morris***

The Boston Globe

August 21, 1998, Friday, City Edition

Copyright 1998 Globe Newspaper Company

**Section:** METRO/REGION; Pg. A1

**Length:** 1020 words

**Byline:** By Patricia Nealon, Globe Staff

## **Body**

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On the witness stand in federal court yesterday, gangster-turned-informant Stephen Flemmi explained for the first time how his longtime criminal sidekick James "Whitey" Bulger was able to leave town before the law came calling: He was tipped off by FBI supervisor John Morris.

Answering the question that has lingered since last summer - when Flemmi first contended in an affidavit that someone in the FBI gave him and Bulger a head start - Flemmi laid the blame at the feet of Morris, a now-retired agent who earlier this year admitted taking payoffs from the two men.

For nearly four hours the career criminal, whose double life exposed the shadowy world where lawmen and outlaws collude, described three decades of being alerted to investigations and indictments - the reward, he claimed, for helping the FBI bring down the Mafia.

"We would be protected and we would not be prosecuted for anything we did on their behalf, at their behest," said Flemmi, who was unmasked as an informant last spring, shortly before he dragged the murky methods of the FBI into the glare of the courtroom to try to get charges against him dropped.

As the crowning defense witness in the months-long hearings, Flemmi hopes to persuade US District Judge Mark L. Wolf to drop extortion and racketeering charges brought against him, Bulger, and the local Mafia hierarchy in 1995 because of the deal they had with the FBI.

In April, testifying under immunity, Morris denied that he warned Bulger and Flemmi about the January 1995 indictments. But he confessed to taking \$ 7,000 in payoffs from the pair, admitted he warned Flemmi to avoid a bookmaker under investigation, and helped Bulger and Flemmi dodge indictments for fixing horse races.

But Flemmi said that Morris, who retired from the FBI at the end of 1995, was not the only bureau agent or supervisor looking out for him. Among Flemmi's assertions yesterday:

- Former FBI organized crime supervisor James Ring, Morris's successor, phoned Flemmi at his mother's house in December 1984 to let Flemmi know his phone and that of his associate, George Kaufman, were going to be tapped

Flemmi details favors from FBI; Says Bulger left town after getting tip from Morris

as part of an investigation by the US Drug Enforcement Administration and Quincy police. The investigation collapsed four months later after Bulger found a bug in his car.

- Ring, according to Flemmi, told Bulger in October 1986 that Boston police Lieutenant James Cox, who was cooperating with the FBI in a probe of police corruption, was "wired" - a warning for Bulger to stay away.

- Former FBI agent **H. Paul Rico** phoned Flemmi early one morning in September 1969 and told him he was about to be indicted for blowing up the car of a Boston lawyer, and, Flemmi said, "suggested that me and my friend leave immediately." After four years on the lam, Flemmi said, Rico persuaded him to return to Boston. A federal fugitive warrant for him was withdrawn, Flemmi said, through the efforts of a former FBI handler, Dennis Condon.

- Former agent John Connolly, Flemmi's longtime handler, confirmed to him that he and Bulger were targets in a South Boston drug investigation in 1988 and 1989. Connolly also allegedly shared the identity of other informants with Flemmi.

- Bulger learned about a listening device planted in a garage near North Station where they conducted criminal business from Connolly, who Flemmi said conveyed the message from Jeremiah O'Sullivan, then head of the New England Organized Crime Strike Force. Flemmi said he also learned about the bug from now-deceased state trooper John Naimovich, who was acquitted in June 1989 of leaking confidential information to an informant.

Reached by phone yesterday, Ring, who testified for 10 days earlier this summer, had no comment on Flemmi's testimony. He said the "appropriate, professional response" was to say nothing since Wolf has not yet ruled.

But Flemmi's allegations, both revived and new, brought a swift and united response from US Attorney Donald K. Stern and Barry W. Mawn, the special agent in charge of the Boston office of the FBI.

Stern and Mawn had requested an investigation into Flemmi's claims by the Justice Department and the FBI when they first surfaced last summer. That report has never been made public.

Meanwhile, a federal prosecutor from Connecticut has been named to investigate whether present or past FBI officials engaged in criminal misconduct.

Stern continued to insist that the actions of rogue agents did not provide Flemmi or his co-defendants with a valid legal basis for challenging the charges brought against them.

"I think it's very frustrating," said Mawn, who took over the Boston office two years ago. "It does anger us somewhat" because "this is activity that's gone on in the past . . . coloring all the good the Boston FBI has done for the last 20, 30 years."

Flemmi, who traded in the black and white jogging suit that he wears to court on most days for a herringbone sport jacket, white shirt, and tie, corroborated much of what Morris and others testified to earlier this year: the cozy dinner parties, the exchange of Christmas gifts. "It wasn't expensive gifts where you're looking for something in return. It wasn't like that at all," Flemmi said. Once, he said, Connolly gave him a book: "What Cops Know and Don't Tell."

But he contradicted some testimony. Flemmi said Morris's bribe was only \$ 5,000, but he failed to mention an extra \$ 1,000 Morris said was hidden at the bottom of a case of wine and another \$ 1,000 given to him to fly his girlfriend to an out-of-state conference.

And he maintained that Morris had told him and Bulger they could "do anything as long as you don't clip anyone." Morris denied making that statement.

After Morris made that remark, Flemmi testified, "I asked if we could shake hands. We shook hands and Jim Bulger shook his hand."

But Flemmi denied that former Massachusetts Senate President William Bulger, Whitey Bulger's brother, had wandered into a dinner meeting that his brother and Flemmi were having with their FBI handlers.

Flemmi details favors from FBI; Says Bulger left town after getting tip from Morris

, AP ILLUSTRATION/ STEPHEN FLEMMI/ Testifies nearly four hours

**Load-Date:** August 22, 1998

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Flemmi: FBI informant ties forged Whitey partnership; 'The Rifleman' denies friendship began during '60s



***Flemmi: FBI informant ties forged Whitey partnership; 'The Rifleman' denies friendship began during '60s***

The Boston Herald

August 26, 1998 Wednesday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 731 words

**Byline:** By RALPH RANALLI

## **Body**

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Boston's most infamous criminal partnership, the one between South Boston crime boss James J. "Whitey" Bulger and gangster Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi of Quincy, began with a wink and a nod over their secret relationships with the FBI, Flemmi testified yesterday.

Many Boston organized crime aficionados had long assumed that Bulger, 68, and Flemmi, 63, forged their inseparable bond during the infamous Mob wars of the 1960s or that they found each other while plotting some grand criminal scheme or another.

The two are legendary in Boston crime lore not only for their power and alleged crimes, including murder, but for their long, controversial relationship with the Boston FBI office. Ongoing hearings in federal court are exploring serious alleged misconduct in the FBI's dealings with the two so-called "Top Echelon" informants.

In his fourth day of testimony in federal court, Flemmi said he didn't team up with Bulger until late 1974, after he returned to Boston from Montreal at the FBI's request. Flemmi said he had run to Canada five years earlier to escape murder and attempted murder charges.

On his return, Flemmi said he renewed acquaintances with his old friends from Somerville's Winter Hill gang: boss Howard "Howie" Winter, George Kaufman and the Martorano brothers, John and James.

But there was also a new face at Winter Hill Auto Body, a Somerville garage that served as the gang's headquarters during the latter half of the 1970s under a variety of names, Flemmi said. Whitey Bulger, a former member of the Killeen Gang from South Boston, had joined forces with Winter Hill while Flemmi had been hiding up north.

"I met him on Winter Hill after we opened the garage - and the rest, as they say, is history," Flemmi said.

Flemmi: FBI informant ties forged Whitey partnership; 'The Rifleman' denies friendship began during '60s

The two had met "once or twice" briefly on prior occasions, Flemmi said. But the wiseguy took the Fifth when Assistant U.S. Attorney Fred Wyshak asked if those meetings resulted from an attempt by Flemmi and reputed New England Mafia boss Francis P. "Cadillac Frank" Salemme to "move in" on Bulger's bookmaking rackets.

Regardless, Flemmi said it was clear when they met in 1974 that they were now on the same team - in more ways than one.

Flemmi said Bulger sidled up to him in the garage one day, when no one else was around, and coyly asked if Flemmi thought he should "do business" with an FBI agent he had met named John Connolly.

Flemmi replied that he thought it was a "good idea." He said it was clear Bulger was telling him that he was also an FBI informant.

"That was pretty risky, wasn't it?" Wyshak asked.

"I believe Jim Bulger had prior information about my (FBI informant) status," Flemmi said.

Flemmi said Bulger set up an introduction meeting at a coffee shop in Newton six months later with Connolly and an older agent, Dennis Condon. Flemmi said he contacted Condon at the urging of agent H. Paul Rico, who had first recruited him as an informant.

After the introduction meeting, Flemmi said he and Bulger began meeting with Connolly on a regular basis.

Flemmi, Salemme, Bulger and two reputed gangsters are co-defendants in a 1995 racketeering conspiracy case. Flemmi and Salemme are fighting the charges, arguing to U.S. District Court Judge Mark L. Wolf that Flemmi and Bulger were promised "immunity" by the FBI. Bulger is a fugitive.

A different federal judge, meanwhile, yesterday rejected a bid by another convicted underworld figure to have one of the FBI's most historic pieces of evidence declared illegal.

After a greatly-abridged version of the four-month-old hearings in Wolf's courtroom, U.S. District Court Judge Nathaniel M. Gorton upheld the FBI's 1989 wiretap of a Mafia induction ceremony in Medford. Patriarca crime family captain Robert "Bobby Russo" Carrozza had sought to have the wiretap thrown out of court as evidence in a racketeering and murder case against him and a dozen others which is expected to begin trial in Worcester next month.

Like Flemmi and Salemme, Carrozza charged the FBI agents and federal Organized Crime Strike Force prosecutors improperly withheld information from the federal judge who approved the Medford bug.

But in his 20-page opinion, Gorton dismissed the withheld information as immaterial and said Carrozza's claims were "Monday morning quarterbacking." Wolf is expected to issue his own decision on the same issue later this fall.

**Load-Date:** September 3, 1998

Flemmi: FBI wouldn't let me and Whitey just retire



## *Flemmi: FBI wouldn't let me and Whitey just retire*

The Boston Herald  
August 21, 1998 Friday  
ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 649 words

**Byline:** By HOWIE CARR

### **Body**

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Who knew - Stevie Flemmi just wanted to get out of the business.

Here we thought the Rifleman actually got off on breaking legs, shooting people and shaking down cocaine dealers. But actually, he just wanted to smell the roses.

"I wanted to go fishing," the 63-year-old mobster was saying in U.S. District Court yesterday. "I wanted to leave."

Not just him, but his partner, Whitey Bulger, or, as Stevie calls him, "Jim Bulger." They kept begging their friend in the FBI, John Connolly, to just let them ride off into the sunset.

"That was our theme. We always brought it up. We wanted to retire, pack it in, quit."

But John Connolly wouldn't hear of it. He begged them, just like quarterback John Elway does every summer with his offensive lineman, Gary Zimmerman. Just one more season.

So there was Stevie on the stand yesterday, explaining how misunderstood he is. He didn't even say very much when he went out on sales calls with Whitey. Because Whitey had the gift of gab.

"Jim Bulger's quite a talker," he explained. "Most of the time he does the talking. He captivates his audience."

Funny thing about that. When you can end any sentence with the words, "or I'll kill you," it tends to captivate an audience.

Actually, Stevie Flemmi told the packed courtroom, he never even wanted to come back from Canada, where he fled in 1969 after a misunderstanding about a car bomb. Again, though, trusting soul that he is, he let himself be bamboozled into returning to Boston by an FBI agent, in this case *H. Paul Rico*.

"He asked me, do I want to come back? And I said, not particularly. I'm a landed immigrant, I had all kinds of excellent documentation and a great job. I had ultimate goals."

Flemmi: FBI wouldn't let me and Whitey just retire

But pretty soon, he's back in Boston and Jim Bulger is talking him into things, the way he always does, "and anyone who knows him will attest to that."

Like the time he and Whitey were dining with another of their FBI pals, John Morris. They called him "Vino," because he liked a jar now and again. So the boys are at Morris' home in Lexington and dinner's over.

"I was helping take some dishes into the kitchen. Jim Bulger comes in and says to me, how much cash do you have on you? I say \$ 3,200. He says give me \$ 3,000 and I'll make an adjustment with you tomorrow."

See, Jim was planning to give Vino a "loan" of five large.

"I didn't think that was such a good idea, but Jim, being that kind of a person, he convinced me it was a good idea."

He must have kissed the Blarney Stone, that Jim Bulger.

They were very close, Jim and Stevie. Stevie's mother - "a terrific cook," he assured us - had a house next to the Bulger compound in Southie. And by the way, Stevie volunteered, he never once saw Billy Bulger in his mother's house, despite what was said earlier.

"I just want to clarify," he added, apropos of nothing, "something Mr. Morris said."

Good catch, Stevie. Only one problem. It was another FBI agent who said he saw the Senate president there, not Vino. So now Stevie's telling the court about a story he undoubtedly heard a million times from Jim, about the LSD experiments Whitey was in at Leavenworth.

"The doctor's name was Feiffer, and I remember that because I was reading a health book by a Dr. Feiffer and I asked Jim, was that the same Feiffer? And Jim says, yeah, I called him even."

Everybody just stared at him. Stevie looked up at Judge Mark Wolf to explain. "Human interest story, your Honor."

Stevie's a reader, too. He and the feds exchanged books. John Connolly gave him a copy of "What Cops Know and Don't Tell." And in return, when Vino got loaded at the Colonnade, Whitey grabbed his car keys. Because friends don't let friends drive drunk.

"Morris didn't want to be driven home but Jim Bulger insisted and he got his way."

Same as always. As anyone who knows him will attest.

Photo Caption: JOHN CONNOLLY; Begged them not to quit

**Load-Date:** August 21, 1998

## FLEMMI LASHES OUT AT BULGER; ACCUSES FORMER MOB BOSS OF BEING PEDOPHILE; MURDER TRIAL

**FLEMMI LASHES OUT AT BULGER; ACCUSES FORMER MOB BOSS OF BEING PEDOPHILE; MURDER TRIAL**

Hartford Courant (Connecticut)

July 24, 2013 Wednesday

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**Section:** MAIN; Pg. A1**Length:** 1077 words**Byline:** EDMUND H. MAHONY, , [emahony@courant.com](mailto:emahony@courant.com)**Dateline:** BOSTON --**Body**

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James "Whitey" Bulger's lawyers portrayed his old partner Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi as a child molester and a prosecution stooge in relentless questioning Tuesday that Flemmi tried to turn back by claiming whatever he did, Bulger did, too.

Bulger lawyer Hank Brennan taunted Flemmi with questions about two teenage girls with whom Flemmi was sexually involved, asserting that Flemmi has a depraved attraction to children.

"So did Mr. Bulger," Flemmi snapped back. "He had a girlfriend that was 16 years old that he took to Mexico. So ask Jim Bulger about it."

Brennan later implied that Flemmi is a pedophile.

"You want to talk about pedophilia?" Flemmi said, with a nod at Bulger. "Right over at that table."

"Mr. Brennan, I'm an aggressive person," Flemmi said. "Somebody attacks me, I'm going to respond, either verbally or physically. I'm responding verbally now."

The once inseparable and now geriatric gangsters -- Bulger is 83 and Flemmi is 79 -- spent the day in an escalating exchange of insults. U.S. District Judge Denise Casper interrupted Flemmi repeatedly, telling him to limit himself to answering Brennan's questions. She told Brennan to slow the furious pace of a cross-examination that will resume Wednesday.

Bulger, who has flung occasional obscenities at witnesses with whom he disagrees, was silent.

## FLEMMI LASHES OUT AT BULGER; ACCUSES FORMER MOB BOSS OF BEING PEDOPHILE; MURDER TRIAL

Brennan was trying to destroy Flemmi's credibility by implying that his initial evasiveness and eventual admission about his sexual behavior with teenagers -- one of them his stepdaughter -- raises questions about whether he should be believed when describing murders and other crimes that he said he committed with Bulger.

Later in the day Tuesday, Brennan tried to expand his line of questions to suggest that Flemmi, an important prosecution witness, is further tainted by his long relationship with corrupt FBI agents. Casper said that she might decide Wednesday whether Brennan may question Flemmi about his relationship with former FBI agent **H. Paul Rico**.

Rico, once referred to by criminals as "The Spaniard," recruited Flemmi as an FBI informant in the 1960s, about the same time that Rico framed four innocent men for a murder committed by Flemmi's brother, Vincent James Flemmi. Rico later was indicted for helping Bulger, Flemmi and others in their Winter Hill Gang assassinate the owner of the legalized gambling company World Jai Alai. Rico died waiting to be tried for the jai alai murder.

Bulger was indicted in 1994 and charged with 19 murders, as well as gambling, narcotics, extortion, money laundering and weapons offenses. He was tipped to the indictment by a corrupt FBI agent and was a fugitive until his capture two years ago. Flemmi got the same tip, but acted too slowly, and has been in prison since. He agreed to testify against Bulger to avoid death sentences for murders in Florida and Oklahoma.

Their appearances on opposite sides of the courtroom is their first reunion in 17 years.

Brennan battered Flemmi with questions about Deborah Hussey, the troubled daughter of Flemmi's common-law wife, Marion Hussey. Flemmi testified that he raised Deborah Hussey with three other children that he and Marion Hussey had. He said that Deborah was about 4 years old when he became involved with her mother. He said the child called him Daddy.

But Flemmi conceded that -- in what he called two moments of weakness -- he engaged in sex acts with Deborah Hussey. He said she had become a teenager and was abusing drugs.

He also admitted having a yearslong, intimate relationship with another young woman, jewelry store clerk Debra Davis, who was 17 when she was killed.

Flemmi and Bulger are accused of killing both young women to silence them after becoming concerned that the two had learned too much about their criminal business. Bulger denies killing the women and claims that Flemmi did it. Flemmi said that he was incapable of the killings, but delivered the women to Bulger and watched while he strangled them.

"Did you ever have any long-term plans to date or marry your stepdaughter, Mr. Flemmi?" Brennan asked.

"No, no," Flemmi replied. "Absolutely not."

Brennan grilled Flemmi about his admissions that he and Bulger buried the women in makeshift graves and that he extracted at least some of Hussey's teeth with dental pliers "to deter identification of the body."

"I pulled a few teeth out," Flemmi said. "I couldn't get through it."

"Do you remember how many teeth you pulled out of your stepdaughter's mouth?" Brennan asked.

Flemmi said he could not.

Brennan showed Flemmi a law enforcement photograph of Hussey's skull. The grisly photograph was taken after authorities located and unearthed her grave. The lawyer asked whether it might help Flemmi recall how many teeth he had pulled.

"I don't want to even look at it," Flemmi said.

FLEMMI LASHES OUT AT BULGER; ACCUSES FORMER MOB BOSS OF BEING PEDOPHILE; MURDER TRIAL

"You buried her in an unmarked grave?" Brennan asked.

"It didn't make sense to mark the grave," Flemmi replied.

As the day wore on, Flemmi was having trouble keeping track of the 20 or so murders in which he has admitted some involvement. He repeatedly told Brennan that he would have to review records before committing himself to details.

He admitted that he has not been entirely consistent in his accounts of how he claims that Bulger strangled Hussey and Davis. He said he has testified about their deaths 20 times since his arrest at a variety of civil and criminal proceedings.

"I think he used his hands," Flemmi testified Tuesday. "But when you showed me that other document, I said a rope. So I think there was a little confusion there. There is two different versions here. I was in a state of anxiety at the time."

Earlier this week, Flemmi described Bulger as controlling. He testified repeatedly on Tuesday that Bulger "insisted" that the young women be killed. He gave similar responses to a variety of questions. He said he blew up a car because the Mafia "insisted" that he do it. He said he paid for a girlfriend's divorce from another man, because she "insisted," as well.

He admitted delivering Hussey, after taking her shopping, to the house in South Boston where Bulger is accused of killing her.

"Jim Bulger insisted," Flemmi said. "He could have prevented that at any time. All he had to say was, 'Pass.' One word. Four letters. 'Pass.' And I would have been so happy."

"Did you fight for her in that house?" Brennan asked.

"You're being very dramatic," Flemmi testified. "All he had to say was, 'Pass.' One word. And she would be alive today. And the same thing with Debra Davis."

**Load-Date:** July 25, 2013



## FLEMMI SENTENCED IN 1981 MURDER

Hartford Courant (Connecticut)

October 1, 2004 Friday, 5 NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT/SPORTS FINAL

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**Section:** CONNECTICUT; Pg. B1

**Length:** 1155 words

**Byline:** EDMUND H. MAHONY; Courant Staff Writer

### **Body**

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One of the most unsettling mysteries in Connecticut law enforcement moved closer to a final solution Thursday in an Oklahoma courtroom, when Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi was sentenced to life in prison for the 1981 murder of former World Jai Alai owner Roger Wheeler.

Moments before his sentencing, Flemmi acknowledged in Tulsa District Court that he and other members of Boston's notorious Winter Hill gang, working with corrupt FBI agents in Massachusetts, arranged Wheeler's assassination to protect a gang skimming operation at World Jai Alai frontons in Hartford and south Florida.

Connecticut law enforcement agents, who were investigating the newly legalized state jai alai industry in 1981, concluded within months of Wheeler's death that Boston mobsters and crooked FBI agents were responsible. But the Connecticut investigation met fierce federal resistance: Federal agents leaked confidential information to the killers, and state police detectives even complained of being followed during a trip to Boston.

No one was charged in the Wheeler homicide until nearly two decades later, when a sensational investigation of law enforcement corruption in Boston, ordered by former U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno, led to the arrests on murder charges of Flemmi, other members of the Winter Hill Gang and retired Boston FBI agent **H. Paul Rico**.

Hours before Flemmi's guilty plea and sentencing Thursday, one of Wheeler's sons, David Wheeler, telephoned The Courant and said he wanted to express his gratitude to Connecticut law enforcement personnel, whose persistence he said kept the investigation of his father's murder from stalling.

"If I had the money, I would sit there and take out a full-page newspaper ad and put everybody's name on it," Wheeler said. "I'd say 'These are local cops who went above and beyond the call of duty fighting corruption in the FBI at great peril to their careers and their family lives.' People lost their jobs, they were sued, everything imaginable. And I just want to thank them. There are so many of them and I don't even have all their names. They deserve so much recognition for what they did and tried to do. Who would have thought back then that [we] were being set up by the FBI?"

In particular, David Wheeler singled out former state police detectives George Ryalls, Justine Miller, Dan Gozlicki and Dan Twoomey, as well as former state organized crime prosecutor Austin McGuigan. Ryalls died in 1999 and the others now are either retired or privately employed.



## FLEMMI SENTENCED IN 1981 MURDER

McGuigan, reached in Wales Thursday, said: "A lot of people paid the price in their professional careers for questioning federal law enforcement. There weren't a lot of 'Thank yous.'"

Only one piece remains out of place in Wheeler's murder: the apprehension of James "Whitey" Bulger.

Bulger and Flemmi were partners who led the South Boston-based Winter Hill Gang. Together, they were charged with about 20 murders, including Wheeler's. Bulger vanished in the late 1990s, on the eve of his and Flemmi's indictment for the Wheeler murder and other crimes. Evidence made public in related cases shows that Bulger fled after a crooked former FBI agent tipped him to the indictment. Flemmi got the same tip, but dallied and was caught.

Flemmi and other Winter Hill turncoats have told law enforcement that Bulger had planned for years against the possibility that he might someday have to flee by stashing millions of dollars in secret accounts around the world. In recent years, he has been reported in Mississippi, Florida and Ireland. He was once seen wearing a Red Sox cap on a guided tour of the former Alcatraz prison in San Francisco, where he served time after his only arrest. He remains on the FBI's most-wanted list, in spite of what the bureau describes as an unrelenting effort to track him.

Legal documents show that Flemmi and Bulger had a symbiotic relationship with a handful of agents in the Boston FBI office. The two gangsters provided the agents with information about the Italian mafia, their rivals in crime. In return, the agents -- among them Rico, known in the Boston underworld as "The Spaniard" -- protected Flemmi and Bulger from arrest.

In the late 1970s, after Wheeler, a Tulsa millionaire, bought World Jai Alai and hired the then-newly retired Rico as his vice president for security, Winter Hill members Flemmi, Bulger, John Martorano and John Callahan set up a skimming operation. Wheeler soon came to suspect the skim and informed Connecticut state police detectives, who began an investigation.

On May 27, 1981, Martorano and another Winter Hill gangster ambushed Wheeler outside the Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa, shooting him once between the eyes as he climbed into his Cadillac after his weekly round of golf. Decades later, Flemmi and Martorano told authorities that it was Rico, through Callahan, who told them about Wheeler's golf schedule and how to find him. Flemmi and Martorano began cooperating with authorities in recent years in an effort to reduce expected prison sentences. In Flemmi's case, he was trying to avoid possible death sentences in Florida and Oklahoma.

As members of the Winter Hill Gang emerged as suspects in the Wheeler murder in the early 1980s, Connecticut investigators were joined in their investigation by Boston FBI agents. Then, almost as soon as Connecticut detectives identified two potential informants, the informants were gunned down in Boston and Miami. Evidence was presented in a federal criminal trial in Boston in 2002 that Winter Hill members killed the informants based on information leaked to them by a corrupt FBI agent in Boston.

Tulsa police detectives arrested Rico in Miami in October 2003 and charged him with murder and conspiracy in Wheeler's death. Rico, who was 78, died in a Tulsa jail in January before he could be tried.

Flemmi's life sentence Thursday in Tulsa was the third he has received since investigators solved the jai alai murders and uncovered corruption in Boston's FBI office. The others were for multiple murders in Boston and the murder of the potential witness in Miami.

Before being sentenced by Judge Rebecca Nightingale in Tulsa Thursday, Flemmi turned to a member of the Wheeler family. He apologized and said he would try to explain why he conspired to commit the crime. He said he wanted to make the explanation through Tulsa police Det. Sgt. Michael Huff, a Wheeler family friend who has been assigned to the case for 23 years.

Huff said he later spoke briefly with Flemmi in the cells below the courtroom and plans to continue the conversation, if possible, in the future.

"He was wanting to chit chat a little," Huff said. "He asked me how I was doing. I said, 'A whole lot better than you.'"

## FLEMMI SENTENCED IN 1981 MURDER

A discussion of this story with Courant Staff Writer Edmund H. Mahony is scheduled to be shown on New England Cable News each hour today between 9 a.m. and noon.

### Graphic

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PHOTO; (B&W) MUG; FLEMMI

**Load-Date:** October 1, 2004

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Flemmi sentenced to life in prison



## *Flemmi sentenced to life in prison*

The Associated Press State &amp; Local Wire

January 27, 2004, Tuesday, BC cycle

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**Section:** State and Regional**Length:** 657 words**Byline:** By DENISE LAVOIE, Associated Press Writer**Dateline:** BOSTON

### **Body**

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Mobster Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi was sentenced Tuesday to life in prison for 10 murders, as the son of one of his victims called him a "rat" and said he was getting off easy for the devastation he caused.

Timothy Connors said he was six months old when his father, Edward Connors, was murdered by Flemmi in 1975.

"For 28 1/2 years I've been doing hard time for your crime," Connors said. "Your troubles are over, mine are with me every day until the day I die."

Connors said Flemmi, 69, had already lived a full life when he was imprisoned in 1995 at age 60, "especially considering two to four years is the life expectancy of a rat."

Frequently leaning on the podium and fighting back tears as he spoke, Connors turned to Flemmi and demanded he face him as he spoke. Flemmi's response could not be heard in the courtroom, but Connors said later that Flemmi met his eyes and said, "I do feel your pain and I'm sorry."

Flemmi has admitted his role in the killing of Connors and nine others. The murders were committed when he was a boss in the Winter Hill Gang, the criminal empire that terrorized Bostonians for decades and brought shame to the FBI for its corrupt relationship with underworld informants.

Edward Connors was killed on June 12, 1975, allegedly because he had information about the 1973 murder of James O'Toole, an associate of the McLaughlin Gang, a rival of James "Whitey" Bulger's Winter Hill Gang.

Flemmi pleaded guilty in October to racketeering charges, admitting his role in 10 murders carried out by him and other members of the Winter Hill Gang. He agreed to serve a life sentence, avoiding a possible death penalty for killings in Florida and Oklahoma.

Flemmi and longtime cohort James "Whitey" Bulger were the leaders of the South Boston-based gang that ran loan-sharking, drug and gambling rackets. The two were also high-level FBI informants, providing the agency with information on rivals in the New England Mafia. Bulger fled in 1995 after being tipped by his former FBI handler, John Connolly, that he was about to be indicted, and is now on the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted" list.

## Flemmi sentenced to life in prison

Assistant U.S. Attorney Fred Wyshak said the gang was responsible for "many, many more murders" than the 10 for which Flemmi was indicted.

He said the killings caused "excruciating torment" to the families of the victims because Flemmi and other gang members hid the bodies, and it took decades for authorities to find them. Six bodies were discovered in shallow graves several years ago, while others have still not been found.

Wyshak also blasted the Boston FBI for allowing some of its agents to become corrupted by Flemmi and Bulger.

"These men became coconspirators with the defendant in this case ... they became part of the criminal enterprise, the criminal organization," Wyshak said.

Flemmi struck a plea deal with prosecutors after fingering his former FBI handler, ***H. Paul Rico***, for allegedly helping to set up the 1981 mob murder of Oklahoma businessman Roger Wheeler, the former owner of Miami-based World Jai Alai.

Rico, 78, who retired from the FBI in 1975, was arrested in October and brought to Oklahoma to face a first-degree murder charge. But Rico, who had a heart condition, died earlier this month at a Tulsa hospital.

Flemmi also pleaded guilty to strangling his longtime girlfriend, Debra Davis, after she ended their relationship in 1981. Prosecutors said Bulger and Flemmi felt Davis knew too much about their crimes and also knew both were acting as FBI informants.

He also admitted to planning and helping in the 1985 murder of Deborah Hussey, the daughter of his common-law wife, Marion Hussey. Prosecutors said Hussey was killed after she accused Flemmi of sexually abusing her.

In exchange for Flemmi's cooperation in the Wheeler and Callahan cases, state prosecutors in Oklahoma and Florida agreed to drop their bid for the death penalty against Flemmi.

**Load-Date:** January 28, 2004



## [Flemmi's lawyer contends fed let his crimes slide](#)

The Boston Herald

January 14, 1998 Wednesday

ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 654 words

**Byline:** By DAVID WEBER

### **Body**

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Underworld figure Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi told an FBI agent all about his loan sharking and sports gambling operations back in 1967, but the agent never pushed for Flemmi's prosecution, according to testimony yesterday in federal court.

Flemmi's lawyer, Kenneth J. Fishman, quizzed retired FBI agent **H. Paul Rico** about his knowledge of Flemmi's crime rackets but Rico repeatedly denied ever granting Flemmi immunity from prosecution.

"I had nothing to do with his continuing to operate," Rico testified.

But Fishman is trying to show U.S. District Court Judge Mark Wolf that Rico turned a blind eye toward crimes committed by Flemmi and his longtime associate, South Boston crime boss James J. "Whitey" Bulger, in return for their inside information about Boston Mafia kingpins Gennaro Angiulo, Ilario Zannino and their crews.

Flemmi is charged along with New England crime boss Francis P. "Cadillac Frank" Salemme, John Martorano and Robert DeLuca in a 1995 racketeering indictment, which defense lawyers are trying to get dismissed. Bulger also is named in the indictment but remains on the lam.

Rico acknowledged that Flemmi told him in November 1968 that he took money from Zannino and paid him 1 percent interest a week while "putting it on the street" in the form of loans repayable with 5 percent weekly interest.

But Rico said Flemmi and Bulger were considered "top echelon informants" because of their access to high-level Mafiosi including Angiulo, Zannino and the late Rhode Island Mob boss, Raymond L.S. Patriarca.

In one of Rico's reports, written after a conversation with Flemmi in July 1967, Flemmi said Mafia member and Angiulo associate Peter Limone told Flemmi and Salemme in a North End restaurant: "I shouldn't tell you this but I'm sponsoring you for membership in our organization.

"Ordinarily, before you were made a member, you would have to make a hit, and I would have to be there as your sponsor to verify that you made the hit and report on how you handled yourself. But with the reputation you two have, this may not be necessary," Limone reportedly told Flemmi and Salemme.

## Flemmi's lawyer contends fed let his crimes slide

Flemmi's cozy relationship with the Mafia allowed him to inform the FBI about:

Murders of Boston gangsters Edward "Wimpy" Bennett and Walter Bennett in 1967. After Wimpy Bennett's death, Patriarca "indicated a friendship" toward Flemmi, and Flemmi became the leader of Wimpy Bennett's Irish crime crew, according to Rico's written reports.

When Walter Bennett disappeared, Flemmi told the FBI it "should not waste time looking" for him. He went on to say that Walter's "going" is "all for the best" because Walter "was beginning to think aggressively and could have caused additional problems in the city." Flemmi is charged with murdering the Bennett brothers in the 1995 racketeering indictment.

Loan shark and admitted Mob enforcer Joseph Barboza, also known as Joseph Baron, who flipped to become a government witness against organized crime in the late 1960s. Flemmi kept the FBI informed about various steps by the Mafia to neutralize Barboza's testimony.

A hastily conceived threat by Boston Mob leaders to kill Suffolk District Attorney Garrett Byrne over his handling of the Barboza case. The threat was never carried out.

Fishman argues that the FBI granted Flemmi immunity and told him he didn't have to worry about prosecution as long as he kept bringing them inside information about the Mob.

On the stand yesterday, Rico denied ever making such a deal. He said the only promise he ever made to Flemmi was the same promise he always made to informants, which was "whatever cooperation you give will be brought to the attention of the proper authorities."

Under questioning from Assistant U.S. Attorney Fred Wyshak, Rico said pushing aggressively for criminal indictments against Flemmi or Bulger would have seriously inhibited his ability to "develop" other criminal informants.

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Flemmi's testimony may reveal FBI names



## *Flemmi's testimony may reveal FBI names*

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### **Body**

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It's an FBI whodunit: Who was the unidentified FBI agent who warned fugitive South Boston crime boss James J. "Whitey" Bulger to flee on the eve of his 1995 federal racketeering indictment?

Was it the same unnamed agent who routinely leaked confidential information to Bulger and his partner, Stephen Flemmi, throughout the 1970s and 1980s while they were moonlighting as FBI informants?

The mystery could be solved as early as today.

That's when Flemmi is expected to take the witness stand in US District Court in Boston to detail his corrupt relationship with the FBI, in a bid to persuade a judge to drop the racketeering case against him, the fugitive Bulger, and three other men.

Since the FBI confirmed last year that Bulger and Flemmi were longtime bureau informants, Flemmi has tantalized federal prosecutors with four affidavits detailing a history of FBI misconduct.

In some instances Flemmi named names, but in other cases the identities of agents who thwarted ongoing investigations with leaks to Bulger and Flemmi were conspicuously absent.

The omissions have fueled speculation that Flemmi is shielding some agents or has been saving his biggest bombshells for his debut on the witness stand. There's also the possibility that Bulger didn't always identify his FBI leaks to Flemmi.

Still, the 64-year-old Flemmi is, arguably, the most anticipated witness since Judge Mark L. Wolf launched hearings in January into Flemmi's claim that the FBI gave him and Bulger permission to commit crimes, short of murder.

"I expect that his testimony will track the information contained in his affidavits and will be very powerful evidence," said attorney Anthony Cardinale, who represents reputed New England Mafia boss Francis Salemme, Flemmi's codefendant.

Some witnesses called by the defense in the lengthy pretrial hearings have supported some of Flemmi's most explosive allegations.

## Flemmi's testimony may reveal FBI names

Disgraced former FBI supervisor John Morris, testifying under immunity, admitted pocketing \$ 7,000 in bribes from Bulger and Flemmi between 1982 and 1988 and warning the pair that the FBI had tapped the phone of a Roxbury bookmaker who worked for them. But Morris also contended that FBI Special Agent John Connolly Jr., who served as the handler for Bulger and Flemmi between 1975 and 1990, delivered some of the bribes.

It's a charge that Connolly vehemently denies. And Connolly isn't mentioned in any of Flemmi's affidavits.

Still, Connolly refused to testify in the pretrial hearings, citing his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination. And federal prosecutors have refused a defense request to grant immunity to Connolly, saying they first want to hear whether Flemmi implicates Connolly in any wrongdoing.

"I have nothing to fear if Flemmi tells the truth," Connolly said during a recent interview. "I think Stevie knows I was an honorable person with these people. I don't think he has any quarrel with me."

A key question for the court to decide is whether the FBI did indeed authorize Flemmi and Bulger to commit crimes.

In one affidavit, Flemmi says that during a meeting at Morris's Lexington home, the agent gave him and Bulger permission to do anything they wanted "so long as we didn't clip anyone."

Flemmi wrote, "On several occasions, in the course of similar conversations, Mr. Bulger and I were assured that we could be involved in any criminal activities short of committing murder and we would be 'protected.'" Morris denied making such a promise.

Even Connolly, during an interview with the Globe, said Bulger and Flemmi were never given immunity for all crimes except murder.

"The word was these people could operate a gambling and loansharking syndicate with impunity," Connolly said. "It wasn't 'anything but murder.' There are a lot of other crimes they were not given permission to commit."

In his affidavits, Flemmi says the FBI began protecting him almost as soon as he turned informant in 1965. Flemmi said the agent who cultivated him, H. Paul Rico, warned him in 1969 to flee because he was about to be charged with attempted murder.

Flemmi was indicted for the 1968 car bombing that injured Everett lawyer John Fitzgerald. He evaded the charge by remaining on the lam until 1974.

Flemmi said he surrendered only after Rico warned him it was safe to return because the case against him was about to be dropped. It was.

Testifying last January, Rico denied Flemmi's claims.

Some of the allegations in Flemmi's affidavits involving unidentified agents include:

Flemmi was warned of "the precise date" that the 1995 racketeering indictment would be returned, so he could flee.

In 1989, Bulger was warned that South Boston realtor Tim Connolly was "wired up" and he should stay away from him. Connolly was allegedly extorted at knifepoint by Bulger and had begun cooperating with the FBI.

Between 1984 and 1989, unidentified FBI agents warned Flemmi and Bulger about a number of drug investigations.

In 1977, the FBI told Bulger that representatives of a vending machine company urged the FBI to bring charges against him. But FBI agents persuaded the representatives not to pursue the case because their lives would be in danger and they'd have to join the Federal Witness Protection program.



Flemmi's testimony may reveal FBI names

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