

BIG HOTEL SUITE LUCANIA'S 'OFFICE'

Jury Hears He Directed the Operations of Vice Ring From His Rooms There.

A RENDEZVOUS FOR GANG

Racketeer Finally Ejected, Says Manager—Aides Identified as His Visitors.

A two-room suite in the Waldorf-Astoria Towers, for which he paid \$250 a month, was the headquarters from which Charles (Lucky Luciano) Lucania directed activities of the vice ring he allegedly organized, according to the situation portrayed yesterday by Thomas E. Dewey, Special Prosecutor.

Mr. Dewey presented three hotel employes before Supreme Court Justice McCook and a jury to show that the apartment served as a rendezvous for members of the gang. Lucania occupied it, under the name of Ross, from April 7 to Oct. 29, 1935. On the latter date he was ejected summarily by Henry Woelfe, manager of the Towers.

Lucania is on trial for compulsory prostitution. Co-defendants are David Betillo, James Frederico, Abe Wahrman, Meyer Berkman, Jesse Jacobs, Ralph Liguori, Jack Ellenstein, Thomas Pennochio and Benny Spiller.

Woelfe, Marjorie Brown, a maid, and Joseph Weinman, a waiter, testified that visitors to the apartment included Wahrman, Betillo, Berkman and Frederico. The girl estimated that Betillo had been there five times. Betillo is alleged to have been field director for Lucania. The witness said Wahrman visited the suite perhaps twenty times. Wahrman is reputed to have been a strong-arm man and an executive of the vice gang.

Steps Down From Stand

The maid stepped down three times to place her hand on defendants she had seen at the suite. Defense attorneys made no progress whatever in trying to establish that perhaps she was mistaken.

During a recess some of the defendants exchanged ties and took other seats because defense counsel, on cross-examination, had suggested that witnesses had been coached to such an extent that they knew what kind of clothes the accused were wearing and where they were sitting in the court room.

Weinman, the next witness, readily identified Lucania and Frederico. Woelfe testified that he had a talk with Lucania last October as a result of which that tenant immediately gave up his quarters.

The only other witness was Florence Brown, known in the underworld as Cokey Flo because of narcotic addiction. She is under charges of disorderly conduct and of possessing narcotics. She completed testimony that began last Thursday.

Her Letters Are Read

Several letters were read that she wrote to Frederico after his arrest on Feb. 1 last. She addressed him as "Dear Cousin" because of the jail censorship, she said. Miss Brown, whose testimony has linked Frederico with Lucania quite directly, wrote a few weeks ago to him:

"When a week goes by and still no word from you, I get terribly frantic. You see, dear cousin, you still mean a lot to me, as much as always. This trouble makes no difference to me. I still think as much of you as ever. We always were more to each other than just plain cousins.

"No matter what happens, you always will mean everything to me. Everything that is good and fine and sweet in this world will be embodied in your image for me. Some of the happiest moments in my life were spent in your company. Perhaps some unhappy ones, too, but thoughts of them fade away when the image of your smiling face comes to my mind.

"I think it is terrible to keep a person in jail so long before they are convicted. Only a murderer is held that way. It seems that even

a murderer is treated with more consideration."

Another letter protesting against Frederico's incarceration read:

"They let murderers go free, but a person who never did any harm has to rot in jail. Look at Vera Stretz, a confessed murderess. She even confessed it on the stand, yet she is freed. Look at all the money spent on Hauptmann. The Governor himself intervening for a baby killer, the worst kind of killer there is. That's why I say there is no justice in the world."

These were written before May 8, the date of the witness's arrest. A few days after her arrest Miss Brown communicated with Mr. Dewey, offering information. Cross-examined by George Morton Levy of counsel for Lucania, Miss Brown denied she had come forward in the hope of saving Frederico at the expense of others, to save herself from prison or to gain publicity.

The trial will be resumed at 9:30 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Four men appeared yesterday in the police line-up charged with compulsory prostitution. They were arrested in an automobile Friday night in front of the home of one of them, George Paulas, 25 years old, of 274 West Fortieth Street.

With them was Vera Hudock, 19. The police said she had been held prisoner in the room of James Pappas, 24, of 222 West Twenty-seventh Street, one of the defendants, for several months. The others captured were Hyman Epstein, 30, of 2,395 Grand Concourse, the Bronx, and Peter Andrews, 29, of 633 Eighth Avenue.

Miss Hudock escaped Thursday to 322 Third Avenue, the home of a girl friend who later informed the police of Miss Hudock's story.

In Felony court Magistrate Leonard McGee held the prisoners in \$10,000 bail each for a hearing Wednesday on charges of compulsory prostitution. Pappas was held in an additional \$5,000 bail on a felonious assault charge brought by Josephine Marz, the girl who informed the police of Miss Hudock's plight. Miss Marz said Pappas brandished a knife and threatened her with death for interfering.