

Feds target 'Whitey' as Southie drug lord

Indictment: Bulger profited from cocaine and marijuana

By RALPH RANALLI

South Boston crime boss James "Whitey" Bulger — hailed by some as a hero who kept drugs out of the neighborhood — was himself a drug lord and profited from cocaine and marijuana sales in his

own back yard, federal prosecutors charged yesterday.

Bulger's Southie "crew" bullied, threatened and even kidnapped drug dealers who didn't pay the "tribute" the gang demanded, according to a superseding indictment issued yesterday.

Federal prosecutors issued new drug-oriented charges against Winter Hill Gang boss Bulger, 66, top lieutenant Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, 60, and Patriarca crime family boss Francis P.

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Whitely, pals

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"Cadillac Frank" Salemme, 61, alleging the two gangs even brokered a compromise between two competing drug dealers that operated with their sanction.

"These charges should put to rest any myth that Bulger and Flemmi and their South Boston crew were not involved with drug trafficking," U.S. Attorney Donald K. Stern said yesterday.

"They took their cut from drug traffickers just as they took their cut from those involved in gambling, loansharking and other illegal activities."

Meanwhile, more damning allegations against Bulger are ex-

pected to be aired today when government witness Anthony Ciulla takes the stand at a bail hearing for Winter Hill Gang member John "Johnny" Martorano, 54.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Brian T. Kelly said yesterday Ciulla, who participated in a Winter Hill Gang horse-race-fixing scheme in the 1970s, will testify that Bulger, Flemmi and Martorano planned and carried out the murder of a man named James Souza in 1974.

Martorano's attorney, Martin G. Weinberg, called the charge "a product of Mr. Ciulla's fertile imagination" and, so far, they haven't been charged in any in-

dictment.

The standards for evidence are lower at bail hearings than at trials, however, and U.S. District Court Magistrate Judge Robert B. Collings said he would hear Ciulla's testimony about the alleged murder plot.

Martorano was a new name in the superseding indictment, which charged that he was an integral part of Winter Hill's criminal activities even though he was on the lam for 16 years until he was arrested in January.

The indictment also contained allegations, including:

● The two gangs brokered a dispute between a drug-dealer

hit with drug charges

controlled by the Patriarca family, Salvatore Michael Caruana, and Frank Lepere, a dealer connected to Winter Hill, after they clashed over "a large load of marijuana that was distributed by an 'unconnected' drug dealer;"

● Bulger and his "crew" extorted "rent" from a marijuana distribution business run by Paul "Polecat" Moore and William Shea, and a cocaine business run by Moore and his cousin John Cherry, and:

● A big-time marijuana trafficker named William David Lindholm, 45, of Milton was "forced to associate himself with, and pay 'rent' to" the Winter Hill Gang and that "Lindholm was 'taxed' at a specified rate per pound of mari-

juana distributed."

Sources said both Lindholm and Moore, also 45, have agreed to become government witnesses. Both are expected to offer damning testimony against Bulger.

The Herald reported Monday that Lindholm will testify that he was kidnapped and brought to a meeting with Bulger and Flemmi. At the meeting, a gun was held to his head as Bulger demanded tribute payments.

Moore was arrested as part of a 1990 drug sweep that netted 51 defendants, but no charges were lodged against Bulger, despite the fact that a 1986 Presidential Commission on Organized Crime identified him as a "reputed killer ...

and drug trafficker."

According to sources, Moore was unhappy that his wife wasn't "taken care of" while he was in prison. He was also confronted with the threat of new charges against him by investigators.

Two names were dropped from the indictment due to deaths. Salemme's son Frank Jr. died recently of lymphoma, while Winter Hill member and debt-collector George Kauffman died of complications from diabetes earlier this year.

The indictment also contains charges from the original indictment that Bulger and Salemme and their gangs extorted money from loansharks and bookmakers.

Government rolls out a Dream Team of rat witnesses

By RALPH RANALLI

It began in January with a couple of bookies and was pooh-pooed by defense attorneys, but the government's witness list in the case against Mob bosses James "Whitey" Bulger and Francis P. "Cadillac Frank" Salemme is now formidable and growing.

The list includes a former drug dealer with close ties to Bulger, two former high-level bookmakers, a marijuana smuggler who is already a seasoned government witness and a North End hood who was once caught between Bulger's Winter Hill Gang and Salemme's Patriarca Mafia family.

Several will testify that Bulger's and Salemme's gangs exacted tribute from anyone in three illegal lucrative businesses: drug dealing, bookmaking and loansharking.

The following is the government's "team" roster.

- **Burton "Chico" Krantz:** Where it all began. Krantz, 57, of Newton, was one of Boston's premier bookmakers until he was targeted by the State Police Special Services Section as a way to get at Bulger.

He "flipped" after troopers raided the safety-deposit boxes containing his \$2 million cash "retirement fund."

- **James Katz:** Krantz II. Chico was the big catch, but Katz's similar testimony about paying "rent" to both Bulger and Salemme for staying in the bookmaking business provided valuable corroboration and critical mass for the organized crime probe.

- **Anthony Ciulla:** The Big Guy. The 300-pound, 51-year-old former Stoneham resident was part of the Winter Hill Gang's Suffolk Downs horse-race-fixing scheme in the 1970s and a key witness against gang member John "Johnny" Martorano.

- **Paul "Polecat" Moore:** The Insider. Moore was a top drug dealer in South Boston but was reportedly disillusioned with being a "stand-up guy" for Bulger after his wife wasn't "taken care of" when he went to prison on drug charges. "He knows where some serious bodies are buried," one source said.

- **William David Lindholm:** The Hunted. A marijuana trafficker with toney Milton roots, Lindholm will testify he was kidnapped and a gun was held to his head during a meeting with Bulger, in which Whitey demanded tribute.

- **Jerry Matricia:** The Squeezed. Matricia can testify from firsthand experience about the ties between Winter Hill and the Patriarca family — he was called on the carpet by the Italian bosses for swindling their close Irish friends.

- **Thomas Hillary:** The Wiseguy. Hillary grew up in the household of legendary Mafia boss Raymond L.S. Patriarca and has a longtime knowledge of family activities, particularly by Salemme.