

# Islander, Hoffa Aide Held in Jukebox Graft

A Staten Island union leader was one of more than a dozen men to be arraigned today in Nassau County Court, Mineola, L.I., on indictments charging them with conspiracy, coercion, extortion or attempted extortion in the jukebox industry.

The Islander, Joseph (Bull) DeGrandis, 53, of 3890 Victory Blvd., Travis, and 12 others were arrested in a mass roundup that extended to all corners of the

city after a Nassau County grand jury returned the indictments against them yesterday.

DeGrandis is president of the much-investigated Local 266 of the Teamsters Union.

John J. O'Rourke, 59, an international vice president of the union and its head man in the metropolitan area, also was one of those picked up.

After his release in \$25,000 bail, O'Rourke went to the fashionable

Garden City Hotel near Mineola to await his appearance in County Court today.

He was the only one of those arrested to be freed in bail.

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DETECTIVES pressed the search today for the remaining three men of the 15 indicted. Names of those still at large were not made public.

O'Rourke is a long-time friend of Teamsters President James R.

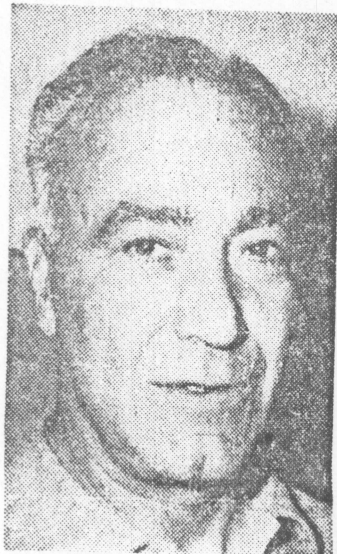
Hoffa and was named general organizer of the union last December.

Most of those indicted were arrested within a short time after the indictments were handed up by a Nassau County grand jury. The bulk of the defendants were charged with conspiracy, coercion, extortion or attempted extortion.

Nassau County Dist. Atty. Man-

# \$10,000 Bail Pins Islander In L. I. Jukebox Inquiry

Joseph (Bull) DeGrandis of 3890 Victory Blvd., Travis, is free today in \$10,000 bail awaiting trial in Nassau County Court on charges of conspiracy, coercion and extortion in the Nassau County jukebox industry.



JOSEPH DE GRANDIS

DeGrandis, president of Local 266, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, was one of 13 men arrested Thursday after their indictment by a Nassau County grand jury.

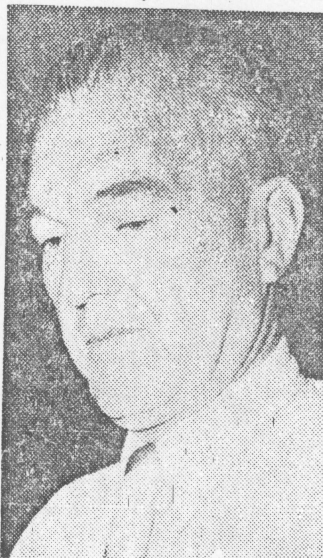
Also caught in the net was the East Coast chief of the Teamsters Union, John J. O'Rourke.

Two others are still being sought.

The group was arraigned Friday before County Court Judge Paul J. Widlitz in Mineola, L.I., where all entered innocent pleas.

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BAIL of \$25,000 was set for O'Rourke, a close friend of Teamster boss James R. Hoffa. Eight others posted \$10,000 bail each.



JOHN J. O'ROURKE

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uel Levine told newsmen that "our evidence indicates that O'Rourke is an important member of this conspiracy."

Delivery of the indictments in court was a signal for 30 county detectives to fan out from this New York City suburb with bench warrants calling for the arrest of the accused.

The district attorney said the extortion charges were based on evidence that Local 266 was organized "purely for the purpose of extorting and coercing and restraining individuals from the proper conduct of their business."

The local allegedly had a system of "labor fees" against owner-operators of juke boxes and coin-operated amusement devices on Long Island.

Authorities said the union levied "initiation fees" of \$25 for the owner-operators, plus dues of \$5 a month and 65 cents a month for each machine in operation.

The Nassau grand jury's investigation, which began three weeks ago, developed from the U. S. Senate probes revelations of widespread racketeering in the jukebox and coin-operated amusement machine industries.

Both O'Rourke and DeGrandis figured in the Senate committee hearings on union rackets. DeGrandis refused to testify. The committee subpoenaed O'Rourke's records along with the records of about a dozen other Teamster locals in New York City. He invoked the fifth amendment.

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