

'Tony Muscles' and 'Johnny Sausage' Indicted

Roofers Union Bosses and Mafiosi Worked Hand in Hand, DA Charges

Just four years after several top officers of Local 8 of the United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers (RWA/AFL-CIO) were removed after being implicated in racketeering schemes, the Manhattan DA is trying once again, in his own words, to "clean up this union's mess."

On July 27, the Brooklyn-based local was indicted. Its five top-ranked officials, the girl friend of one of these officials, a Genovese crime family capo, and a Genovese associate were all hauled into court.

The 54-count indictment involves an alleged scheme to extort more than \$2 million from more than 20 roofing contractors.

Local 8 Business Manager Anthony "Tony Muscles" Guardino and his lieutenants are accused of extracting bribes of \$1500 to \$2000 a month from roofing contractors. Part of the loot was allegedly funneled to mob captain John "Johnny Sausage" Barbato.

Guardino roommate Donna Catalano is charged with handling cash generated by the scheme.

Contractors who cooperated were allowed to ignore union work rules, including rules tightly restricting the use of power tools and other labor-saving equipment, and employ nonunion workers.

Employers who refused to go along were allegedly threatened with shutdowns.

Such strong-arm tactics were "orchestrated by senior officers of Local 8 at the behest of the Genovese organization," according to a *New York*

Times report citing the staff of veteran Manhattan DA Robert Morgenthau.

Local 8 has 600 captive members who work in the city, Westchester County, Rockland County and part of Hudson County, N.J.

The indictments were the result of a two-year investigation that relied heavily on wiretaps. Search warrants served last year yielded more than \$100,000 in cash, some of it located in a safe deposit box controlled by Mr. Guardino's mother.

Mob Control, Forced Unionism Pervasive in New York Construction Since World War I

In announcing the latest RWA Local 8 indictments, Mr. Morgenthau sanguinely predicted that with this crackdown he and his staff would at last succeed in truly cleaning up the union:

"This is the second time we have had to clean up this union's mess. We intend to ensure that this will be the last."

Mr. Morgenthau is swimming against the tide. As a commission appointed by former Big Labor New York Gov. Mario Cuomo (D) acknowledged 16 years ago, mob control of the construction industry in the Big Apple has World I-era roots.

In 1919, racketeer Robert Brindell established a citywide building trades union with the support of the American Federation of Labor (AFL), the AFL-CIO's precursor.

Mr. Brindell's dirty work was facilitated by several then-recent New York State



STEPHANIE PARKER

DA Morgenthau has made a Pollyanna-like vow to "clean up" Roofers Local 8, once and for all.

court decisions sanctioning compulsory unionism in private-sector employment.

Forced Unionism Culpable For 'Almost Every Antisocial Aspect of Labor Relations'

But today, federal labor law is corrupt union bosses' best friend. It forces employees to accept unwanted union representation and pay union dues or "fees" as a condition of employment.

"Robert Morgenthau may succeed in getting 'Tony Muscles' Guardino locked up, but despite the DA's best efforts other crooks are bound to step into the void as long as New York hardhats' Right to Work is denied," charged Doug Stafford, vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"To stop the emergence of the next 'Tony Muscles,' Congress needs to repeal the forced-dues provisions in federal labor law and empower rank-and-file employees in every state to punish union corruption as soon as they see it by resigning and withholding their dues.

"As labor-law scholar and former unpaid union organizer Sylvester Petro once said, the denial of the rights of 'individual workingmen' is the 'basic cause of almost every antisocial aspect in labor relations....'

"That's why the Committee continues to fight harder and harder to pass H.R.391/S.1765, the National Right to Work Act, and thus repeal all federally-imposed forced dues."

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