

Consequently, George telephoned Lombardi from the hospital to plead for time. Lombardi threatened to "come choke him a little." Therefore, George agreed to bring his brother Al the following day to the La Salle Hotel.

I walked in with George and Jack Chiagouris. Shortly thereafter Lombardi entered with Messino. Messino motioned for the brothers to follow him into the bar. I protested, saying I wanted to be present. Messino told me Lombardi would sit with me in the lobby.

George Bravos now walked by me and went toward the bar. I made conversation with Lombardi in an effort to obtain more corroboration of past events concerning these juice transactions. I told Lombardi that as George's brother-in-law I had given him the money for the last two payments.

I volunteered that I was concerned for George's safety because of the beating he suffered a few months before, like the broken jaw Jack received from him and Messino. Lombardi said it could have been worse than a broken jaw.

I asked Lombardi why it had been necessary to get rough with the Chiagouris brothers. Lombardi replied they had certain methods of collecting debts from delinquent customers. He also admitted "having given Jack and George a couple of slaps."

I asked Lombardi if there wasn't some way to settle all the debts. Lombardi replied that only Messino and Bravos had the power to do that.

Inside the bar Messino heaped foul language and threats of violence on George and Jack Chiagouris because they had continued to duck their payments. George made another payment to Messino giving him \$1,500. Bravos, who was seated at the bar, then walked over to the table, to join the conversation. Bravos cautioned the brothers to stop the nonsense hereafter and make their payments on schedule, or else.

Another meeting was arranged for noon August 9 at Stefano's Restaurant, Damen and Chicago Avenues. I accompanied Jack and George. Messino was there. He said he had another appointment and would see us later that afternoon at Mooreale's Furniture Store at 3742 West Chicago Avenue.

We kept the appointment at the furniture store. Messino did not want to talk to me. Instead he took Jack and George into the private office there. They told Messino they had an opportunity to cancel out their debt to him but would like a rebate. Messino magnanimously said he would accept \$75,000 to wipe out the outstanding debt of \$124,000.

As I left the store with Jack and George, Messino waved goodbye to me.

We later decided to close out the case because we were not in a position to make any more payments to the juice gang. Coordinated arrests were made on August 17, 1965. Lombardi was arrested at the Sahara Motel, 3800 North Mannheim Road, Schiller Park, Ill.

This establishment was formerly owned by Manny Skar, a Chicago hoodlum who was murdered in gangland fashion on September 11, 1965. It was later determined the motel had received a million-dollar loan from Marshall Savings & Loan Association, Odgen and Harlem, Riverside, Ill. That association was placed in receivership by the State of Illinois.