



VITO GENOVESE  
1961 photo

## Angiulo reminisces about '60s gang wars

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Globe Staff

A federal jury yesterday heard Gennaro J. (Jerry) Angiulo reminisce about Boston's gangland warfare of the 1960s and say that he and two of his brothers, Nicolo and Francesco, "buried 20 [expletive] Irishmen to take this [expletive] town over."

"We can't begin to dig up half the [expletives] we got rid of," Angiulo was heard saying on an FBI tape recording played for the 17-member jury at his racketeering trial in US District Court.

"And I'm talking to you OK," he told another accused mob leader, Mario M.A. Zannino, during a meeting on April 30, 1981, at the Angiulo headquarters at 98 Prince St. in Boston's North End. "And I'm not bragging, either."

"Charlestown," his brother, Francesco, interjected in an apparent reference to some Charlestown mobsters who were slain in the underworld warfare.

**Gennaro Angiulo:** What!

**Francesco:** You're talking about Charlestown.

**Angiulo:** Shut up. Don't say it out loud.

As the group spoke about the violence, which law enforcement officials said involved principally the Winter Hill gang in Somerville and the McLaughlin mob in Charlestown, FBI agents secretly tape recorded the conversation via two electronic "bugs" reportedly hidden in the ceiling tiles in the Angiulo office.

The prosecution introduced the tape recordings

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# Angiulo reminisces about gang wars

## ■ ANGIULO

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about the gangland warfare and Angiulo's references to New York mobsters on the 51st trial day to attempt to show that the reputed crime family, headed by Genaro Angiulo, was part of a national secret crime organization known as La Cosa Nostra.

On trial with Angiulo are his brothers, Francesco, Donato and Michele, and another reputed mob leader, Samuel S. Granito. The racketeering indictment involves six gangland murders, two conspiracies to murder, bookmaking, loansharking and obstruction of justice.

Of the six underworld murders listed in the racketeering indictment, those of Thomas J. DePrisco and Arthur Bratsos on Nov. 15, 1966, of Walter Bennett in April 1967, and of Walter's brother, William Bennett, on Dec. 23, 1967, occurred during the gangland wars.

Genaro Angiulo recalled the Boston warfare while talking on tape about a luncheon meeting in New York City which he and the late Raymond L.S. Patriarca, New England mob boss, attended with Vito Genovese, then head of one of five New York mobs and a major underworld figure in the country. Genovese died in 1969.

"It was at that meeting, according to Angiulo, that he surrendered to the Genovese family 'as a favor' some of the spoils of the conflict with the Irish hoodlums. Angiulo said he did not dare voice his concern at the time. He did not explain exactly what he gave to the Genovese family.

"We had to do it"

But in that 1981 conversation, Angiulo vented the anger that he dared not show Genovese during the luncheon.

Angiulo: We had to do it [accused to Genovese's wishes]... Vito looked at me... It'll be done, Vito... Right now I got a [expletive] knot in my stomach. Him and I, my brother Nick and Frank buried 20 [expletive] Irishmen to take this [expletive] town over. We just lost it just because of this conversation [with Genovese].

"What the [expletive] is this all about," Angiulo said he asked himself at the Genovese meeting. "We're going to give the Irish back what we went in and took. And nobody dared go into this [expletive] town."

Angiulo said he and his brothers were not tough guys but were "sharp, animals." When they wanted to take over something and those in control resisted, they assured them not to worry and to stay in control.

"Soon as he turns his back, the next day, bam boom kill em, bang em [expletive] it," Angiulo said.

Angiulo said he was nervous when he, Patriarca and about 30 others dined with Genovese. He said at one point during the meal, he tried to say something that Genovese didn't want to hear. "Oh, you mean I'm stupid," he quoted Genovese as saying. Patriarca suggested that he go outside and confer with Anthony (Pussy) Russo. Angiulo thought it was a ruse to get him killed because he had upset Genovese.

Outside, Russo told him not to worry, so he returned to the table and spoke to Genovese in Italian in a friendly fashion, winning favor, but still losing some of his control in Boston.

## Favor is asked

"Raymond's sitting there," Angiulo said of the luncheon meet-

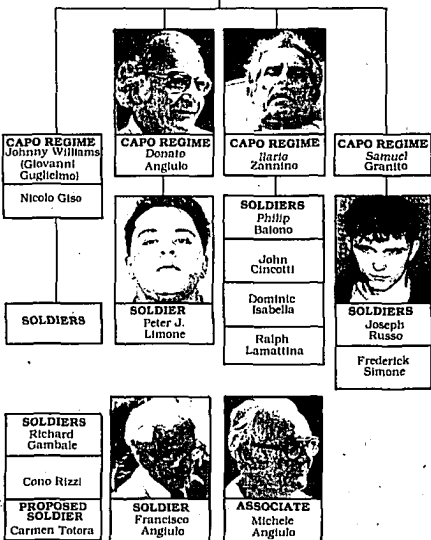
## ■ Organization of a family of La Cosa Nostra



BOSS  
Raymond L.S.  
Patriarca



UNDER BOSS  
Genaro J.  
Angiulo



ing. "So instead... saying to me 'shut up and give it up,' they said, 'we (the Genovese organization) want you to do us a favor. I dare you say no. You understand?'"

One of those at the table was Johnny Earl, whom Angiulo described as a "tough Irishman." Genovese allowed no one around him to smoke, but Earl lit a cigar and left the table "like a bolt of lightning," apparently without paying proper respect to Genovese.

Angiulo: Now little old Vito's sitting there.

Zannino: Nice old man.

Genovese ordered a waiter to bring fruit. "All these Italians, they all eat fruit," Angiulo said. "... guy comes over he's got a big bowl of cherries, bananas, apples and oranges. He keeps putting them down on the table."

Angiulo: He says, You know everybody leaves, move up a little more. You talk to me? I'm all alone... I move up the [expletive] table. I don't even know which [expletive] side to sit on.

Angiulo said Genovese took a cherry from a bowl of fruit and used it as a symbol to show that he had just given something away to Earl.

Angiulo: Vito says to me... Genar... You see this cherry? Yeah. We just gave it away.

Zannino: He's saying this in Italian don't forget. He wants you to understand it.

Angiulo said Genovese then took a banana and said that when he took the cherry back, he would also take a banana, adding: "Look how nice and big it is. We'll all eat a little bit. And he looks at me."

Six weeks went by, Angiulo said, and Johnny Earl was in a New York City automat buying a sandwich when "four kids" walked in, wearing black gloves and black hats.

"Twenty-two shots they hit em," Angiulo said. "He was gonzo. Three days later they found a car

in Brooklyn. Three guys were cut in [expletive] pieces."

## Methods are discussed

One of Patriarca's alleged associates, Gerard T. Oulmette of Swansea, was visiting Angiulo during the discussion of his role in the gangland murders, his meeting with Genovese and how he and his brothers receive visitors.

"When we get someone that tells us something... We chew it in 40 [expletive] pieces... we admire them and every [expletive] thing in the world they say is going to be the greatest thing," Angiulo said on tape. "When they go out the [expletive] door, then the three of us say, 'That [expletive] what is he up to now?'"

Angiulo said they never let the visitor think that they disagreed with him "Because tomorrow he may be able to kick the door open for you... that we can't kick open."

"If they find that one of the individuals becomes 'intolerable,' Angiulo said on tape, 'we kill the [expletive] and that's the end. We'll go find another one.'"

Zannino reminded Angiulo about the time when George P. McLaughlin, who subsequently lost two brothers in '60s warfare, appealed for help in a conflict with a New York gang of which Harold Farmer was a member. Farmer, according to Zannino's account, had stalked Zannino by hiding in manholes in front of his home.

"My people said we're neutral, no pistols," Zannino said he told McLaughlin. "That's how much they were scared of Harold Farmer. But he's, he's with us now."

## Federal law is noted

Angiulo, Zannino and Oulmette talked on tape about the federal RICO anti-racketeering statute under which Angiulo, his brothers, Zannino and Granito were indicted in 1983.

"If they [federal agents] ever took pictures of us right now, Raymond's gone," Angiulo said. "Raymond sent Gerry [Oulmette] in to see Larry [Zannino] and Danny [Angiulo]."

Angiulo also recalled a period of time when the "books" were closed on new members by other families but were kept open by the Patriarca crime family.

FBI Special Agent James Nelson, an authority on organized crime, testified yesterday that the term "books" referred to those who were formally inducted into La Cosa Nostra.

"When the books were closed, the only family that was making people was up here," Angiulo told Zannino, a confederate in the racketeering case whose own trial has been postponed because of his ill health.

He said Patriarca claimed the organization faced "an emergency," so he was granted permission by the commission - composed of the heads of 24 crime families across the country - to induct new members.