

Dope Kingpin Nabbed in Bed

"Big John" Ormento, 47, was hauled out of his bed at home in Lido Beach, L. I., early yesterday and charged in Federal Court as kingpin of the biggest dope racket in the country.

Ormento is a convicted narcotics dealer, a delegate to the infamous Mafia meeting at Apalachin in 1957, and is already under \$100,000 bail as a member of the Vito Genovese dope ring and on another \$1,500 for refusing to talk about the Apalachin session.

ALONG WITH HIM, 11 other men were in Federal Court, all roused out of bed during the night or early morning hours.

The swift raids by Federal narcotics agents and local police which brought them in were inspired by a Federal indictment, opened early yesterday, naming the 12 among 29 men in this country and Canada as "responsible for the largest amount of illicit narcotics available in this country for the past five years."

Four of the Canadians are now in jail in Montreal on other charges. The rest have not yet been rounded up.

Though the indictment is concerned only with a conspiracy to distribute 24 pounds of pure heroin—worth \$1,000,000 on the illicit market—U. S. Attorney S. Hazard Gillespie Jr. said the ring has been responsible for spreading many more millions of dollars worth of dope during the last few years.

The gang "operated as an efficient ring extending from Canada and beyond into the U.S.," Gillespie said. It took three months of long hours of labor by four Assistant U. S. Attorneys, William N. Tendy, Samuel Sherez, Paul J. Curran and James G. Starkey, to put the government's case together.

Along with Ormento, the bleary-eyed, hastily clad defendants, who looked as if they had been swept up on the Bowery, were Charlie Di Pietro, 30, of 20 Monroe St., named as recipient of the dope shipments, held in \$50,000 bail; Joseph Fernandez, 47, of 53-13 69th St., Maspeth, Queens, a courier for the ring, \$20,000 bail.

Also Benjamin Indiviglio, 38, who would give no address except "W. 44th St.," a recipient, \$10,000; Angelo Loicano, 47, of 21-48 79th St., Jackson Heights, Queens, \$10,000; Frank Mancino, 54, of 44 Marcy Ave., Brooklyn, a courier, \$7,500; Carmine Panico, 39, of 1474 86th St., Brooklyn, a recipient, \$5,000; Carmine Polizano, 41, of 45-34 47th St., Woodside, Queens, a courier, \$2,500; Rocco Sancinella, 40, of 2367 Hughes Ave., Bronx, a recipient, \$15,000; Salvatore Sciremammano, 36, of 18 Monroe St., a recipient, \$5,000; Angelo Tuminaro,

50, of 60 E. 17th St., Brooklyn, a recipient, \$35,000; and Joseph Vecchio, 45, of 86 Bloomfield Ave., Nutley, N.J., a courier, \$10,000.

Vecchio, though he said his income was only \$3,500 a year, made a weekly trip by plane to Canada for several years, the U. S. Attorney noted. Vecchio's explanation was that — though a married man—he went there to visit a girl friend.

Ormento, whose home is at 118 Audrey Dr., Lido Beach, was held in \$7,500 bail. He produced it, as did all the others. All entered "not guilty" pleas.

The four Canadians named in the indictment are Giuseppe Cotroni, Louis Creco, Rene Robert and Peter Stepanoff.

THE REST of the crew, still being sought, were named as William Bentvena, Anthony DiPasqua, Charles Gagliadotto, Carmine Galante, Jack Gellman, Salvatore Giglio, Frank Mari, Anthony Mirra, Samuel Monaster-sky, Marcantonio, Orlandino, Salvatore Panico, David Petillo, and William Struzziari.

Most of the names are familiar to the police records. Only the names were given. Authorities refused to say, for instance, if Galante is the same notorious racketeer of that name mixed up in a 1958 dope crackdown with Ormento and Mafia boss Genovese.

Genovese, convicted on dope charges with 14 other men in April, 1959, was sentenced to 15 years and \$20,000 fine. Ormento was not routed out of hiding in time for that trial, and is still to be tried on the charges connected with it.

He has the dubious distinction of being the first of the Apalachin mob who was called to the stand by the State Watchdog Committee in December, 1957, to explain the purposes of the Apalachin affair which drew gang chiefs from far and near to a secluded hilltop hideaway. Ormento stolidly cited the Fifth Amendment nine times in refusing to yield a word.

Joseph Vecchio Is Arrested On Dope Charge

Joseph Vecchio, 45, of 86 Bloomfield Avenue, was released in \$10,000 bail after being arrested at his home late Thursday night by Federal narcotics agents and state police.

Vecchio was one of 12 men who were arraigned in New York Federal Court with total bail set at \$17,7500. The Federal agents call the group members of the largest narcotics ring uncovered in recent years. The ring's operations extended through this country and into Canada. The other 11 men, all from New York were trapped at home in simultaneous raids. Vecchio, who operates an asphalt paving business from his home, pleaded not guilty as did all the other members of the ring.

Among those picked up was "Big John" Ormento, 47, of Long Beach, N. Y., described as the kingpin of the ring. Ormento, a convicted narcotics dealer, and a delegate to the Apalachin, N.Y., gangland meeting in 1957, is already under \$100,000 bail as a member of a dope ring operated by Vito Genovese. He is free in another \$1,500 bail for refusing to testify about the Apalachin meeting.

The raids which netted the men followed the opening of a Federal indictment naming them among 29 persons in this country and Canada responsible for large scale narcotics traffic. Four of the Canadians are now in jail in Montreal. The other 13 are still at large.

Highest bail set by Federal Judge Francis F. X. McGully was \$50,000 for Charlie Di Pietro, 30, of New York, who was charged with being the recipient of dope shipments in this country.

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