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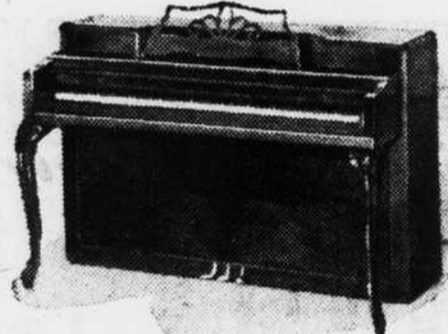


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### Crime in America

## Guzik and Accardo Won't Talk, But Probers Get Data Anyway

By Estes Kefauver  
Former Chairman of Senate Crime Committee  
CHAPTER 5.  
Two Chicago hoodlums in whom the Senate Crime Committee had particular interest were Jacob Guzik and Anthony Accardo. We felt that these infamous, rather strangely assorted partners might hold a key to the whole question

This is the fifth of a series of 20 articles condensed from the book, "Crime in America," by Senator Kefauver.

of organized interstate crime, so widely dispersed were their nefarious activities.

Accardo, back when he was a strong-arm man in Chicago's underworld and reputedly a body-



SILENT WITNESS—Anthony J. (Tony) Accardo, reputed Chicago gambling boss, at witness table during Senate investigation. —AP Photo.

guard for the late "Machine-Gun Jack" McGurn, used an appropriate alias—"Joe Batters."

Guzik is a pouty-eyed little man of 64, with a ravaged face that looks as if it were made of wax left too long near a hot fire. The warrant for his arrest as a missing witness was not served on him until the final week of our scheduled public hearings.

Guzik is a manipulator rather than a muscle man; he acquired his nickname—Greasy Thumb—from the fact that he was business manager and pay-off man for Al Capone.

It is a strange quirk of gangdom that these two men should be partners and joint leaders of the Capone syndicate. Police records

show that Accardo was picked up in 1945 for questioning about a gang-style kidnaping of Guzik, who reportedly had to pay \$75,000 to regain his freedom. Nothing ever came of this episode, for Guzik stoutly insisted it was just a misunderstanding over a "business transaction."

We didn't learn much directly from either. Accardo answered only a few elementary questions, refusing even to tell about things already part of police and court records.

Refuses to Reveal Age.  
The gray-visaged Guzik was worse. When we asked him his age, he refused to answer on the grounds that it might "incriminate me or tend to incriminate me." After he had parroted this monotonous phrase some 80 times, Senator Wiley asked if he had consulted a lawyer; Guzik answered that he had not.

"Where'd you get this phrase you have been using all the time?" asked Senator Wiley.

"I have heard it on television," Guzik replied.

Though we did not learn much from Guzik and Accardo, we learned a good deal about them. One topic we explored was their shadowy association with "policy wheel" operation.

In Chicago's teeming Negro district, "policy wheel"—a variety of the "numbers" racket in which there are daily drawings for combinations of winning numbers—has come to be big business. An estimated \$1.5 billion has been played on them in the past five years. Operations of this magnitude, of course could not exist without graft being paid to dishonest police for protection.

There is a melancholy moral in this when one considers that the staggering sum is amassed from the nickels, dimes and quarters of the inhabitants of some of the worst slums in America. There are numerous wheels operating—with fanciful names such as the "Roman Silver," the "Calcutta-Green Dragon," the "Jackpot Whirlaway-Alabama-Georgia."

The Capone mob, of course, could not keep its hands off such a bonanza. Coincidentally, numerous instances of violence—kidnapings, bombings and such—began cropping up.

One witness we summoned was Edward Jones, a one-time Pullman porter. He was a partner with his wife, mother, brother and two other men in a policy wheel known as "The Maine, Idaho and Ohio." Its net profits, 1944 through 1949, came to \$3,656,968.22.

Still Fearful After 5 Years.  
In 1946, Ed Jones was kidnaped and held until his family paid \$100,000 ransom. Even though five years had elapsed since the kidnaping at the time we questioned him, the ex-porter, who wore a huge star sapphire ring, was exceedingly timorous. He insisted he did not even know whether his abductors were white persons or Negroes because they were "blindfolded" at the time.

Whether Jones was kidnaped solely for ransom, or whether it was a "muscle" operation whereby gangsters took over part of the business, never has been established. Jones himself denies that the "Maine-Idaho-Ohio" has been muscles. However, Ed Jones and his brother, George—though each continues to draw a 20 per cent share of the profits—have lived in Mexico City since the kidnaping.

Our Chicago hearings also provided a case history of how a one-time hoodlum can establish himself in a legitimate business and become enormously wealthy. The case was that of Joseph Charles (Joe) Fusco, 48, now the operating vice president of Gold Seal Liquors, Inc. (wholesale distributors), a stockholder in four other liquor distributing companies and part-owner of a brewery.

From a sales volume standpoint, Fusco boasted Gold Seal was Chicago's "No. 1" dealer. His own net worth was possibly \$1,000,000 and the book value of Gold Seal alone, of which he owns 25 per cent, was \$2,200,000, he told us.

Virgil Peterson of the Chicago Crime Commission gave us this thumbnail report: "Joe Fusco designated several years ago as a public enemy, during the prohibition era, was a principal lieutenant in the Capone syndicate, handling the manufacture and distribution of illicit beer. He is presently suspected of being the respectable front in the liquor industry for the syndicate. . . . It has been stated that the syndicate owns or controls at least 17 per cent of the retail liquor stores in Chicago. . . ."

Peterson also identified Rocco De Stefano, with whom Fusco admitted doing business, as an "important syndicate man."

Painfully, with the witness making long speeches at almost every question, Committee Counsel Rudolph Halley extracted from Fusco some details of how he gave away 20 to 25 cases of whisky as Christmas gifts to public officials and other friends. Practically every cop in the district came around at Christmas for a bottle or two, Fusco said. He became belligerent when asked who received his Christmas liquor. "If



GREASY THUMB GUZIK. Wouldn't even tell his age.

you were in Chicago," he barked at Halley, "maybe I would send you a case too."

Halley retorted: "Maybe I would return it to you."

"I don't know," said Fusco, arrogantly. "I have never got any back."

There was an ugly aftermath to Fusco's appearance. Apparently the mob got the idea that he had "talked." Ten days later a black powder bomb went off in the doorway of his Gold Seal warehouse. The newspapers captioned a picture of Fusco inspecting the damage: "He talked to the Kefauver."

Everywhere we went, the committee found political immoralities, including 10 men on the staff of the sheriff of Cook County, and "a couple of high-

ly mentioned Dan Serritella, way police." Adducci cynically simultaneously a State Senator, scratch sheet operator, and business partner with Greasy Thumb Guzik. We accumulated evidence that proved the connections of the Capone gang with politicians of both major parties. The mobsters played politics strictly for their own interests. When we asked ex-Caponeite Philip D'Andrea whether Capone had been a Republican or Democrat, D'Andrea replied: "He was a Republican when it fitted his clothes, a Democrat and a Democrat otherwise."

The pro-Capone bloc in the legislature included Democrats and Republicans alike. For instance, Virgil Peterson testified that Senator Roland Libonati, a Democrat, "has been pictured with Al Capone and with 'Machine-Gun Jack' McGurn."

Another bloc member was James J. Adducci, a Republican and for 18 years a member of the Illinois Legislature. Mr. Adducci appeared before us and outlined his political philosophy and certain facets of his career. He has been a friend and confidant of numerous notorious Capone gangsters, and admitted having been arrested frequently himself on numerous charges—including kidnaping—but never convicted.

For eight years, according to the Illinois Legislature, he has been getting a commission of "between \$5,000 and \$6,000 or \$6,500" by selling stationery and envelopes to the State. He also boasted of having control of about 40 patronage jobs, including 10 men on the staff of the sheriff of Cook County, and "a couple of high-

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