



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

**CARLO TRESCA**

**PART 9 OF 10**

**BUFILE: 61-1335**

Carlo Tresca

Section 10

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
New York 7, New York

JTC:TW  
NY 100-9744

January 5, 1944

Director, FBI

ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY

Re: CARLO TRESCA  
INTERNAL SECURITY I  
Bureau File # 61-1335

D-11435  
1/10/44

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated December 15, 1943 and to New York letter dated December 24, 1943, in the above-captioned case.

VAN L. B. MOHAWA, who allegedly was a former Communist and is now program and educational director for Local 69, International Ladies Garment Workers' Union at 140 West 40th Street, advised that he did not know of any Italian Communist possessing the initials "O.R." He referred an Agent of this office to one LUIGI SAVARDA of 1776 Castle Avenue, Bronx, New York, who was formerly a Communist, for further information on "O.R."

Mr. SAVARDA was interviewed at his place of business, the SHIPLEY SHIRT COMPANY, at 525 Seventh Avenue, New York City, with negative results.

A check of the indices of known Communists and the indices of alleged Communist front figures maintained at the New York Field Division was in an effort to locate the name of an Italian Communist whose initials either "O.R." or "R.O." with negative results.

The Reverend ALBERT A. MANGIACAPRA was contacted at his residence, East 21st Street, New York City. He advised that he is engaged in religious, educational and social service work. He started an anti-Fascist Forum in 1928 which he conducted at the Labor Temple at 242 East 14th Street, New York City. Reverend MANGIACAPRA informed that he never had received any threats of bodily harm. He advised, however, that on February 10, 1942 at about 11:00 A.M. he fell down the elevator shaft at the Labor Temple in New York City but that was a mere accident and there was no one near him when he fell. In response

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COPY AND SPECIMENS RETAINED IN LAB.

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to a question whether he had been pushed down the elevator shaft, the Reverend specifically denied the fact. He said that on the day of the accident he had walked to the elevator on the ground floor of the Labor Temple to go to his apartment, which was located on the seventh floor. A sign on the elevator read "Not Running." That indicated to the occupants of the building that the operator was not on duty and the elevator would be on the ground floor. It was the custom of the tenants when such was the case, to operate the elevator themselves. Assuming that the elevator was situated on the ground floor, the Reverend MANCIAPRA opened the door leading to the elevator shaft, falling and sustaining a compound fracture of the upper right arm. He was taken to the down town hospital, New York City, where he remained five weeks. The Reverend believes that an account of his accident was published in the newspapers and it was known to the members of his congregation.

In connection with an examination of the files in the New York Field Division, a letter was found addressed to this office relating to the THURSON homicide and signed "JOE NADI." The letter is dated January 14, 1942, Central Islip, New York; however, the postmark is January 15, 1943 and it was received at this office January 17, 1943. The writer of the letter, JOE NADI, is identical with GIUSEPPE NUDI, who attacked ATTORNEY MANFREDI on September 1, 1943 at the Labor Temple in New York City and is presently confined to the MATTWEGAN STATE HOSPITAL for the criminal insane at Beacon, New York. This letter is being forwarded herewith to the Laboratory so that comparison can be made by the Laboratory between the handwriting on this letter with that mentioned in Bureau's referenced communication which bore the initials "C.T."

A translation of this letter, which is in Italian, is being attached to the original letter and reads as follows:

"Carlo Tresca, one of the affiliates of the Fascist OVRA, has been shot. It is well-known that Tresca, every time when he has been caught in the nets of justice, has always got out of it by reversing the responsibility on to his co-defendants, automatically giving State's evidence. This is the only factor which decided the spies of the Fascist OVRA to get rid of Carlo Tresca, at a time when Mussolini's agents in America were about to be unmasked, and it is in this field that the investigation should be carried out, if you want the solution of the assassination.

Tresca was a spy, and he was suppressed by his own accomplices."

For the information of the Bureau, the New York files reflect the following information regarding GIUSEPPE NUDI, alias Joe Nadi:

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Local New York newspapers on September 2, 1943, carried the story that **EMILIO MANFREDI**, 61 years old, Italian born radio commentator, and friend of **CARLO TERRA**, the slain anti-Fascist, was stabbed in the face at eight o'clock on September 1, 1943 while he was about to attend a Socialist Party Rally in the Labor Temple at 242 East 14th Street, New York City. The assailant fled but sometime after the stabbing he approached a patrolman at 42nd Street and Seventh Avenue and advised him that he had stabbed a man at a meeting on 14th Street. The man was taken to the West 90th Street Station and he identified himself as **GIUSEPPE NUDI**, a former toy factory worker. He resided at 625 Cortlandt Avenue, Bronx. NUDI stated that two years previous MANFREDI had written an article in "LA FAROLA" which referred to him as a "frog in the throat" and a "pipe swallower." NUDI did not say why MANFREDI had used the epithets but police assumed there were political differences. The New York Daily News quoted MANFREDI as saying "I thought he was going to this meeting so I waited outside for him." The newspaper definitely identifies **EMILIO MANFREDI** to be the same individual referred to in Bureau referenced letter.

b7c [REDACTED] a clerk at the psychiatric division, Bellevue Hospital, New York City, referred to the case history on NUDI and furnished the following information concerning him:

NUDI is presently confined at the MATTEWAN STATE HOSPITAL FOR THE CRIMINAL INSANE at Beacon, New York. He was committed there by order of Judge **EDICT D. DINWEN** of the New York Supreme Court on September 21, 1943. He had been charged with felonious assault. NUDI had been previously admitted to the Bellevue Hospital on July 11, 1942 and was committed under the name "JOE NUDI" for paranoid schizophrenia. He was sent to the New York State Hospital at Central Islip, Long Island on July 29, 1942. He was released on parole in custody of his brother, **RAFFAELI NUDI** of 625 Cortlandt Avenue, Bronx, New York on February 21, 1943. The diagnosis of NUDI's condition made at Central Islip was that he was suffering from dementia praecox (paranoid). While on parole NUDI was supposed to report to the Psychiatric Institute at Columbia University for examinations. The records reflected that NUDI was again committed to Bellevue Hospital on September 10, 1943. His age was 47 and he was born in Italy. Following NUDI's last commitment Doctor [REDACTED] of Bellevue, made the following diagnosis:

b7c  
"Patient should be regarded as extremely delusional and dangerous. He has delusions of persecution. He has obviously misinterpreted what he has read in newspapers and what he has heard over the radio in a delusional way."

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"Patient has systematized delusions of persecution. He stated that for at least four years he has been persecuted by the OVRA, which is the Italian Secret Police organized by the Fascists of Italy. He says he has been constantly followed and that his life is in danger."

The file further reflected that NUDEI had been in the United States since 1936 and worked for the ARMY DOLL COMPANY.

FRANCESCO MANFREDI was contacted at his residence, 38-05 87th Street, Jackson Heights Long Island and he advised that he knew of no Italian Communist with the initials "O.R." He informed that he had only seen NUDEI, his assailant, but once prior to the date he was stabbed. This had been at a meeting of Socialists some months prior to the assault, at which NUDEI threatened MA. FREDI, GIROLAMO VALENTI and Colonel RANDELO PACCIAREI with an open knife. MANFREDI furnished the Agents who contacted him with a number of anonymous and threatening communications which were sent to him. These are being forwarded to the Bureau herewith and are contained in a folder marked "EXHIBIT A," for comparison with the handwriting of "O.R." The FBI Laboratory may retain the letters which were supplied by MANFREDI.

GIUSEPPE LUPIS furnished a number of letters which were addressed to him and to his magazine "IL MONDO." These are anonymous and threatening communications also. These letters are being forwarded to the FBI LABORATORY for appropriate examination and comparison with the handwriting of "O.R." and are being enclosed in an envelope marked "EXHIBIT B". The FBI Laboratory is requested to return these letters to the New York Field Office as they must be returned to Mr. LUPIS who has received a receipt for same from an Agent of this office.

Additional anonymous and threatening communications which were sent to the persons mentioned in Bureau referenced letter are being sought and will be forwarded to the FBI Laboratory as soon as they are obtained.

The Bureau is further advised that Resident Agents from this office are making inquiries at the New York State Hospital at Central Islip, Long Island and at the MATTEWAN STATE HOSPITAL FOR THE CRIMINAL INSANE at Beacon, New York, to obtain further information regarding NUDEI's case history and the dates on which he was in confinement at those institutions. Handwriting and handprinting speci-

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mens of NUDI are being obtained at Beacon, New York, and as soon as they are available, they will be forwarded to the FBI Laboratory for comparison with the handprinting of "O.R."

Colonel RANDOLFO PACCIARDI advised he had no anonymous threatening communications in his possession which he could furnish the Bureau.

Further information resulting from inquiries being made by this office will be sent to the Bureau as soon as they are obtained.

Very truly yours,

*E. E. Conroy*  
E. E. CONROY,  
SAC

Enclosures:

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

New York, N. Y.

JTG:FAS  
100-9744

January 8, 1944

Director, FBI

ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY

RE: CARLO TRESCA  
INTERNAL SECURITY - I  
Bureau File 61-1335

*Handwritten:* 7031  
D-11437  
*[Signature]*

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to my letter dated January 5, 1944 in the above captioned case.

I am enclosing herewith five postcards containing handprinting and signed, "O.R.", which were obtained by Special Agent [redacted] of this office, from PIETRO ALLEGRA. Mr. ALLEGRA is one of the persons mentioned in the anonymous communication of "O.R." in the intercepted letter dated February 23, 1943 which is in the Bureau's possession.

*b7c*

ALLEGRA, according to the New York files, has been connected with subversive movements for many years and was a friend of the late CARLO TRESCA. He resides at 25-76 44th Street, Astoria, Long Island, and conducts the ALLEGRA CIGAR COMPANY at 57 Chrystie Street, New York City.

The above postcards, received by PIETRO ALLEGRA, were mailed in New York City and are respectively postmarked January 31, 1942, Grand Central Annex; February 9, 1942, Madison Square Station (2); February 16, 1942, Station A, and March 5, 1942, Station A. They are being enclosed herewith in an envelope marked Exhibit A. ALLEGRA advised he had not received any anonymous communications lately. He also stated he did not know anyone who bore the initials "O.R."

I am also enclosing for comparison by the FBI Laboratory with handwriting of "O.R.", a number of anonymous communications received by LUIGI ANTONINI, Secretary General of Local 89, ILGWU. Mr. ANTONINI advised that one of the anonymous letters which is included in the above number and which was sent to him in poor Italian, later appeared in an issue of "L'UNITA del POPOLO" of April 3, 1943 in correct Italian. He suspected therefore that the Communists may have had something to do with the anonymous communications sent to him.



Op. 2

*Handwritten:* 101-1335-372  
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*[Signature]*



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The above anonymous communications, supplied by Mr. ANTONINI, are being enclosed in an envelope marked Exhibit B. One of the communications enclosed in Exhibit B was not opened or handled, according to Mr. ANTONINI. This letter is being marked appropriately so that you may identify it and make other tests for latent prints, etc. Although the flap of this envelope is opened and was never sealed, Mr. ANTONINI advised agents of this office that he never touched the letter or took it out of its envelope. Mr. ANTONINI pursued this course of action upon instructions of one of the agents of this office.

b7c

Special Agent [REDACTED] obtained the following information concerning GIUSEPPE NUDI, alias JOE NADI, at the Central Islip State Hospital, Central Islip, New York. Their file, entitled JOE NUDI, (C.I.#36474), reflected that the correct surname of the patient was NUDI. He was admitted to the hospital on July 29, 1942. NUDI was taken to Bellevue Hospital, New York City for admission on July 11, 1942. He had the following case history:

"Patient is an apparent psycho. Has persecution. Has persecution ideas. He is pre-occupied with a delusional system in which a secret Fascist organization persecuted him. He believes he has been given poison; that he is followed."

As his "friend's" name, the patient gave the name of his brother, RAFFAEL NUDI of 625 Courtlandt Avenue, Bronx, New York.

Information concerning NUDI, following his admission to the Central Islip State Hospital reflects the following:

Under Description: Age 48, born November 29, 1895 in Cosenza, Italy; parents, father DOMINICO NUDI in Italy, mother MARY PARESAL; height, five feet five inches; weight 194 lbs; brown eyes; black hair; peculiarities, paralysis of right vocal cord; hoarse speech; circular scar on right cheek. Patient entered the United States in 1920 and returned to Italy in 1929, re-entering the United States in 1930. He had three years grammar school education; registered with Local Board #82 at 501 East 161st Street, Bronx, order number U-3594. Patient's family history was negative for mental or nervous diseases.

NUDI's personal history: Patient was born November 29, 1895 in Cosenza, Italy. He first came to the United States in 1920. He returned to Italy in 1929 and re-entered the United States in 1930. He has lived in

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New York State since 1930 and is an alien. He completed the third grade at the age of 13. He worked as a factory worker in Italy and in this country peddles small articles such as shoe laces. No serious illness or injuries. He was operated on at City Hospital, Newark, New Jersey for inguinal adenitis. Patient occasionally took a glass of wine but was never intoxicated. No drugs. No military service. No previous mental hospitalization. Single. Roman Catholic.

Psychosis: For about twenty years prior to admission, patient talked about a gang of Fascists trying to ruin Italy and about Italians in the United States. For the past ten years, he was very dull, stayed at home most of the time and occasionally, when urged, he would peddle laces. He then began to talk about Fascists being nearby. On the day of admission to Bellevue, he complained of stomach trouble.

Central Islip Admission - Examination of NUDI: During the mental examination, the patient was pleasant and cooperative, but showed inadequate emotional response. He was unproductive. Dull and unconcerned. He stated for several years Fascists have been spying on him, following him and writing articles about him in the papers, but they always used different names to fool him. A few days before his admission to Bellevue, they caused him to have headaches by spraying drugs near him, but he thought this might have been imaginary. Since his admission to the Central Islip State Hospital, NUDI continued to express the idea that he was persecuted by the Fascists, but later on, stated that his ideas were imaginary and he "wanted to forget".

NUDI's mental diagnosis was Dementia Praecox, Paranoid type.

On February 8, 1943, NUDI told [REDACTED] <sup>b7c</sup> at the Central Islip State Hospital that he was poisoned by an orange given him by a friend. Later he saw this friend with a man known to the patient as a spy for an Italian secret society. The patient claims to be an enemy of this society.

On February 21, 1943, NUDI was paroled for one year in the custody of his brother, RAFFAELE NUDI, 625 Courtlandt Avenue, Bronx, New York. NUDI returned several times to the Psychiatric Institute, New York Medical Center, New York City, while on parole. He was also interviewed by social workers at his home. He then secured employment in a factory making dolls where he earned \$5.00 per day.

On September 28, 1943, information was received at the Central Islip State Hospital that the patient NUDI was admitted to the Matteawan State Hospital for the Criminal Insane, and consequently was discharged from

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parole. The Matteawan State Hospital is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Correction at Beacon, New York. He was admitted there under the name of GIUSEPPE NUDI.

While at the Central State Hospital, NUDI claimed that a friend put a lot of funny things in a paper called "PAROLA" to make him, NUDI, appear to be a spy. He claims he was called in this paper, "Raffriddato", and "Filosco Spilamilapippa".

A letter dated September 26, 1942, apparently written by NUDI at the Central Islip State Hospital, and addressed to the FBI in New York, which was never delivered, was obtained at the hospital. It is signed "JOE NADI". It is being forwarded herewith in an envelope marked Exhibit C.

b2 [redacted] of the state institution, advised this letter was apparently placed in the files of the hospital and was not forwarded to the New York Office. According to hospital regulations, the letter should have been given back to NUDI with an explanation that the hospital authorities had decided against furnishing it to the FBI.

[redacted] also advised that a check at the hospital with the supervisor of the building where NUDI resides and with the supervisor in NUDI's ward and also the hospital records, reflected that NUDI was in Central Islip State Hospital on January 11, 1943, which is the date of the TRESKA homicide.

On January 8, 1944, Confidential Informant [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau, telephonically advised Special Agent [redacted] of this office that the investigations being conducted by the New York City Police Department reflect that an unknown delegate of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union, gave \$9,000 to FRANK CETRANO, alias "CHICK" WILSON just prior to the TRESKA murder. Reference to "CHICK" WILSON is made in my letter of July 14, 1943. b2, b7D b7C

Reference is made to a communication dated February 11, 1942 from the Bureau to the New York Field Office which enclosed two anonymous communications and a translated article from "LA PAROLA". Since this letter does not reflect the subject matter or character thereof, and is in Bureau File 100-0, copies of said communications are being set out below so that the originals might be located and compared by the FBI Laboratory with the handwriting of

"O.R."

*That has been done previously*  
"Ettore Manfredi is a Fascist Spy, engaged on transmitting information to the O.U.R.A. He claim he received that letter, he act as a dishonesty, he writing this letter

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"himself, for spies proposition." (Received in envelope post-marked New York, New York, December 19, 1941.

"Gentlemen:

From Italy comes terrifying news of abominable crimes perpetrated by the O.V.R.A. against the families of anti-fascists living here.

The O.V.R.A. for its reprisals uses a method which for its criminal finesse surpasses the medieval barbarousness of Caligola and Nero. It employs.....doctors and pharmacists....This has come about because here, among the anti-fascists, there are some objectionable reptiles who make believe that they are attempting to overthrow Mussolini's regime, in order to make it easier for themselves in carrying out their espionage work. Here are the names of some of the spies:

Ettore Manfredi, 80 East 11 St.  
Alberto Cupelli, 1775 Broadway  
Alberto Mangiacapra, 242 East 14th St.  
Girolamo Valenti, 80 East 11 St.  
Pietro Allegra, 59 Christie St.

These people by means of periodic accounts in the 'Parola' written in the dialects of Italy, by Manfredi and signed with the fictitious name of Costante Galletti, have communicated with the victims of Fascism. In the enclosed letter they threaten the anti fascists to avoid accusations.

An Italian anti fascist."

The handprinting and handwriting specimens which the New York Office is attempting to obtain from NUDI at the Matteawan State Hospital for appropriate examination by the FBI Laboratory, should be forthcoming soon and they will be forwarded to the laboratory as soon as they are available.

Further inquiries along the lines previously suggested by you in your letter of December 15, 1943 are being made and you will be apprised of the results thereof.

cc: FBI Laboratory with enclosures

Very truly yours,

*E. E. Conroy*  
E. E. CONROY, SAC



JPC:LP  
61-1335

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

March 28, 1944

|                |       |
|----------------|-------|
| Mr. E. A. Tamm | _____ |
| Mr. Clegg      | _____ |
| Mr. Coffey     | _____ |
| Mr. Glavin     | _____ |
| Mr. Ladd       | _____ |
| Mr. Nichols    | _____ |
| Mr. Rosen      | _____ |
| Mr. Tracy      | _____ |
| Mr. Acers      | _____ |
| Mr. Carson     | _____ |
| Mr. Harbo      | _____ |
| Mr. Hendon     | _____ |
| Mr. Mumford    | _____ |
| Mr. Starke     | _____ |
| Mr. Quinn Tamm | _____ |
| Tele. Room     | _____ |
| Mr. Nease      | _____ |
| Miss Beahm     | _____ |
| Miss Gandy     | _____ |

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

Re: CARLO TRESCA

BACKGROUND

You will recall that in the previous memoranda which have been prepared relative to the assassination of Carlo Tresca the following facts were set forth.

1. Tresca, the editor of "Il Martello", a rabidly anarchist and anti-Communist Italian publication, was killed on January 11, 1943, as he was leaving the offices of his newspaper at 96 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

2. Being a well-known figure, his case was given a tremendous amount of publicity. Tresca's friends charged that the Communists were responsible for his murder; the Communists counteracted with the allegation that the agents of the OVRA (Italian Secret Police) had committed the crime.

3. The names of various suspects have been publicized by the District Attorney of New York County and the New York Police Department. Additional information concerning these suspects is set forth hereinafter.

PERSONS SUSPECTED OF THE MURDER OF TRESCA

[REDACTED SECTION]

2. Guiseppi Nudi, with aliases - ELIMINATED

This individual, although not considered as a suspect by the New York Police Department, was so considered by the Bureau until the New York Office recently determined that he could not have perpetrated the crime. Although he has been eliminated as a suspect, it is deemed advisable to record the following for information and future reference purposes. Immediately following the Tresca murder, an individual in New York, who has now been



*Handwritten notes:*  
Ladd  
7-4-44  
JPC:LP

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identified by the Bureau as Guiseppi Nudi, directed a communication to Vidali, mentioned above, wherein he inferred that he might possibly have been connected in some manner with the commission of the murder. Inquiries conducted with respect to Nudi reflect that he is mentally abnormal; that he is a prolific letter writer; that he continually imagines that he is being surveilled and prosecuted by CVRA agents in New York City; that on September 1, 1943, he criminally attacked and stabbed one Ettore Manfredi, an Italian-born anti-Fascist radio commentator and a close friend of Carlo Tresca. Although Nudi is rabidly anti-Tresca in sentiment and did, in fact, have a good motive for committing the crime, investigation reflects that on the night of the Tresca incident Nudi was, in fact, confined in the New York State Hospital, Central Islip, Long Island. On July 11, 1942, he was admitted to the Bellevue Hospital; on July 29, 1942, he was transferred to the New York State Hospital at Central Islip, Long Island; on February 21, 1943, he was released on parole from the latter institution; and on September 21, 1943, he was committed to the Matteawan State Hospital for the Criminal Insane at Beacon, New York, because of his attack on Manfredi. In this regard, it is noted from a review of the Bureau files that Nudi is apparently familiar with the activities of the Italian criminal element on Mulberry Street in New York City, a fact which may be pertinent to the instant investigation as will be indicated later in this memorandum.

3. Frank Garofolo

This individual is a bootlegger, gunman, one-time associate of Charles "Lucky" Luciano, and a former employee and bodyguard of Generoso Pope, an arch enemy of Tresca. Garofolo, who is considered criminally dangerous, had several motives for committing the crime, the chief one being the fact that Tresca criticized Garofolo's girl friend, Miss Dolores Faconti, Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of New York, for associating with "that gunman." (You will recall that, on the basis of information furnished to the Bureau relative to the Tresca case, an investigation of Miss Faconti was conducted by the Bureau at the request of the Attorney General's Office for the purpose of ascertaining the nature of her relationship with Garofolo.) At this writing, it does not appear that the New York Police Department considers Garofolo as a suspect any longer; at the same time, the Bureau is in receipt of no information which would be considered sufficient to eliminate him as a suspect.

4. Carmine Calente

This individual has a record of crime dating back nineteen years. He has been arrested on numerous occasions on charges including assault, robbery

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and homicide. An hour and one-half before Tresca's murder, he appeared at the office of the Parole Division, 80 Centre Street in New York City in order to make his weekly report inasmuch as he is under parole supervision until 1945 in connection with his twelve and one-half years' sentence for armed robbery. According to an item appearing in the New York Daily Mirror on January 14, 1943, two investigators from the Parole Board placed Galente under surveillance immediately after he left their office. One of these investigators informed that Galente, after leaving the parole office, dashed to an automobile which was parked nearby with the motor running and another man behind the wheel. The Daily Mirror states: "The auto started even before Galente slammed the door--and the parole officers jotted down the number IC-9272." It has since been established by the New York Police Department that the automobile, which was used in the perpetration of the crime, bore the same license tag number. When located, this automobile was parked in a garage on Mulberry Street in New York City. Informant NYC-80 has advised that the District Attorney of New York County is investigating a number of individuals with known criminal records who reside on Mulberry Street apparently for the purpose of ascertaining the identity of individuals connected with the automobile in question. Likewise, according to information furnished the New York Office incidental to an inquiry concerning another matter, Assistant District Attorney Louis Fagnucco, who is handling the Tresca case, advised that he is presently trying to trace the ownership of this car and that he is "emphasizing this angle over all other possibilities." (It is observed that these leads are now being covered only after fourteen months have elapsed, even though the car in question was located on Mulberry Street immediately following the murder.)

Immediately following the murder, Galente was taken into custody by the New York Police Department and he is apparently still in custody. According to the newspaper reports on the New York Police Department interviews with Galente, the latter insisted that he "ducked into the subway after leaving the parole office"; he did not get into an automobile that was awaiting him; that the parole officers who surveilled him are "screwy." Other than the foregoing, it appears that Galente has steadfastly declined to make any statements concerning the crime in question. Releases emanating from the Office of the District Attorney of New York County reflect that he is being retained in custody "as a material witness."

#### 5. Frank Nuccio

On September 15, 1943, one Frank Nuccio, twenty-four, who is described in New York circles as a "petty bootlegger", was taken into custody as a second material witness in the slaying of Tresca. New York Informant [redacted] has advised that the New York Police have nothing against Nuccio and that he was apprehended in order that an excuse might be furnished for still holding the chief suspect in the case, Carmine Galente.

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6. Frank Citrano, alias "Chick" Wilson

Informant [REDACTED] <sup>62/67D</sup> advised recently that the investigation conducted by the New York Police Department reflects that an unknown delegate of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers' Union gave nine thousand dollars to Frank Citrano, alias "Chick" Wilson, prior to the Tresca murder. In this regard, it is to be recalled that the Amalgamated Clothing Workers' Union has been directed since 1914 by Sidney Hillman; that it is a union which is composed, in part, of Communists but primarily of Socialists; and that the Union is active in the affairs of the American Labor Party.

The only information contained in the central files of the Bureau concerning Citrano is the following. An anonymous letter postmarked at Station "A", New York City, on February 11, 1942, and received at the Bureau on the following date contains the allegation that Citrano "belongs to an underworld mob" in New York City; that "he resides at No. 250 Mott Street, New York City, and operates a place of business at 44 Prince Street"; and "he is a bootlegger and Crime, Incorporated" (indicating possibly that he was connected with "Murder, Incorporated"); that he and his mob hold meetings at 250 Mott Street, New York City. The anonymous correspondent further alleged that Citrano "is also connected with the United Citizens' Club, Incorporated, for his own protection"; that he maintains a supply of guns in the cellar of his residence; and that "this man has a powerful political pull with New York leaders and judges." (100-74656)

In the file entitled "Unknown Subjects; Banco di Napoli Trust Company of New York; August 1, 1938", the same individual is mentioned as a possible suspect in the robbery of the instant bank, inasmuch as he was reported to have had a substantial amount of money in his possession a short time after the robbery. This file reflects that Citrano has the reputation of being a gambler. (91-1236-81,82; 91-1460-97)

Another report in the Bureau's files indicates that Wilson is alleged to have made "collections for Carmine Galente at one time." It is reported that he has a son, Sebastian Wilson, alias "Buster", who is a good shot and who is suspected by the New York Police Department as possibly being the trigger man who shot Tresca. (The latter information was supplied by Informant NYC-80.)

OBSERVATIONS

From a review of all of the information in the possession of the Bureau concerning Tresca, it would appear that the following is worthy of particular consideration:



Memorandum for Mr. Ladd

1. It is apparent that the best suspect in the case at the present time is Carmine Galente. If the information appearing in the New York Daily Mirror on January 14, 1943, is true, then the New York County authorities have prima facie evidence of Galente's guilt.

2. It would appear that the instant case has many political ramifications since the names of the following individuals and organization have been mentioned in connection with it: Generoso Pope, Sidney Hillman, Luigi Antonini, Carofolo - the paramour of Assistant United States Attorney Dolores Fabonti, and Hillman's Amalgamated Clothing Workers' Union.

3. It is within the realm of possibility that due to these political ramifications the New York State authorities have considered it advisable to "soft peddle" the instant investigation. This observation is predicated upon the following facts:

a. On May 10, 1943, the newspapers announced that the District Attorney of New York County was preparing to go before the Grand Jury immediately following that date and ask for an indictment of three men who were to be charged with the murder of Tresca. The only man specifically named was Carmine Galente.

b. Informant [REDACTED] <sup>b2, b7D</sup> indicated on July 7, 1943, that it is his opinion that the District Attorney's Office is not anxious to prosecute anyone for the Tresca murder. He stated further at that time that the District Attorney's attitude might be predicated upon the lack of sufficient evidence or upon political pressure which has been brought on his Office.

#### ACTION

Since the instant case is one which is without the jurisdiction of the Bureau and within the jurisdiction of the New York Police Department, active inquiries have at no time been conducted by the Bureau, although every effort has been made to follow the developments in the case. The Bureau eliminated Vidali and Nudi as suspects and, for its own information, correlated the data in its possession concerning the other suspects named above. The Bureau could very well continue discreet inquiries concerning Galente and the other suspects mentioned herein, but, in my opinion, this action would be inadvisable inasmuch as we would subject ourselves to a considerable amount of criticism should we take such action. It is my considered opinion that no inquiries whatsoever should be conducted in the future concerning this matter, particularly in the light of the foregoing - the report which is apparently substantiated that the New York State authorities are inclined, for reasons presently unknown to the Bureau, to give this matter the "brush-off", even

Memorandum for Mr. Ladd

though they undoubtedly have in their possession sufficient information to present the facts on Calente to a Grand Jury. If you are in agreement with the foregoing, no action will be taken with respect to the instant matter other than to follow developments in this case as they are reported to the Bureau by [redacted] and other informants in the field of Italian activities.

b2, b7D

Respectfully,

*J. F. Buckley*  
J. F. Buckley

JPC:LP

61-1335

APRIL 6, 1944

SAC, New York

Re: CARLO TERESA

Dear Sir:

Notwithstanding previous Bureau instructions, you are advised that no inquiries should be conducted by your office with respect to the instant case and that your action in the future should be confined to furnishing the Bureau with any information relative to the Teresa case which is traditionally supplied to your office by Confidential Informant [redacted] other informants in the field of Italian activities and related sources.

62,628 Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

*JWH*

61-1335-378

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11

MSB:vlr

~~61-1335~~

Date: April 20, 1944

To: SAC, New York

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

CARLO TRESKA

Subject: Internal Security - I

Reference is made to Laboratory Reports D-11455, D-11436, D-11437 dated February 9, 1944 and D-12140 dated March 17, 1944, Bureau file 61-1335, your file 100-744, submitted to your office in connection with the above-entitled case.

Specimens 416 through 487, with the exceptions of the handprinting which was prepared by O. R. which was previously added, was searched through the appropriate sections of the Anonymous Letter File but no identification was effected. Appropriate photographic copies of this material have been added to this file for future reference and comparison.

The original evidence, 416 through 487, is being returned to your office under separate cover, photographic copies having been added to the files of the Laboratory.

SON  
A. Tamm  
SAC  
SAB  
SAD  
SAS

61-1335-376  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
APR 25 1944  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED 6  
APR 25 1944 P.M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

*[Handwritten signature]*

*[Handwritten initials]*

6-1335-377

CHANGED TO  
100-326197-9

Office of Contents from  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

L-26

Date APRIL 20, 1947 Case References 61-1335

Consigned to: VAC: NEW YORK Carlo Tresca, Internal Security-I

List of Contents

416 through 487.

REGISTERED MAIL

Mr. Coffey, 7641  
Mr. Conrad, 7142  
Mr. Downing, 7601  
Mr. Egan, 4828  
Mr. Gurnea, 7125  
Mr. Plafman, 7818  
497871

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: Mail Room, place date of shipment and registry number; Shipping Room, show date of shipment and initial this invoice; then return it to person whose name is checked in column of right. After this checked name has been initialed, invoice should be placed in administrative file.

61-1335-  
NRP

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

JTG:DJG  
100-9744  
18 Director, FBI.

DATE: New York, N. Y.  
May 19, 1944.

FROM : E. E. CONROY, SAC.

SUBJECT: CARLO TRESCA  
INTERNAL SECURITY - I

There are being enclosed herewith for the Bureau's information two translated copies of an article entitled, "LET'S LIFT THE CURTAIN OF SILENCE FROM THE MURDER OF CARLO TRESCA", which appeared in the April 1944 issue of LA CONTROCORRENTE.

2 Encls.

ENCL #

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

61-1335-378  
B 1  
19 MAY 22 1944  
FIVE



The following article appeared in the April, 1944 issue of "LA CONTROCORRENTE", (The Countercurrent).

"LET'S LIFT THE CURTAIN OF SILENCE FROM THE MURDER OF CARLO TRESCA"

"The asinine or wilful apathy of the police and the prosecutor in charge of the Carlo Tresca murder is a challenge to Mayor LaGuardia's leadership in New York City. And to his political and moral stature.

"He is known as a man of action, who accepts a challenge and goes to work. There is a job for him. A big job; one which calls for a big, stout heart and a firm hand. A hand that will reach out in the darkness and pull up the heavy curtain which has descended over the premeditated murder of a man who fought for a more decent world.

"Recently, when the Chairman of the War Production Board "indicted" the city of New York for its poor showing in the paper salvage drive, Mr. La Guardia immediately assumed personal command of that war activity by stating: 'No more showing off. No more big talk. Let's go to work.'

"It was a fine piece of leadership. The kind we admire.

"Yes, real work and actual results were required.

"We should like both: a nice talk, even a big one, and some real work. The kind that would rip through the scenes behind which there is hidden so much police fumbling and so little activity in uncovering the murderers.

"The Mayor knows or should know that the Tresca case is not exclusively an anti-Fascist case. No lover of justice, whether he lives in New York or in a mining town, can afford to be disinterested in it. No decent, alert public official should shrug his shoulders and trust that the press will forget the story and 'blab' about something else.

"Well, this is one of the publications that will not stop blabbing about the bloody crime till the long-expected and often heralded 'break' in the case will really break. Fifteen months have gone by and, as far as we know, nothing has been done by the Mayor to spur the 'finest' (we mean the police force of New York) in getting down to some real work, conducive to results.

"As it was said in the Countercurrent of March ("What is happening in the Tresca case?"), only two persons are known to have been held by the police, at any time, and both as "material witnesses". One was Carmine Galante, ex convict picked up as a suspect two days after the killing with the explanation that, two hours before Tresca was shot, he was getting into a sedan found abandoned the same night a few blocks from the crime scene. After being held in the Tombs for months on high bail, Galante was returned to Sing Sing prison as a parole violator.

61-1237-5  
ENCLOSURE

"The Countercurrent"  
April, 1944

"The other 'material witness' was Frank Nuccio, 'small-time racketeer' taken into custody last September and at first held in \$25,000 bail, but freed in November on a \$5,000 bond. According to the New York daily press, Nuccio was found by the police to have been the lessee or owner of the garage in which the 'murder car' was kept up to the night Tresca was slain.

"Public opinion, which was aroused by the dastardly killing of a valiant fighter against tyranny and oppression, regardless of whether it came from right or left, asks the Mayor, long known as Tresca's friend, if the course of justice is obstructed by the same dark forces which hired the assassin. Is it?

"Mr. La Guardia may resent this question, but we assure him that there is no insinuation in our words. We are only asking him to inquire whether the so-called proper authorities mean to solve the murder and bring the slayers and the instigators to the bars of justice.

"We are not acquainted with local politics in that great city. We understand there is a good deal of pre-electoral activity. We read <sup>the</sup> press of ALP, Alfange, Marcantonio, Democrats, Republicans, James Pemberton of Harlem 17, Clarence Neal, Michael Quill, Saul Mills, Hillman, Mayor La Guardia's 'peace plan' for the next campaign and what not. They mean nothing to us. We are 'little people', asking the Mayor to become our champion in the Tresca case.

"It is his job, and he can do it magnificently, to see whether the police force is corrupt, stupid or plain lazy.

"It is also his job to force the District Attorney to prosecute those whom he now either protects or makes no effort to discover.

"We are not interested in procedure, jurisdiction or other legalistic tommyrot. He can get the wheels going if he displays his dynamic energy and put his big heart to work.

"We should be happy and grateful to hear of some move which would strengthen our hopes that justice will be done.

THE COUNTERCURRENT.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

100-97344

TO :

DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM :

SAC, NEW YORK

SUBJECT:

CARLO TRESCA  
INTERNAL SECURITY - I

DATE: June 6, 1944

There is transmitted herewith a copy of a resolution introduced before the Convention of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union by LUIGI ANTONIJI and which was approved by the Convention June 3, 1944. The resolution is self explanatory.

Enc. 1  
SPECIAL DELIVERY - AIRMAIL

61-1335-379

RECORDED  
INDEXED

JUN 7 1944

JUN 10 1944

RESOLUTION NO.  
THE CARLO TRESCA MURDER

Introduced by convention consent by Luigi Antonini, Local 89

WHEREAS more than <sup>15</sup> months have passed since Carlo Tresca, courageous editor of the Italian-language journal, II Martello, was murdered in the New York City dim-out, and

WHEREAS the authorities apparently are making no progress toward apprehending the persons responsible for that crime, and

WHEREAS there is strong reason to believe that international political factors are involved in the killing of Tresca, who for years had fought against all totalitarianism, and

WHEREAS so long as political assassination in this country goes unpunished, no one who exercises his constitutional right to speak his mind about political affairs is safe, and

WHEREAS we treasure the memory of Carlo Tresca as a whole-hearted ally and friend, be it therefore

RESOLVED that we, the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, assembled in convention in Boston urge upon the House of Representatives the passage of House Concurrent Resolution 71 (introduced by Representative Will Rogers Jr. of California on March 6, 1944, and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary) which would authorize the Federal Bureau of Investigation to step into cases of this kind, in which a political group outside the State presumably instigated the crime, and in which the State authorities have been unable, after a reasonable period of time, to apprehend the guilty, and be it also

RESOLVED that we urge District Attorney Frank S. Hogan, without waiting for the Rogers Resolution to become law, to invite the Federal Bureau of Investigation to enter the Tresca case and conduct an intensive new examination of every person known to be the friend or enemy of Carlo Tresca, and to pursue every clue in hand to the utmost length.

379  
Enclaved

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

FGT:cr  
61-1335-379  
TO : Mr. D. M. Ladd

DATE: June 12, 1944

FROM : Mr. J. F. Buckley

SUBJECT: CARLO TRESCA

ANTONINI RESOLUTION

The New York Field Division transmitted to the Bureau a copy of a resolution introduced before the convention of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union by Luigi Antonini and approved by that convention on June 3, 1944.

These resolutions, briefly, stated that the authorities have made no progress toward apprehending the persons responsible for the murder of Carlo Tresca which it described as a political assassination and therefore, the union resolved to urge the House of Representatives to pass House Concurrent Resolution No. 71, introduced by Congressman Will Rogers of California on May 6, 1944, which would authorize the Federal Bureau of Investigation to step into cases of this kind.

The resolution also urged that District Attorney Frank S. Hogan, without waiting for the Rogers Resolution to become law, be requested to invite the F. B. I. to enter the Tresca case.

BACKGROUND OF THE TRESCA MURDER

b2  
b7D The Tresca case is without the jurisdiction of the Bureau and within that of the New York Police Department and active inquiries have not been made by the Bureau, although every effort has been made to follow developments. The Bureau has eliminated several suspects and for its own information, has correlated the data in its possession concerning other suspects. No action is being taken at the present time other than to follow the developments as they are reported to the Bureau by [redacted] and other informants in the Italian field. It appears that the New York State authorities are inclined, for reasons unknown to the Bureau, to "soft pedal" the instant investigation. It is also known that the Tresca murder has many political ramifications since the names of numerous persons and organizations prominent in Italian circles have been mentioned.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 71

With regard to the resolution introduced by Congressman Will Rogers, a memorandum was directed to Mr. Hugh B. Cox, the Assistant Solicitor General, on May 19, 1944, when it was strongly urged that the delegation of jurisdiction to the F. B. I. in the type of offenses mentioned in the resolution be deleted from it, as it would serve to inject the Bureau into purely local matters.

ACTION

RECORDED &amp; INDEXED

The foregoing is submitted for informative purposes only, and no action is contemplated with regard to this resolution.

50 JUN 27 1944

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EX-6  
John C. [initials]

61-12-5-311  
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100-326197-9X

EW

c

REPORT  
of the



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON D. C.

August 16, 1944

BJS: P

To: SAC New York

There follows the report of the FBI Laboratory on the examination of  
evidence received from your office on August 3, 1944.

*J. Edgar Hoover*  
John Edgar Hoover, Director

Re: Unknown Subjects;  
Ettore Manfredi, Victim;  
Mortartion

FBI FILE NO. 6-1114  
LAB. FILE NO. 61-1335-30  
YOUR FILE NO. D-20562 CC

Examination requested by: New York

Reference: Letter 7-31-44

Examination requested: Document - Fingerprint

Specimens:

- Q1 One envelope bearing the handwritten address "Ettore Manfredi 35-05 - 27 St. Jackson Heights L. I. N.Y." postmarked "New York Jul 15 5:30 PM 1944 N.Y."
- Q2 Accompanying newspaper written in Italian bearing the handwritten note in a foreign language "Caro Anania - La prossima volta...".

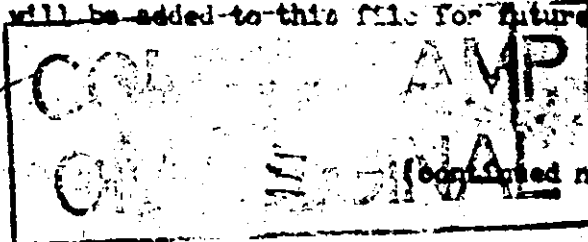
Also Submitted: One translation of the handwriting on Q2.

Result of Examination:

Specimens Q1 and Q2 were compared with the appropriate sections of the Anonymous Letter File without effecting an identification. Photographic copies of these specimens will be added to this file for future reference.

2 - New York -  
2 - Laboratory (61-1335)

Page 1



AUG 21 1944

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN

Physical characteristics of specimens Q1 and Q2 were noted and are being retained in the files of the Laboratory.

The evidence was chemically treated for the development of latent fingerprints but none was noted.

Inasmuch as specimens Q1 and Q2 were addressed to Ettore Manfredi, who is the addressee of letters in Bureau file #61-1335, case entitled "Carlo Tresca, Internal Security - Italian", these specimens were compared with the material in file #61-1335 but nothing of interest was noted.

The original evidence is being retained in the files of the Laboratory. Photographic copies of specimens Q1 and Q2 will be transmitted under separate cover within the next several days.



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
New York, New York

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

JTG:AJM  
100-9744

October 16, 1944

Director, FBI

Re: CARLO TRESCA  
INTERNAL SECURITY-I  
(Bureau File No. 61-1335)

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated April 4, 1944 which instructed the New York Field Division to furnish the Bureau with any information relative to the TRESCA case, which is gratuitously supplied to this office by Confidential Informant [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau, and other informants in the field of Italian activities. 62  
810

On October 9, 1944 an article appeared in the New York Post entitled "A Break in Tresca Case? - Question Ex-Convict Pal on Death Car Ownership". This article related that assistants of District Attorney Hogan had been questioning, at intervals since last Friday, a man whom they believed to be the owner of the automobile used in the murder of CARLO TRESCA outside his office at Fifth Avenue and 15th Street on January 11, 1943. The license number of the abandoned murder car was 1-C 92-72, 1942 registration. The murder car, a Ford Sedan, was found abandoned four blocks from the corner where the murder was committed, and it had been bought in the fictitious name of CHARLES PAPPAS, on December 24, 1942; Pappas gave a non-existent address in Brooklyn when registering the car. 2

According to the newspaper account, the man questioned by Mr. Hogan's assistants was an associate of CARMINE GALANTE, a paroled convict who was seen entering the murder car before the killing, and both were said to be members of a Lower East Side bootlegging gang. GALANTE is still being held as a parole violator.

The "Post" further related that although the police have a completely different theory of the murder, Hogan's office is investigating reports that TRESCA's murder was ordered by Mussolini and his son-in-law, Count Ciano, the latter being later executed at Mussolini's command.



51 NOV 10 1944

EX-13

61-1335-383

27 OCT 23 1944

ESP

Letter to Director  
NY 100-9744

October 16, 1944

According to these reports, VITO GENOVESE, a New York gangster, who fled to Italy shortly after a Brooklyn murder in 1934 and became an intimate of Fascist officials, arranged TRESKA's assassination with the New York gangsters.

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised Agent [redacted] of this office that he had ceased to interest himself in the TRESKA investigation for the New York District Attorney's Office two months ago. The informant's reason for his action was his belief that District Attorney Hogan did not appear to be anxious to prosecute the matter. Informant [redacted] gave it as his opinion that Mr. Hogan had ambitions of running for Mayor of New York City on the Republican Ticket in 1945 and that he did not wish to antagonize the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union, certain members or henchmen of which appear to be connected with the investigation of the TRESKA case.

Informant [redacted] advised that FRANK CETRANO, also known as FRANK CIPRIANO and by the alias of "CHICK" WILSON, was a friend of CARMINE GALANTE, the latter being a member of CIPRIANO's gang. "CHICK" is believed by [redacted] to be the behind the scenes boss of the Second Assembly District, American Labor Party in New York County, club rooms of which are 280 Lafayette Street, New York City. He is the "strong-arm man" for the American Labor Party and the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union. According to the informant, the detectives investigating the TRESKA case have information to the effect that a delegate of the Amalgamated brought \$9000 to "Chick" Wilson shortly before TRESKA was killed. This information apparently was obtained from one STEPHEN PECORARO, a taxi driver who resides at 90-30 Farragut Road, Brooklyn, New York. The informant believes that this money may have been used to pay off the perpetrators of the crime.

Informant [redacted] further stated that "CHICK" WILSON is about 38 years of age and was born in Ciminna in the Province of Palermo, Sicily. He is alleged to have collected money for CARMINE GALANTE's defense.

The informant advised that the police had been unaware that the murder car had been kept at 296 Elizabeth Street until "CHICK" WILSON's attorney informed them where this car could be located. The car was kept in the garage of one FRANK NUCCIO who lived at 265 Elizabeth Street and operates a saloon at 230 Elizabeth Street.

Informant [redacted] believes that JOSEPH MANERI of 294 Elizabeth Street, who resides in the building next to where the car was found, may have some information regarding the identity of the owner and users of

Letter to Director  
NY 100-9744

October 16, 1944

the murder car. However, no information of value was elicited from him by the New York Police Department. Another individual who may have had information regarding the owner and users of the murder car was SALVATORE BONOMO, who operates a fruit store at 234 Elizabeth Street. The informant believes that this person's son, ALEXANDER BONOMO, may have driven the murder car the night TRESKA was killed. ALEXANDER BONOMO, however, together with one DI MARIA and another individual, were electrocuted about three months ago by the State of New York for a homicide in connection with a holdup which took place at Pitt and Stanton Streets, New York City some time ago.

The informant further related that it was his belief that CARLO TRESKA used to receive a monthly check from the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union. He stated that TRESKA used to keep a record of these payments. Shortly after TRESKA was killed, one ROCCO TRIVANI, who resides in the Bronx and who received a position as delegate with the Amalgamated through TRESKA's influence, visited the office of TRESKA's paper, "Il Martello" and removed from a book, the pages reflecting the monies received by TRESKA from the Amalgamated. The informant believes that JOHN MANCINI who is in charge of printing "Il Martello" at the present time has further information regarding this matter. The informant advised that MANCINI had been threatened by someone from the Amalgamated to "shut up".

Another individual who was questioned by the Police regarding this case was CARMINE GALANTE's girl friend. She is HELEN MARULLO who resides at 137 Keap Street, Brooklyn, New York. HELEN MARULLO was allegedly with GALANTE the night of the homicide and helped him to put forth an alibi tending to show that he could not have been present at the scene of the crime at the time it occurred.

CARMINE GALANTE's family, which consists of his mother and sister, resides at 876 New Lots Avenue, Brooklyn, New York.

Another individual suspected of having participated in the homicide and who possibly bought the murder car, is one JOSEPH BONOMOLO, formerly residing at 454 Lorimer Street, Brooklyn, New York. He is stated to have bought a house in the Sheepshead Bay section of Brooklyn. According to BONOMOLO's landlord, this individual never works but apparently had sufficient money to purchase a house and automobile.

b7D Recently [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] voluntarily furnished the following information to Special Agent [REDACTED] of the New York Field Division:

b7c

Letter to Director  
NY 100-9744

b7D  
October 16, 1944

He stated that the Thursday prior to TRESKA's murder, TRESKA visited the office of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union and spoke to AUGUST BELLANCA [REDACTED]. It is to be noted at this point that AUGUST BELLANCA is head of the Italian section at the Amalgamated, and his wife, DOROTHY BELLANCA, is the sister of SIDNEY HILLMAN of the Political Action Committee. TRESKA told BELLANCA [REDACTED] that he was going to hold a meeting at his office the following Monday evening, January 11, 1943. The purpose of the meeting was to give greater impetus to the activity of the Mazzini Society towards supporting the war effort. At the same time TRESKA was unalterably opposed to the inclusion of GENEZOSO POPE in the activities of the Mazzini Society, as had been desired by LUIGI ANTONINI, Secretary of Local 89 of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union. [REDACTED] told TRESKA that he desired a written invitation to the meeting and TRESKA promised to send it to him. [REDACTED] believes that the invitation must have been written on Friday and that it probably reached his office on Saturday. He stated that due to his absence from the office and the illness of the young lady who took care of his mail, he did not actually receive the invitation until Tuesday, January 12, 1943. It first came to his mind to look for the invitation after he had been apprised of the fact that TRESKA had been murdered, when he was going into the office of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union on Tuesday, January 12, 1943.

[REDACTED] stated that he was questioned by Assistant District Attorney Pagnucco. The latter wished to have [REDACTED] opinion regarding suspects, but [REDACTED] stated that as he had no definite information, he was not inclined to spread rumors. [REDACTED] advised that other persons who had received invitations to the meeting with TRESKA were GIUSEPPE CALLABI, who was with TRESKA when he was killed; an individual who was employed by the Daily News of New York City; and VANNI MONTANA; the latter is an assistant to LUIGI ANTONINI. SALA stated that the individual who works for the "News", whose name he did not recall, did not receive TRESKA's letter since he had changed his address, and he had not seen the letter sent to him until January 12, 1943. The reason for MONTANA's non-attendance at the meeting is unknown to SALA.

TRESKA had never received any funds from the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union except on those occasions when TRESKA asked for special contributions to his newspaper or when he ran some affair. He added that TRESKA was friendly with the office of the Amalgamated and frequently visited there. He had opposed the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union years ago and had attacked them at that time, but in recent years he did not make any attacks at all upon them. [REDACTED] also recalled that at the time TRESKA visited BELLANCA [REDACTED] TRESKA related that he had had a curious dream to the

Letter to Director  
NY 100-9744

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effect that someone had died and that he had felt quite depressed. BELLANCA jested at this and remarked that it seemed strange that a dream should worry TRESKA since he had never shown any fear of anything during his life.

<sup>b2, b7D</sup> Regarding this event, it is to be noted that Confidential Informant [redacted] related that shortly before the homicide, TRESKA had had a conversation with someone at the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union. When he left he was quite pale and when he returned to his own office he stated to someone that he was "through".

The following detectives were assigned to investigating the TRESKA case, according to Confidential Informant [redacted] <sup>b2, b7D</sup>

JAMES PETEROSINO  
ANTHONY MANCUSO  
PHILIP ABATE  
MOISTO LAZZA

<sup>b2, b7D</sup> Confidential Informant [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau, discounts the opinion of Informant [redacted] to the effect that the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union was interested in causing the death of CARLO TRESKA. This informant, who is exceedingly reliable, believes that the Amalgamated would have no reason to cause the death of TRESKA. It is true that TRESKA had attacked the Amalgamated years ago, but that was a thing of the past and there was no ill feeling between the union and TRESKA. Informant [redacted] advised that the only thing that had kept LUIGI ANTONINI from openly joining forces with GENEROSO POPE, was CARLO TRESKA, and once TRESKA was out of the picture there was no one to oppose ANTONINI's desire. ANTONINI was always afraid that any alliance between himself and POPE would be severely attacked by TRESKA who, after all, had a great deal of influence and was well regarded by all union leaders.

<sup>b2, b7D</sup> Confidential Informant [redacted] stated that it was his belief that AUGUST BELLANCA, LUIGI ANTONINI and even GENEROSO POPE used the services of members of the same gang for "strong-arm" purposes. He believes that the same gangsters were employed by all three individuals in connection with their activities. However, he does not think that any of these persons would have been interested in causing the death of TRESKA. The informant further related that TRESKA himself used to boast that he was friendly with a number of the "strong-arm" men and for that reason he had nothing to fear. The informant states that he heard a rumor to the effect that shortly before his death, TRESKA had been approached by one GIOVANNI MANCIVITA, a Brooklyn gangster who had been friendly with TRESKA, and was warned that things were

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not going so well and that he had better take care of himself. MANCALAVITA is a friend of an organizer of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union who resides in Asbury Park, New Jersey, BRUNO BELLIA. It is the opinion of Informant [redacted] that MANCALAVITA would have some information regarding TRESKA's murder. It is not believed that this individual was ever questioned by the New York City Police as they may not have known of his identity.

*b2, b7D*

The above is forwarded for the Bureau's information and no action is contemplated by the New York Field Division herein.

Very truly yours,

  
E. E. CONROY, SAC



EJP:LP  
61-1335

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

November 4, 1944

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Acers \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Starke \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Beahm \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

Re: CARLO TRESCA

You will recall that previous memoranda have been furnished to you relative to the assassination of the captioned individual which occurred on January 11, 1943, as he was leaving the offices of his newspaper, "Il Martello", at 96 Fifth Avenue, New York City. No active investigation has been conducted by the Bureau in connection with this matter inasmuch as the case comes within the jurisdiction of the New York Police Department. However, every effort has been made to follow the developments in connection with the investigation and I thought you would be interested to know of some additional facts which have recently come to the attention of the Bureau.

ARTICLE IN THE NEW YORK POST

On October 9, 1944, an article appeared in the New York Post entitled "A Break in Tresca Case? - Question Ex-Convict Pal on Death Car Ownership". This article related that assistants of District Attorney Hogan had been questioning, at intervals since the previous Friday, a man whom they believed to be the owner of the automobile used in the murder of Carlo Tresca. The murder car, a Ford sedan, was found abandoned four blocks from the corner where the murder was committed and it had been bought in the fictitious name of Charles Pappas on December 24, 1942. The license number of the abandoned murder car was 1-C 92-72, 1942 registration. According to the newspaper account, the man questioned by Mr. Hogan's assistants was an associate of Carmine Galante, a paroled convict whom you will recall was seen by two investigators of the Parole Board entering the murder car shortly before the killing. It is to be noted that Galante is still being held as a parole violator.

The Post further related that, although the police have a completely different theory of the murder, Hogan's office is investigating reports that Tresca's murder was ordered by Mussolini and his son-in-law, Count Ciano, the latter being executed at Mussolini's command not many months ago. According to these reports, Vito Genovese, a New York gangster, who fled to Italy shortly after a Brooklyn murder in 1934 and who became an intimate of Fascist officials, arranged Tresca's assassination with the New York gangsters.

61-1335-384



Memorandum for Mr. Ladd,

ATTITUDE OF NEW YORK DISTRICT ATTORNEY HOGAN b7D

[REDACTED] and a confidential informant of the New York Office, recently advised that it was his belief that District Attorney Hogan was no longer anxious to prosecute this case. He said that it was his opinion that Mr. Hogan had ambitions of running for mayor of New York City on the Republican ticket in 1945 and that he did not wish to antagonize the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union, certain members or henchmen of which appear to be connected with the investigation of the Tresca case. In this connection, the informant added that detectives investigating the Tresca case have information to the effect that a delegate of the ACWU brought \$9,000 to Frank Cetrano, also known as Frank Cipriano and "Chick" Wilson, shortly before Tresca was killed. He said that Carmine Galante was a member of the gang of Frank Cetrano and it was his belief that the \$9,000 was used to pay off the perpetrators of the crime.

MISCELLANEOUS b7D

[REDACTED] and a former confidential informant of the New York Office, who has been described as being exceedingly reliable, has discounted the opinion that the ACWU was interested in causing the death of Carlo Tresca. It was his belief that, although Tresca had attacked it in his newspaper years ago, there was no reason to believe that any ill feeling existed at the time the assassination occurred.

This same informant indicated that he had heard a rumor to the effect that shortly before his death, Tresca had been approached by one Giovanni Mancalavita, a Brooklyn gangster who had been friendly with Tresca, and was warned that things were not going so well and that he had better take care of himself. It was the opinion of this informant that Mancalavita would have some information regarding Tresca's murder. It was believed quite possible that this individual was never questioned by the New York Police in connection with their investigation.

Respectfully,

*J. C. Strickland*  
J. C. Strickland



Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

JTG:NRL  
100-9744

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: December 5, 1944

FROM : SAC, New York

SUBJECT: CARLO TRESCA  
INTERNAL SECURITY - I

There are being enclosed herewith two copies of an article which appeared in the "New York Times" on November 11, 1944, entitled "TRESCA WITNESS HELD ON BOOTLEG CHARGE".

The article is self explanatory and is being forwarded for the completion of the Bureau's file on the above captioned subject.

Encls. (2)

*LC*

61-1335385  
*EX*

33/  
DEC 18 1944

C O P Y

TRESCA WITNESS HELD ON BOOTLEG CHARGE

Frank Nuccio of 265 Elizabeth Street, who is under \$5,000 bond as a material witness in the unsolved murder of Carlo Tresca, was among five men arrested yesterday and accused of conspiracy to operate a large still at 2 East First Street. On the premises of the still, which had a manufacturing capacity of 750 gallons a day, Treasury Department agents found large quantities of sugar--a scarce commodity for housewives.

The Tresca witness was identified by John C. Hilly, Assistant United States Attorney, as the former operator of a garage at 296 Elizabeth Street, where the automobile used in the murder of the anti-Fascist editor was said to have been stored. Besides being under bond in the New York County case, Nuccio was at liberty under bail of \$2,000 in another bootleg case. In connection with the still, United States Commissioner Garrett W. Cotter fixed additional bail at \$1,000, pending grand jury action.

The other defendants, and the amounts of bail set for them, were listed as follows:

Joseph Scorcese, 241 Elizabeth Street, \$1,000; Peter Contino, 126 Elizabeth Street, \$500; Irving Silverman, 289 East Ninety-first Street, Brooklyn, \$500; and Louis Silverman, 197 Scholes Street, Brooklyn, \$500.

61-1335-55  
Enclosure

had

64-1555-386

CHANGED TO

64-24310-19X

c

CONFIDENTIAL  
This document contains information of a confidential nature and its disclosure to unauthorized persons is prohibited by law.

FOREIGN NATIONALITIES BRANCH UNITED STATES  
MEMORANDUM TO THE DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC SERVICES  
FROM THE FOREIGN NATIONALITIES BRANCH

Number B-202 2 December 1944

THE TRESCA CASE REAPPEARS

*J. RICKLANI*

A committee of Carlo Tresca's friends has offered a new reward for the murderer of the celebrated Anarchist editor, focusing attention once more on the political aspects of the case. It is being insinuated that Fascists, who received along with the Communists an equal share of Tresca's shares, are obstructing the investigation of the crime, and an effort is under way to compel the Government fittingly to install as a symbol of opposition to totalitarianism

*Boyer*

*Gale*

The announcement of an additional reward of \$5,000 in the murder of Carlo Tresca, internationally known labor agitator and editor of the New York Italian-language Anarchist weekly *All Manifesto*, focused attention once more on the cause celebre of Italian anti-Fascism in this country.\* The new offer, which supplements that of \$1,000 originally announced by Margaret de Silver Tresca, widow of the slain man, was made by a committee of Tresca's friends and was disclosed on 22 November by five members of the committee. Morris L. Ernst, well-known lawyer; former Municipal Court Judge Dorothy Kenyon; Roger N. ...

\* For a survey of Italian-American political circumstances attendant to Tresca's death, see "Political Aspects of the Tresca Murder," FN Number 96 of 19 January 1943.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

*okay to release per CIA letter 4-25-77*

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*61-1335-387*  
DEC 18 1944

*5-Joe*

Baldwin, director of the American Civil Liberties Union; Edward C. Lindeman of the New York School for Social Work, and John F. Finerty (*New York Times* 23 November). Their move, which followed the abandonment of a planned appeal to Governor Thomas E. Dewey to appoint a special prosecutor in the case, constitutes the latest public evidence of widespread dissatisfaction with the investigation of the murder, regarded by many American as well as Italian liberals and leftists as a case of political assassination.

*Early Speculation Regarding the Murder*

Tresca, it will be remembered, was shot in New York on the night of 11 January 1943. Because of the prominent part he had played in the American labor movement in the first quarter of the century and his colorful role in Italian-American politics, keen interest was aroused by his death. A few Italians here, pointing to the decline in the actual political weight carried by Tresca, were of the opinion that the murder had been inspired primarily by personal enmity. But the majority of those whose views became known to this Branch gave credence to the theory that Tresca's vigorous journalistic battles, conducted principally against Communists and Fascist sympathizers, had led a number or members of one of those two groups to murder him for political reasons.

Immediately after the killing, Communist responsibility was implied to Luigi Antonini, vice president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, a close associate of the dead man, and by Antonini's followers; their account stressed Tresca's part in frustrating Communist attempts to gain admission to the Mazzini Society, and to the OWI-sponsored "victory councils." Carlos Contreras, Communist Spanish Civil War veteran, was alleged to have committed the murder.

This version was indignantly repudiated by Communists here and in Mexico, who asserted that Contreras had been in Mexico City at the time of the crime. The Communists attributed blame for the murder to Tresca's targets among former Fascist sympathizers, chief among whom was Generoso Pope, editor of the New York daily *Progresso Italo-Americano*. This explanation was widely accepted by non-Communist liberals and leftists and was elaborated in a speech delivered by Ezio Taddei at a Tresca commemoration rally on 14 February 1943 and later distributed in pamphlet form.

*Confidence in  
Investigation  
Lacking*

The apparent failure of the New York police to make progress in their investigation, despite the detention of two politically unimportant Italian-Americans as material witnesses, gave rise to the belief that all possible steps to discover the murderers were not being taken. Particularly in January 1944, when many editorials and commemoration meetings marked the anniversary of Tresca's death, were expressions of suspicious impatience heard. The most recent direct demonstration of this lack of confidence occurred in a letter which was intended to be sent to Governor Dewey submitting evidence of "the past association of Assistant District Attorney Louis A. Pagnucco [said to have done the bulk of the work in the investigation] with Fascists and Fascist sympathizers." The letter urged the appointment of a special prosecutor in the case — "some one in whom Carlo Tresca's friends and the general public can place unlimited trust."

Pagnucco's connection with "Fascists and Fascist sympathizers" had been recalled as early as April 1943 by the liberal monthly *Il Mondo*. Such insinuations, as well as reiteration of the accusation of Communist

guilt, appeals and protestations to the authorities, and moves to form independent "anti-Fascist investigation committees" have made sporadic appearances ever since the murder. In a letter printed in the leftist monthly *La Controcorrente* of Boston (August 1943) Mrs. Tresca asked of "Carlo's many Italian and American friends":

Have they become benumbed with fear and cannot raise a voice against the powerful elements and the officials who, if they are not actually protecting the murderer or murderers, are certainly making no effort to hunt the guilty?

The International Ladies Garment Workers Union convention in June 1944 approved a resolution presented by Antonini asking federal investigation of the murder and of "similar crimes." The resolution declared that "there is strong reason to believe that international political factors are involved in the killing of Carlo Tresca, who had fought for years against every kind of totalitarianism" (*Prospetto Italo-Americano* 3 June 1944). An interesting footnote to this implicit suggestion of Communist responsibility is found in the plan of an anti-Communist "Labor Relief Committee" in Italy -- apparently formed by Antonini and his publicity director Vanni Montana -- to name a street after Tresca in his native town of Sulmona in the Abruzzi. In this way, according to Montana, "Tresca will become the symbol, for the Committee, of the independence and autonomy of the trade union movement from totalitarian domination."

*Present Status  
of Il Martello*

Meanwhile Tresca's *Martello*, now ostensibly a fortnightly but issued irregularly, has been the center of bitter controversy. After the death of its founder it was taken over by the "Carlo Tresca Group" headed by John Mancini, who styled themselves

Tresca's ideas had not matured. That year was heavily disrupted by others of Tresca's in Treviso and by his widow, whose attempt in mid-1943 to obtain a court order against the continuance of the paper on the ground that it was not representative of Tresca's views touched off a vitriolic campaign on the part of Mancini's group. At the end of 1943 a rival organ entitled *L'Avvenire* was started, but only a few issues were published. The field seems now to have been yielded to Mancini, but it is generally felt that the present *Martello* bears little resemblance to the paper edited by Tresca.

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

FOREIGN AFFAIRS BRANCH

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



61-1335-387

SAC, New York

December 15, 1944

John Edgar Hoover, Director - Federal Bureau of Investigation

CALICO TRESCA

Internal Security - I

For your information there are attached photostatic copies of a report which was transmitted to the Bureau on December 2, 1944, by the Foreign Nationalities Branch of the Office of Strategic Services entitled, "The Tresca Case Reappears."

In the event any of the information contained therein is subsequently included in an investigative report, its content should be suitably paraphrased in order that the identity of its source may not be subjected to possible disclosure.

Enclosure

RECORDED  
DEC 16 1944  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

61-1335-387

*Handwritten initials and scribbles at the top of the page.*

JTG:PMC Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT  
100-9741

TO : Director, FBI  
FROM : SAC, New York  
SUBJECT: CARLO TELUSCA;  
INTERNAL SECURITY - J

DATE: December 19, 1944

There is being enclosed herewith for the Bureau's information a translated copy of an article appearing in "Il Progresso Italo-Americano" of November 23, 1944, which is entitled "A Committee Offers \$5,000.00 to Whoever Will Succeed in Solving the Fresca Mystery".

In view of the fact that the article is self-explanatory, no explanation thereof is being set forth.

ENC. - 1

RECORDED 106-1335-388  
INDEXED  
DEC 23 1944

1944

The following is a translation of an article which appeared in  
IL PROGRESSO ITALO-AMERICANO, November 28, 1944.

A COMMITTEE OFFERS \$5000 DOLLARS TO WHOEVER WILL SUCCEED IN SOLVING THE TRESCA  
MYSTERY

A committee met yesterday in the office of District Attorney Frank S. Hogan, of New York County, and offered a reward of \$5,000, to be paid to whoever will furnish information for the solution of the mysterious murder of Carlo Tresca.

The committee is composed of Lawyer Morris L. Ernst; Dorothy Kenyon, former justice of the Municipal Court; Roger H. Baldwin, executive member of the Civil Liberties Union; Edward C. Lindeman, professor of sociology; and Lawyer John E. Finerty.

When questioned by reporters from the court house as to what is their interest in the case, Lawyer Ernst answered:

"We were friends of Carlo Tresca. We loved him. We believe that this concerns a political crime and we are interested in solving it."

Mr. Ernst said that the \$5,000 offered as a reward have been contributed by about a hundred people. The money, he said, will be entrusted to District Attorney Hogan, who, in turn, will award it to the person or persons who can furnish him information which will lead to the arrest and sentencing of the guilty person.

District Attorney Hogan then told the newspapermen that the person or persons who could furnish him the information not only would receive the reward, but would be protected by him, and their identity would not be revealed publicly.

District Attorney Hogan then reminded that Tresca's widow offered to the police, about six months or so ago, a reward of \$1,000 for the solution of the murder of her husband.

A STATEMENT OF THE COMMITTEE

A statement made public by the committee reads as follows:

"A reward of \$5,000.00 has been offered for information which will make possible the arrest and condemnation of the person or persons responsible for the murder of Carlo Tresca, editor of the Italian-language newspaper Il Martello."

"Tresca was killed at the corner of 15th Street and 5th Ave. at 9:40 P.M., January 11, 1943."

"The individual or individuals giving information which will lead to the arrest and the condemnation of the person or persons who planned and perpetrated the murder of Tresca will be fully protected. Their identity

ENCLOSURE 61-1305-388

"will not be made public. The information will be received in absolute confidence. If more than one person voluntarily furnishes information leading to the arrest and condemnation, the District Attorney of New York will be the sole judge in deciding the manner in which the money is to be divided, and to whom it is to be paid."

"This offer is made by a committee of friends of Carlo Tresca. Information can be communicated in person, by telephone, or by telegraph at the expense of the person who receives it, or it can be sent directly to the Division of Detectives, Police Department, New York City, or to the District Attorney of New York County or to the office of the Police Commissioner, Louis J. Valentine, whose telephone is Spring 7-3100."

"To hasten the possibility of the solution of the murder of Carlo Tresca, which occurred 22 or more months ago, we five citizens offer a reward of \$5000. for information concerning that crime. In doing so we act on behalf of a committee of friends of Tresca who remember his militant courage against those who were considered enemies of society, his loyalty, his idealism, his defense of the well-being not only of the Italian people but also of the working classes."

"Since we and our associates consider that the plot for the murder of Carlo Tresca was carried out by paid assassins, we are ready to pay \$5000. as reward to whoever can furnish information concerning it."

"Among the underworld, such a crime is always discussed, reports and hypotheses circulate. There are persistent rumors according to which 'many people' know who has committed this murder", concludes the statement.

District Attorney Hogan then said that neither his office nor the police have slackened in the investigation. More than 500 persons have been questioned by his Assistants during the inquest, dozens of detectives are still engaged in the investigation, and many of them are working in other States in the hope of discovering information which will solve the crime.

Some months ago, Frank Muccio, 24 years of age, of 230 Elizabeth Street, was detained as an essential witness in the Tresca case. For a while he was held in \$25,000. bail, but about a couple of months ago, the bail was reduced to \$5,000. which he furnished, and he is now free. Carmine Galante, 35 years old, was arrested 2 days after the murder as a suspect. He was questioned at length, denied his guilt, but he was detained as an essential witness for a long time and finally released and taken back to Sing Sing for violation of his Parole.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

JTG:EK  
TO 100-9744

Director, FBI

DATE:

FROM : SAC, New York

January 17, 1945

SUBJECT: CARLO TRESCA;  
INTERNAL SECURITY - I

There is being enclosed herewith for the Bureau's information a copy of an article entitled "The TRESCA Case is Not Closed!", which appeared in the January, 1945 issue of "Il Mondo". Your attention is called to the fact that the last two paragraphs of this article indicate that CARMINE GALANTE, parole violator who had been held and questioned in the TRESCA murder, was released on Friday, December 22, 1944, after a review of his case by Supreme Court Justice W. Ryan in Plattsburg, New York. FRANK NUCCIO, the second material witness, according to the article, is also free on bail.

Enclosures

64-13353-89

RECORDED

INDEXED

1-17-45

C O P Y

Article appearing in "Il Mondo", January, 1945

**"THE TRESKA CASE IS NOT CLOSED!  
His Memory To Be Honored in Many Cities**

"Honor to CARLO TRESKA, whose slayers are still at large after nearly two years, will be paid at memorial meetings in numerous cities in the United States and abroad on Thursday, January 11, 1945, second anniversary of his assassination in the New York dim-out.

"Those gatherings are to be held in Sulmona, TRESKA'S birthplace in Italy; in London, Mexico City, Havana, New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, San Francisco, and other cities large and small across the country.

"In Sulmona, historic town set in a fertile valley amid the high mountains in the Abruzzi, the 11th of January will take on the nature of a civic holiday. On that occasion one of the principal streets there is to be renamed in CARLO TRESKA'S honor. IGNAZIO SILONE, the famous novelist, will speak. Arrangements for that commemoration have been made by the Free Labor Committee.

"More than 100 of TRESKA'S friends will sponsor the New York meeting, which is to be held in Webster Manor, 119 East 11th Street, with speeches in both Italian and English. Speakers will include Angelica BALABANOFF, one of the best known anti-Fascist writers, for many years a leader in the international labor movement, and long a member of the Italian Socialist Party's executive committee; ROGER N. BALDWIN, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union; HARRY KELLY, veteran libertarian; Attorney MORRIS L. ERNST; and NORMAN THOMAS, lately Socialist candidate for President.

**"Many Ask Why This Crime Remains Unsolved**

"Wide and growing dissatisfaction with the slowness of the official investigation of the TRESKA case is indicated in a recent statement by Mr. THOMAS, who heads the New York memorial committee.

"On January 11 we will not only pay tribute to a fearless and uncompromising fighter against totalitarianism," he declared, "but we will demonstrate that the public has not forgotten the urgency of running down TRESKA'S murderers. From all that I know about this case, I am strongly of the opinion that it was a political crime, and the same opinion is held by a large number of people familiar with the enemies in TRESKA'S life.

"In my speaking tours I have heard pointed questions asked by persons in many parts of the country who wonder why the mystery of TRESKA'S death remains unsolved after so long a time. And in Italian circles, both in New York and in other cities, I have heard it said repeatedly that "many people", including some public officials, know who planned and carried out the TRESKA assassination."

61-1235-307  
ENCLOSURE

"The TRESKA case is not closed! - 2 -

"Concern about all this was voiced also at the Workers Defense League's recent national convention here. A resolution passed then stated that 'many months have passed with little apparent progress in the official investigation of the TRESKA murder.' Accordingly the convention called upon the District Attorney's office to 're-examine every clue relating to TRESKA'S political enemies, to question closely any one known to have knowledge of his political conflicts and not yet interrogated, and to ask that the Federal Bureau of Investigation make available any information in its files about persons regarded by TRESKA as his enemies.'

#### "Reward of \$5000 offered by Victim's Friends

"Hope of a break in the TRESKA situation through some one in the underworld 'talking' is entertained in other corners because of the posting on November 22 of a \$5,000 reward offer for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for Tresca's death. This offer was made by MORRIS L. ERNST, Former Municipal Court Justice, DOROTHY KENYON, ROGER N. BALDWIN, EDUARD C. LINDEMANN, and JOHN F. FINERTY. They spoke in behalf of a committee of more than 100.

"'Because we believe that the plan for killing CARLO TRESKA was carried out by hired gunmen,' they said, 'we stand ready to pay \$5,000 as an inducement to some one to give information about that. In the underworld there is always talk after such a murder; gossip is exchanged; word about "who did the job" gets around.'

"Full protection for anyone furnishing the desired information was pledged. His or her identity will never be made public. The information will be received in absolute confidence...If more than one individual volunteers information which leads to the conviction indicated above, the District Attorney of New York County will be the sole judge of the manner in which the reward is to be divided and to whom it shall be paid.'

#### "Predictions by Columnists Not Borne Out

"At the time of the reward offer it was stated that Assistant District Attorney Eleazar Lipsky, who had worked on the TRESKA case at the beginning, but who had been away for several months trying cases in Special Sessions Court, had now been placed in direct charge of the TRESKA investigation, under Assistant District Attorney Jacob Grumet, head of the Homicide Bureau.

"'Certain new lines of inquiry, suggested by Mr. ERNST and his colleagues, are being pursued by Mr. GRUMET and Mr. LIPSKY,' a news release said on November 22. It was understood also that some members of the police department had been stirred into new activity in the case by the posting of the reward.

"The TRESKA Case is not closed! -3-

"But if the investigators are any closer to a solution of the TRESKA mystery than they were three months ago, the public has heard nothing of it.

"Previously there had been predictions by newspaper columnists supposed to be close to the DA's office that something startling about the TRESKA crime was soon to be disclosed. Those predictions, however, have not been borne out, and for many weeks no columnist has mentioned the case.

#### "Extradition of VITO GENOVESE IS Sought

"One published new story in the Herald Tribune told of efforts by the District Attorney of Kings County (Brooklyn) to extradite VITO GENOVESE from Italy. GENOVESE was described as an ex-gangster overlord in lower Manhattan, who was wanted for questioning in connection with gang murders of 20 years ago. In Italy, after the landing of the Allies, GENOVESE succeeded in obtaining employment with the AMG.

"Earlier the New York Post had said that District Attorney HOGAN of New York County was investigation reports that TRESKA'S murder was ordered by Mussolini and his son-in-law, Count CIANO, later executed at Il Duce's command. According to these reports, the Post declared GENOVESE, 'who fled to Italy shortly after a Brooklyn murder in 1934 and became an intimate of Fascist officials, arranged the TRESKA assassination with New York gangsters.'

"GENOVESE'S name was brought into public notice on August 9 when ERNEST RUPELO ('The Hawk'), facing a long sentence in a criminal case tried before Judge Samuel Leibowitz, sought to obtain leniency by 'Squawking' and identified GENOVESE with old unsolved murders.

"Because of the reports connecting GENOVESE with the TRESKA case, friends of the slain editor of Il Martello (The Hammer) recalled that TRESKA had been placed on Mussolini's death list early in the existence of the Fascist regime. But while TRESKA had many times excoriated Il Duce in his columns and in public speeches through the years, his attacks in late months preceding his assassination had been upon Fascists and ex-Fascists nearer home.

#### "Authorities Silent About Third Suspect

"No details have ever been given out by District Attorney Hogan's office about the questioning of a third suspect in the TRESKA case, reported exclusively in the New York Post on October 9. This man, the Post said, was



"The TRESKA Case is not closed!

-4-

believed to be the owner of the escape car in the TRESKA killing. He was declared to be an associate of CARMINE GALANTE, 32 years old, previously linked to the TRESKA murder for having been seen by a Parole officer boarding a waiting car outside the offices of the Parole Board at 80 Center Street New York, a few hours before the murder took place. The officer wrote down the license number of the car which was later found abandoned near the murder scene. GALANTE had made a routine report at the Parole Board in connection with the pay-roll holdup on Christmas, 1930, in which he had fired four shots at a police sergeant.

"The former convict was grilled at length and held in the Tombs for several months and later transferred at Dannemora prison. On Friday, December 22, 1944, however, he was released after a review of his case before Supreme Court Justice W. Ryan in Plattsburg. Justice Ryan ruled that the Parole Board lacked the authority to detain GALANTE any longer in jail.

"FRANK MUCCIO, the second material witness, described as lessee of the garage in which the escape car was kept up to the night of the killing, is free on bail on bootlegging charges."

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

JTC:CC

100-9744

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, New York

SUBJECT: CARLO TRESCA;  
INTERNAL SECURITY (I)

DATE: February 26, 1945

According to the "New York Times", of February 21, 1945, 14,000  
circulare offering \$5,000 reward for information leading to the apprehension  
and conviction of the slayer or slayers of CARLO TRESCA were distributed by  
the Police on February 20th, throughout the United States. The circulars  
promise that the identity of the person providing the information will not  
be disclosed.

The above is forwarded for inclusion in the Bureau's files and  
no action is contemplated by this office.

61-1335-390  
FEB 27 1945  
[Signature]

RECORDED

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Dear Sir:

Refer to your cable of April 19, 1943 in the captioned matter. The Bureau is extremely interested in this case and agrees with you that it should receive expeditious attention. You should advise early whether it would have been possible for Carlos Contreras to have proceeded from Chihuahua, Mexico, to New York City, to have at the latter place murdered Mario Yranga and to have thereafter returned to Mexico.

You should also endeavor to determine at what particular time during the month of January, 1943 Contreras was alleged to have murdered a man in Chihuahua, Mexico, as the establishing of this time bears on his ability to have assassinated another person in New York City during the same month.


Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

- son \_\_\_\_\_
- A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Harbor \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tupper \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
 APR 22 1943  
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

APR 21 5 36 PM '43  
 RECEIVED - FOREIGN ROOM  
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



AB

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

JW:sl  
100-9744

TO : Director, FBI  
FROM : SAC, New York  
SUBJECT: *CHINA TRUST*  
*INTERNAL SECURITY - R*

DATE: 5/22/45

There are being released herewith for the Bureau's information two copies of an article entitled "The Trasca Case" which appeared in the "American Reporter" (all articles of January 1945). It is pointed out that this newspaper was formerly published by the late CARL TRUSCA, but has now been taken over by a group of anarchists, headed by JOHN WATKINS. The author of the article is J. W. WATKINS.

Encs. (2)

100-9744-58

134  
50 MAY 22 1945

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-1335

*W*  
*5/22/45*

The following is a translation of an article in the Italian language newspaper, IL MARTELLO, January 1945.

### The Tresca Case

Let us recall to the reader the things which happened, whether they be true or not, let us give a chronological picture of the events, accusations, counter-accusations and gossip, beginning shortly after the crime up to now so that the reader can form an idea of the tangled skein and see how the case has become more and more obscure. Divergent opinions on the crime have created such a situation that everyone is completely muddled and cannot get a clear idea of the case.

We are of the opinion that the divergent accusations and gossip were perhaps cleverly directed in opposite courses, to lead people away from the direct path which would have thrown light on the case or have disclosed the underlings guilty of the crime.

The events and gossip we are publishing are common knowledge. Some of it has been published:

1. Carlo Tresca confided to his friends and intimates that he had been threatened with death. He said: "Soon you will be giving me a funeral. Avenge me". We do not know if he had confided to anyone whence the threats came.
2. In December of 1942 an unknown person handed over in the offices of the Martello a case of imported chianti as a present to Carlo. It was said then that the unknown person behaved suspiciously and that Carlos became quite upset..The underworld has certain ways....first it offers a gift and then....comes the party. Carlo was suspicious and was disturbed from that day on.
3. It is said that Carlo Tresca paid a visit to some one Christmas night and returned very much excited. Whom did he visit? Where did he go?
4. December 30, 1942 in a meeting of the New York section of the Mazzini Society, Carlo Tresca bitterly attacked Fascism, following the minutes of the meeting, and insistently demanded the elimination from the Society of Fascist elements. He had insisted on beginning to stir up public opinion in order to undermine the activities of the Fascist leaders who, masquerading as democrats, were trying to get key positions. For these reasons the new committee was appointed.
5. Friday, on January 8, 1943, Carlo sent four letters to the members of the new Committee. The following letter is in our possession, the only one returned by the post office. (the wrong house number is the reason).

Enclosure 61-1335-391

Dear Lanzinotti,

I earnestly beg you to be present at the first meeting of the Organizing Committee of the Mazzini Society, local section.

The meeting will take place Monday evening, January 11 at 8 P.M. in the offices of Il Martello, 2 W. 15th St., New York.

Do not fail to attend.

Sincerely yours,  
Carlo Tresca

The postage stamp bears the date of Friday, January 8, 8:30 PM, so that they were sent out 3 days in advance.

Sala, (Bellanca's right-hand man) one of the persons invited says: the letter was given to me Tuesday, the 12th. But who gave it to him? Who held it up? Did they perchance know the contents? Can it be supposed that the delay was due to negligence on the part of the postal service? It is no block from the offices of Il Martello to that of Sala and the letter took all of four days to arrive.

Montana, another of the invited ones said, "I did not come to the meeting because I was absent from the Mazzini meeting on the 30th of December and I do not consider my nomination valid". Montana, you sound logical but WE DO NOT FALL FOR IT AND ARE NOT CONVINCED. Montana is Antonini's secretary. Both were intimate friends of Carlo, and with the telephone at their disposal they used to call one another every day.

Montana by a simple telephone call could have advised Carlo that he was not coming to the meeting and told him not to wait for him. Thus, it is certain that the crime would not have taken place. Vanni, perhaps you were detained the last minute? Who advised you? Where were you that evening?

6. Tresca, who was not a moron, knew very well that to discuss and debate with a Committee of insignificant individuals who amounted to nothing would have been a waste of time. On the morning of January 11 Carlo invited by telephone some important people to be present at the meeting. What did they answer? Only the dead person would be able to tell us but the dead do not speak, and the living are mute.

But the logical fact remains that if Carlo had had refusals from these men, Carlo would not have gone out that evening to receive only the four to whom he had sent letters, because it would have been a waste of time to deal with the marionettes who functioned and responded according to instructions.

There was a great to - do about these men who got the letters, but about those invited over the telephone, "silence is maintained, and it is wished that they do not disturbed. WHO ARE THEY?

They have names and the VOX POPULI could also be the voice of truth.

From the beginning, there was a great hubbub and explanations were demanded of the gentlemen of the letters and some ingeniously asked for published explanations, but nothing is said about the persons who got the telephone calls. Why? Could it be in order that the mandarins might not be persecuted and disturbed. They are not named and they are not touched.

All this makes one suppose that there has been an attempt to tangle the skein even more and to avoid having the case cleared up....

7. It is noised about that the underworld as a whole had protected Carlo's life for a long time. How is the crime explained, then, if he was protected?

The customs of the underworld are well-known, and when one is protected, one is not touched as long as the protection of the "higher-ups" lasts, otherwise there is vengeance with gun-fire between the two factions.

Then it is explained that there was an agreement and the protection was removed.

Why? Who gave orders for its removal. Who is the BOSS?

8. Dissensions between the two great organizations of the balance had been noted for a long time. Carlo had tried to conciliate them, and there is proof in two letters from Carlo addressed to Antonini (written a few days before the crime) which were read in public over the radio and published in the "Giustizia". Carlo showed his willingness to cooperate for peace between the two "dirty" unions. It was really worth the trouble. But there have been cases where the third party pays for the two litigants, the pleasure of the times is that which goes out for daily supplies (?). I cite this as a case, but I do not affirm it.
9. It is noised about, also that because of an attempted blackmail between the underworld and the family, Carlo got angry and refused. But let us not dwell on this case which is not political.
10. From the very first day the Stalinists were openly accused, among them the "old papal guard", including the well-known "turncoat" Ezio Taddei, openly denounced them to the authorities. Some were even sure of having seen him in person in the Bronx; they also knew that he had fled to the farm in Landisville, New Jersey, and they organized a trip in a patrol car to that place and found a well where they believed they saw Sormenti but in the bottom of the well, there was only the moon.
11. Ezio Taddei then changed his story and instead of the Stalinists he accused some persons of the underworld of "Marese" connected with the Fascists and with the well-known Fascist boor, Pope.

Taddei published the well-known work, "The Trecca Case", in English and Italian in which he told certain facts which were partly true and he directly accused the underworld of "Marese". He described the connections between the leaders Buonanno, Garofolo and Carmine Galante and Pope, and he said, among other things that the girl friend of the leader of the Marese, F. Garofolo, is Miss Dolores Faconti, Assistant Attorney-General. Here we make ellipsis.... and the reader can supply his own comments....(Goddess of Justice).

Taddei describes the banquet at the Manhattan Club on September 10, 1942. There were Corsi, Pope, Garofolo, Dolores Faconti (Goddess of Justice), politicians, the underworld, Fascists and there was....CUPELLI who did not have the courage to back Carlo and leave as a sign of protest and follow Carlo. Unfortunate man. You were at the right place with the dress of the colony....stay there....stay there.

In Taddei's work there are some falsehoods and we do not know if anything he writes corresponds to the truth, for example when he says, "I accompanied Carlo to the landing", it is false for it was not he.

Taddei was on bail for the attack in the offices of the Stalinists in June of 1941. None the less, a thing hard to believe, the Stalinists had him arrested, sentenced and let out on bail for deportation. Who put up the bail. A woman connected with the Stalinists. A few months after the crime on Carlo, he was arrested one evening, his bail was lifted and a few hours later he was set free again. A few days later he left his friends and went away from the MARTELLO, and a few weeks later the work came out. When he wrote the work which he claimed was full of important revelations, he refused my personal offer for the printing and shipping expenses, and he also refused the financial aid of colleague J.R. How can this be explained? Who paid? Why did he leave the Liberating movement and automatically go over to the Stalinists with whom he collaborates and whose offices he frequents every day? It makes one suspect that there was a recovery in the case of the bail, and a change. ...between the appearance of the work and the sudden going over to them. One cannot believe a degenerate madman like Taddei, especially when one considers the ease with which he first accused the Stalinists and then the Fascists.

12. As to the old "Papal" guard of the Martello (the intimates of Carlo), it was divided by dissensions. One suspected Somenti, another a union leader. Finally, then, these bootlicks left the Martello, got together, made a sham peace among themselves in order to fight and suppress the Martello, united with the so-called "widow", and the former alumnus of Atlanta.
13. After the death of Carlo, March 1943, there was organized a Committee of noted political personalities, professional men, and union leaders,



to put pressure on the Authorities to throw some light on the crime and to have the guilty arrested.

These most illustrious personalities chosen by the "so-called" widow were on excellent terms with her. They told the Martello nothing.

One time only - and we say one - they met without giving any explanation either to the press or to anyone else, then they disappeared and kept the most complete silence.

In the Committee there was the pole-cat "Parolai" and it would be a good thing to finish it once and for all by considering its readers as having been tricked. It ought to enlighten its ingenuous readers and explain to them the following:

- A. Why did the Committee not continue its work?
- B. What pressure was put upon it to make it stop automatically?
- C. By whom was the order given?
- D. Why was a revelation not made to the public by means of the press at the same time notice was given about the formation of the Committee and its scope?
- E. In what SINGLE place was this discussed and decided?

The public has a right to be informed.

Let us understand each other well, without tricks or subterfuge and no excuses of absence or substitution on the part of your friend, the secretary.

Don Sirolamo, do you remember when you answered Maria R. of Brooklyn, and Luigi C. of Mass. on the case of the letters? Many did not understand, including myself. You must excuse me because you know well that I have a thick skull. Try to explain yourself clearly and simply. If you were invited by Carlo on the evening of January 11, was it by phone or by letter? You know well that the dead do not speak. But you can clear things up.

\* \* \*

The strangest thing is that of those most illustrious gentlemen of the Committee of 1943, some of them are a part of the present "Tresca Memorial Committee" which is working for the commemoration of Jan. 11, 1945. Then for about 2 years you have slept like dormice and now after a long lethargy you wake up and beat the drums so that they are heard across the seas. We hope and we wish that there are no speculations on the corpse now after two years of quiet sleep.

The two well-known lawyers of the "so-called" widow of the faithful Trotskyite who tried the case against the Martello were also members of the Committee.

The widow was ready to spend even 20,000 to win it but in due time she had to withdraw without having succeeded in getting us to concede an inch. Undoubtedly she would have had a healthy fright from some noisy public scandal.

\* \* \*

- 14. In January, the N.Y. Post published:  
"The activities of Tresca had inevitably put him in conflict with potent forces and powerful men".

What kind of power is this which these forces and these men have?

Carlo had opposed the formation of an Italian National Committee "Council of Victory" which had been joined by Stalinists and Fascists, including the Fascist-democratic Pope.

This Committee of Victory was to be launched on January 14, 1943, three days after the crime. The fact remains that Carlo was opposed to the entrance of the Stalinists and the Fascists and especially of the "dear" friend of Antonini, Pope.

Carlo was the center of the question ! It is logical that even in this there be some mystery and that they can be some doubts.

\* \* \*

- 15. A couple of weeks after the crime, the newspaper of the Newspapermen's Guild of New York - the biggest and most authoritative of the National Press Association - wrote: "If we were the law, tomorrow before dawn the public would know how, why, and by whom Carlo Tresca was killed".

District Attorney Hogan was interested in knowing on what proof the Association of newspapermen published that statement in their newspaper, which is really an accusation.

On the 8th of March Walter Winchell wrote as follows in his column, which was reproduced by about a thousand American newspapers.

Page 2. 1st Column - quote  
 Walter Winchell wrote this paragraph in the N.Y. Daily Mirror (Sept.20).  
 "It is said that the disappearance of \$150,000. in cash is part of the mysterious killing of Tresca".

It is said....Who says so?

What are the sources of Mr. Winchell's information?

16. It is noised about that the day after the crime the proofs and the names of the men who gave the orders were on the desk of the Mayor, Can this be true?
17. It is also noised about that some went during the first days to the Governor, but got no satisfaction.

It is logical that the Governor has no time to waste. He is too busy to clean New York of the underworld.

18. A professional private detective, a certain young Parkerton said that he had discovered everything. He knew the plot made in house A, number B of C. Street the rendez-vous in restaurant D, the envoy F, the leader of the underworld G, and the sum paid, not a penny more or a penny less. He knew that Sa.....and Mc.....and delegates of.....went to the same restaurant, he said that he needed to discover who carried the sum, he said that he had everything in his fist, but when he opened his hand, the flies flew out, and only the faces remained.

\* \* \*

But there were some proofs

And now there are no more: Galante, he of the automobile of the dead person, who was under \$50,000. bail was freed from this annoyance, and for the violation of parole, was condemned to complete the rest of a previous sentence. Now he is completely exonerated and free since Friday, December 22, 1944, after having served the remainder of the sentence.

Galante was accused by the Authorities: A. He was seen by 2 agents to leave the automobile of the crime. B. They took the number of the automobile when he left: 10-72-92 which is the same as that of the auto in the crime. C. Galante's alibi does not correspond to the truth. Galante went to a theater on Broadway to see the movie "Casablanca", but he was not able to give any information about the subject matter of the film. He came out of the movie at 10:30 P.M., before the program was finished, to go to visit his girl friend whose name he refused to divulge in order to avoid dangerous publicity. All this was told to the Authorities. But is it the truth? Since the release of Galante, we doubt it.

But then why was he acquitted and liberated? Perhaps there is the hand of some higher-up which is obstructing the course of justice? If it is not so, Galante is innocent and there was a frame-up on the part of the Authorities to save the guilty ones, or to deceive the press and the public, making them believe that something had been done. Naturally then, all cases which drag out end by being forgotten. But what do the Authorities say now about the release of Galante? Have they perhaps been ordered to go to sleep?

20. On September 10, 1943, Frank Nuccio, residing at 265 Elizabeth Street, was arrested.

When on the evening of January 11, the criminals abandoned the automobile in the neighborhood of the crime, they forget to take the bunch of keys hanging in the ignition lock, so that when the police came into the possession of them later they began the necessary investigations to determine the use of each one of them.

The first thing determined was that one of the said keys would be able to open the garage in Elizabeth Street since they had suspicions that the automobile of the crime had been recovered there.

It was discovered that Nuccio had had the lock changed on the 10th of January by a neighboring locksmith, who testified to that effect, and he presented the old lock and it was able to be proved that one of the lost keys fit.

The room of Frank Nuccio is near that of the famous Carmine Galante. Carmine Galante was arrested at Elizabeth Street and Prince Street in front of Nuccio's house. Frank Nuccio admitted having garaged the auto which was used for Carlo Tresca's murder, which is the same as the one Toni Ribarich recognized as that which tried to run Tresca down on 12th Street on the night of January 9, and Nuccio has always admitted knowing Galante.

On November 1943, the newspapers of New York published the following news item: Frank Nuccio, 24 years old, of 265 Elizabeth Street who was held on \$25,000. bail until September 9 as a material witness in the murder of Carlo Tresca, was released yesterday on \$5,000. bail.

It is to be expected that this case also will finish as a soap bubble.

**CONCLUSION:**

All that (accusation, counter-accusations, gossip, arrests, etc.) is nothing but a repulsive and idiotic comedy. The Authorities played their game with the complicity of prominent ill-reputed magistry in an

anti-Fascist democratic politics with a false bottom. In all this confusion and speculations on the body we do not intend to associate with anyone, and even less do we intend to substitute for the proper Authorities and the police. Let him who intends to do something, do it, we are not jealous and we do not hold to the laws of retaliation.

There is included in the crime: 1. Premeditation; 2, The fact that those who committed the crime knew that on the evening of January 11, Carlo would remain at his office late, contrary to custom; 3. The fact that NOT ONE OF THOSE INVITED BY LETTER OR TELEPHONE COULD HAVE COME to the meeting to be held in Tresca's office, because if Tresca had left the office with a group of friends, it would not have been easy to shoot him.

How did the assassins go about finding out that the way was clear? Who was the interested person who knew all and informed the hired assassins? In certain instances what could be seen better close to, is sought at a distance.....

#### The causes for the tangled skein

The causes are two ! Two bosses (?) two leaders, two names: Luigi Antonini and Augusto Bellanca.

In order to judge men, facts and crimes, it is necessary to be free, impartial, uninfluenced by the two leaders and by the passions of party politics.

In the Italian anti-Fascist movement, the policy is directed by these two gentlemen. Fights, dissensions, and criticisms arise as a result of the will, caprice, hate and ambitions which emanate from the struggle between the two. The followers of the two cliques are naturally those who because of favors or interests, those who because of personal liking, those who because of passions of party politics, blindly follow the two gentlemen": one, Luigi Antonini, intimate friend of Generoso Pope and protected by him, collaborates boldly with him, the most loathsome snake, and the one really responsible for the Fascist propaganda here in America. He has sowed the Fascist germ in the colony (really a colony of idiots, more Fascist today than yesterday). It is undeniable that all that is the work of the boor, Generoso Pope, "the friend" of Antonini and proprietor and editor of the notorious and evil-smelling "Progresso Italo-Americano".

The following of Antonini accuse the Stalinists of the crime and name Enea Sormenti as the hired assassin.

The other clique is directed by the "well-known" Augusto Bellanca. This "leader" works and plots, behind the scenes, with the Stalinists, in a politics of love, of unity, and of interests. Let us not forget that in

the "Bellanchism" there is not only the policy of understanding with the Stalinists, but there are involved family interests. One of the Bellancas had some contracts to furnish materials to the "allied" Russia.

We are not far from suspecting that this is the principal reason for the unity with the Stalinists ( I say Stalinists because it would be a good time to finish calling them Communists).

The "Bellanchists" are trying to exonerate the Stalinists comrades of the Assassination of Carlo, and they openly accuse the Fascists. The accusing finger is pointed at the suspicious figure of the well-known Fascist, Generoso Pope, as the person who ordered the crime, now and only recently knight of.....democracy and so effectively protected by this "harlot".

The most shameful thing for truth is this, that the great majority of the Italian Anti-Fascists blindly follow and become the tools of these two "gentlemen" while both sides speculate about the corpse of the murdered man.

Observing the commemoration and protest of the 11th of January at Webster Hall we noticed that the great majority were sympathizers of Bellanca, united with the "pretended" widow, the daughter of Carlo and the "exiles" of the Martello, and certain other faces, known to cause fear. Certainly the food were not lacking, those of the Antonini faction were missing. This meeting should have been very serious and should have been a solemn protest against the judiciary and administrative authorities, and against the politicians who obstruct the ways of justice. This should have been shown to the American public and to the American press which was present. The meeting was instead reduced to a shameful farce because some one spoke in Italian since he couldn't speak at all in the language of the country. The idiotic boor Vincenzo Lionetti made most of the people present laugh. Many were disgusted by the presence on the stage of that clownish fool of V. Lionetti. A fine figure !

Wherever Carlo would go he always had this idiot in his retinue and it made us think about it and many wondered at it. Why did Carlo never succeed in getting this louse of his back? Why?

The reasons for the Martello's neutrality in this confusion and scandal are the following:

1. Adherence to our principles.
2. We do not intend to take sides between the two factions in the Tresea case. So long as the evidence points to both parties, there still exists a possibility that a private feud and not a political one has caused the crime.
3. We do not intend to have direct or indirect contact with the individuals of the 2 factions, composed of individuals of ill-repute and of ex-Fascists.

4. We do not intend to take the place of the Authorities and even less to transform ourselves into amateur police.
5. The two factions, because of their political and personal aims, their ambitions and party feelings, speculate on the corpse, and that only because they are fighting one another, principally because of the animosity between the two "leaders".

ANTONINI AND BELLANCA WHO MADE USE OF CARLO WHEN HE WAS ALIVE, STILL USE HIM NOW THAT HE IS DEAD.

Shame to them and to their followers who help and support him with resignation either through fear or in order to obtain favors or for the proverbial dish of lentils.

J. Mancini

Translator: [REDACTED]  
Requested by [REDACTED]

b7c

DASH FROM NEW YORK 8 28 2-39 P

DIRECTOR URGENT

*Re: Carlo Tresca*  
*61-1535*

ARN. FOLLOWING RELEASE FOR PUBLICATION IN AFTERNOON PAPERS MAY TWENTY EIGHTH, NINETEEN FORTY FIVE, ISSUED BY TRESCA MEMORIAL COMMITTEE, ROOM NINE NAUGHT FIVE, ONE TWELVE EAST NINETEENTH STREET, NEW YORK THREE, NEW YORK, QUOTE.. NEW YORK CITY DASH ACTIVITY OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION IN A CURRENT FLORIDA HOMICIDE CASE IMPELLED NORMAN THOMAS, CHAIRMAN OF THE TRESCA MEMORIAL COMMITTEE, TO POINT OUT TODAY THAT QUOTE IN CONTRAST, THE FBI STRANGELY HAS NEVER SHOWN ANY INTEREST IN THE CARLO TRESCA MURDER, DESPITE THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS IN THAT CASE. UNQUOTE. PARAGRAPH QUOTE IN FLORIDA, UNQUOTE, MR. THOMAS SAID, QUOTE THAT BUREAU HAS BEEN EXAMINING SEVERAL ASPECTS OF THE RECENT TRAGEDY IN WHICH MRS. DORETTA LINKE WAS TORN TO PIECES BY NINE PIT BULL TERRIERS. THIS HAPPENED NEAR MIAMI, CLEARLY WITHIN FLORIDA BOUNDARIES, AND ON ITS FACE IS PURELY A MATTER FOR THE STATE AUTHORITIES. JUST WHY THE FBI SHOULD BE OFFICIALLY CONCERNED ABOUT THAT OCCURRENCE, HOWEVER DEPLORABLE IT MAY HAVE BEEN, HAS NOT BEEN EXPLAINED IN ANY PRESS DISPATCH THAT I HAVE SEEN. PARAGRAPH. WHEN TRESCA WAS SHOT DOWN IN JANUARY NINETEEN FORTY THREE, SUSPICION WAS IMMEDIATELY ATTACHED TO TWO TOTALITARIAN GROUPS DASH THE

END PAGE ONE

53 JUN 13 1945

*Handwritten notes and signatures*

*cc. Mr. [illegible]*

*61-1535-392*



FASCISTS AND THE COMMUNISTS. TRESCA HAD SCATHINGLY ATTACKED AND EXPOSED BOTH IN HIS ITALIAN DASH LANGUAGE JOURNAL, ~~IL~~ MARTELLO PARENTHESIS THE HAMMER UNPARENTHESIS, AND BLOCKED THEIR ATTEMPTS TO ENTER THE ~~MAZZINI~~ SOCIETY PARENTHESIS THIS COUNTRY-S CHIEF ANTI DASH FASCIST ORGANIZATION UNPARENTHESIS AND THE ITALIAN DASH AMERICAN VICTORY COUNCIL, THEN PROJECTED BY THE OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION. PARAGRAPH. THE FBI MIGHT WELL HAVE BEEN OF GREAT SERVICE IN THE TRESCA SITUATION, PARTICULARLY IN FOLLOWING ONE NOTABLE LEAD TO A FOREIGN LAND, WHICH SO FAR AS THE PUBLIC KNOWS HAS BEEN LEFT HANGING IN MID DASH AIR. BUT IT HELD ALOOF ON THE GROUND THAT IT LACKED JURISDICTION. AND WHEN THE SLAIN EDITOR-S WIDOW, MARGARET ~~DE SILVER~~ TRESCA, APPEALED TO ATTORNEY GENERAL BIDDLE TO DO SOMETHING IN THE CASE, BIDDLE GRUDGINGLY GAVE HER ONLY A FEW SHORT MINUTES. AGAIN COLON QUOTE NO JURISDICTION UNQUOTE. PARAGRAPH. APPARENTLY THE FBI HAS KEPT OUT OF THE TRESCA INQUIRY BECAUSE DISTRICT ATTORNEY FRANK HOGAN NEVER INVITED IT TO HELP. MORE THAN A YEAR AGO MR. HOGAN REFUSED TO ISSUE SUCH AN INVITATION, SAYING HIS MEN WERE QUOTE JUST AS COMPETENT UNQUOTE AS THE FBI MEN. THEY HAVE NOT BEEN COMPETENT ENOUGH, HOWEVER, TO SOLVE THE TRESCA MYSTERY IN TWO YEARS AND FOUR MONTHS. PARAGRAPH. REPRESENTATIVE WILL ROGERS JR. IN MARCH NINETEEN FORTY FOUR, SPONSORED A JOINT RESOLUTION IN THE HOUSE TO AUTHORIZE THE FBI TO ACT IN ANY CASE IN WHICH A PERSON HAD SUFFERED VIOLENCE PRESUMABLY BECAUSE OF HIS POLITICAL BELIEFS AND PRESUMABLY AT THE INSTIGATION OF PERSONS OUTSIDE THE STATE WHERE THE CRIME WAS COMMITTED DASH IF THE STATE AUTHORITIES WERE UNABLE AFTER A

PAGE THREE

REASONABLE LENGTH OF TIME TO RUN DOWN THE GUILTY. THAT BILL WAS REFERRED TO THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, AND DIED THERE. I UNDERSTAND THAT J. EDGAR HOOVER, FBI DIRECTOR, OPPOSED IT BECAUSE IT WOULD TREAD ON THE TOES OF PEOPLE SENSITIVE ABOUT STATES RIGHTS. PARAGRAPH. THE FBI HAS ENJOYED WIDE PUBLICITY BECAUSE OF ITS WORK IN HUNTING OUT SPIES, FIFTH COLUMNISTS, KIDNAPERS, AND OTHER CRIMINALS. MUST IT ALWAYS HAVE AN INVITATION TO ACT IN A CASE WHICH HAS AN OBVIOUS FEDERAL ANGLE QUESTION MARK. ARE THE NICETIES OF BUREAUCRATIC ETIQUETTE A SUFFICIENT EXCUSE FOR ITS IGNORING A POLITICAL MURDER QUESTION MARK. PARAGRAPH. IF, IN THE TRESKA KILLING, THE FBI HAD USED ITS SPECIAL RESOURCES TO INVESTIGATE A PERTINENT CLUE REACHING ACROSS A FOREIGN BORDER, AND KNOWN TO IT SOON AFTER THE CRIME, AND IF THAT EFFORT HAD TURNED UP VALUABLE EVIDENCE, SURELY MR. HOGAN-S FEELINGS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN HURT BY SUCH FRIENDLY COOPERATION. UNQUOTE. PARAGRAPH. THE TRESKA MEMORIAL COMMITTEE INCLUDES DR. ANGELICA BALABANOFF, FRANK CROSSWAITH, THE REV. ARON S. GILMARTIN, MISS AMERICA GONZALES, SIDNEY HERTZBERG, HARRY KELLY, MISS SHEBA STRUNSKY, OSWALD GARRISON WILLARD, M. E. WERNER, AND BERTRAM D. WOLFE. UNQUOTE. END OF RELEASE. MR. LAWRENCE OF THE NEW YORK SUN MADE INQUIRY REGARDING ANY COMMENT I MIGHT HAVE TO MAKE. I INFORMED HIM THAT I HAD NO COMMENT.

CONROY

ACK AND HOLD PLS

NY R S G WA

# Tresca's Killing

## Norman Thomas Criticizes Official Attitude

To the New York Herald Tribune:  
 District Attorney Hogan's annual report, you say editorially, "is good reading for every one but the malefactor." Others, though, who will look askance at it are those who believe that political murder in this country must not go unpunished. Mr. Hogan takes deserved credit for breaking all records in obtaining felony convictions in New York County. But he makes no mention of anything being done about the unsolved killing of Carlo Tresca, Italian anti-Fascist editor.

When criticized a year ago for ignoring that case in his 1943 report, Mr. Hogan objected sharply to the suggestion that the public was entitled to some word about developments behind the scenes.

Yet he surely is aware of the wide dissatisfaction with the Tresca situation. When he was urged last August to remove one of his assistants from that investigation because of clearly documented past association with Fascists and Fascist sympathizers, plus honors and awards from them, it took many weeks before Mr. Hogan would act; this despite the clear impropriety of having such a man in a case in which totalitarian groups had been under suspicion from the start.

Then, in November, he ordered a new Tresca inquiry, with Assistant District Attorney Eleazer Lipsky in charge. Two months later, however, Mr. Lipsky was still kept busy with trial work in court, and did not begin calling Tresca-case witnesses until the latter half of January, after a mass meeting of 1,000 persons had demanded action. Since then a veil of silence has settled over the case. When will it be lifted?

More than a year ago I was one of a delegation which asked Mr. Hogan to invite the Federal Bureau of Investigation to help search for Tresca's slayers. He declined to do this, holding that his men were "just as competent" as the F. B. I. men.

If Mr. Hogan had not declined Federal co-operation the F. B. I. might well have given valuable aid in following a pertinent clue across a foreign border, known to his office two years after Tresca's death.

**NORMAN THOMAS,**  
 Chairman Tresca Memorial Committee.

New York, May 30, 1945.

Uneven Jobless Benefits

JUN 15 1945



Dr.

A Plea for

To the N  
 I was  
 July 1  
 from  
 a

11735  
 Not Recorded

*Handwritten address:*  
1300 ...

June 6, 1945

JUN 7 - 1945

Dear Sir:

It is hard to understand why the Carlo Tresca murder has not been solved. On the contrary, it seems to be hushed up. Surely your department can clear up this case and bring the murderer to trial.

Sincerely,

*Handwritten signature:*  
Jean Wunderlich  
(Miss Jean Wunderlich)

*Handwritten notes:*  
Miss Wunderlich  
1300 ...

Rev 9:45 AM  
6/12/45  
*with*

61-1335-393

*Handwritten initials:*  
F. ...

RECORDED

EX-13

June 20, 1945

Miss Jean Kunderlich  
29 East 29th Street  
New York, New York

Dear Miss Kunderlich:

This will acknowledge receipt of your card of recent date addressed to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and marked to the attention of Mr. Biddle or Mr. Clark, which was referred to this Bureau by the Office of the Attorney General for appropriate acknowledgment.

As you were advised in my letter to you dated May 12, 1945, in connection with this matter, the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation is limited to the investigation of violations of certain Federal Statutes and the matter to which you refer does not appear to constitute a violation of any statute within the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

|                  |
|------------------|
| To: _____        |
| E. _____         |
| C. _____         |
| Glavin _____     |
| Ladd _____       |
| Nichols _____    |
| Rosen _____      |
| Tracy _____      |
| Carson _____     |
| Egan _____       |
| Hendon _____     |
| Pennington _____ |
| Quinn _____      |
| Nease _____      |
| Gandy _____      |

*Handwritten initials*

61-1335-393

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JUN 25 1945

154 *Handwritten mark*



JTG:AC  
Office Memorandum  
100-9744

dam • UNITEL

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, New York

SUBJECT: CARLO TRESCA  
INTERNAL SECURITY - I  
(Bureau File 61-1335)

DATE: October 2, 1945

The case file on the above captioned individual has been maintained by the New York Field Division in a pending inactive status in view of the fact that the Bureau had desired to be kept currently advised regarding any developments in the investigation made by the New York Police Department of the subject's homicide.

In view of the fact that no solution of the crime has been made and no new developments of progress has been reported by the New York authorities recently, it is suggested that no further effort be expended in keeping this case in a pending inactive status. Consequently, the New York Field Division will consider this case closed.

61-1335-395  
RECORDED

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: JMU:FK  
100-9744

Director, FBI

FROM: [Handwritten initials]

SAC, New York

SUBJECT:

CARLO TRFSCA  
INTERNAL SECURITY - I

DATE:

October 12, 1945

There is being enclosed herewith a copy of an article regarding the above captioned subject, which appeared in the September 24, 1945 issue of the New York World Telegram.

Enclosure

RECORDED

64-1335-396

[Handwritten signature]



"RENEW TRESCA PACE,  
WALLANDER IS URGED"

"First item on the desk of Police Commissioner Arthur W. Wallander, sworn in yesterday by Mayor La Guardia during his radio program over station WNYC, was a request from the Socialist Party's national executive committee to make an intensive new investigation of the Carlo Tresca murder.

"The request, which also went to District Attorney Frank S. Hogan, came in the form of a resolution, passed unanimously by the Socialist committee.

"Tresca, editor of the anti-totalitarian fortnightly, *Il Martello* (The Hammer), was shot down in the dim-out on Jan. 11, 1943."

1-2335-391

RDR:YEMJ

61-1335  
SAC, New York

October 31, 1945

John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

CARLO TESCA  
INTERNAL SECURITY - I  
New York File #100-9744

The Bureau agrees with you that this case should be closed, but desires that any new developments which come to your notice in connection with the investigation of this case be immediately reported to the Bureau.

61-1335-397  
NOV 2 1945

★  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

*[Handwritten signature]*

*[Handwritten initials]*



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

New York, New York

JMS:mpr  
100-8744

November 13, 1945  
CONFIDENTIAL

Director, FBI

Re: CARLO TRESCA;  
INTERNAL SECURITY - I

Dear Sir:

There is being enclosed herewith for the Bureau's information, a copy of a pamphlet entitled, "WHO KILLED CARLO TRESCA?" which was issued by the TRESCA MEMORIAL COMMITTEE.

This pamphlet was obtained from Confidential Informant ND-59, whose identity is known to the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

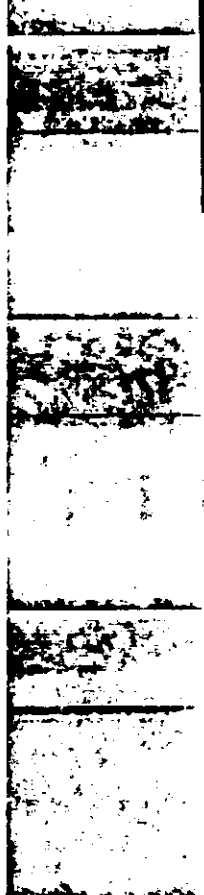
*E. E. Conroy*  
E. E. CONROY, SAC

Encl. (1)



RECORDED & INDEXED

61-1335398



# WHO KILLED CARLO TRESCA?

91915



SEPT 13 1951

Forewords by

ARTURO GIOVANNITTI

JOHN DOS PASSOS

TRESCA MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Those who believe with us that political murder in the United States must not go unpunished are urged to help circulate this pamphlet widely.

In issuing it, we have no thought of placing the guilt in the Tresca assassination at the door of any specific organization or individual, but simply of reviewing all the known circumstances which seem pertinent to an objective history of the case.

Single copies 10 cents.

Quantity rates:

12 for \$1.

100 for \$8.

500 for \$39.

1,000 for \$75.

TRESCA MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

## Let Justice Be Done

I AM not going to cry for bloody vengeance, for Carlo Tresca has been revenged more than a hundredfold by the universal chorus of maledictions heaped upon his assassins and the equally tremendous paean of praise directed at his life and memory. But I am going to add my shout to the tumultuous uproar that demands justice and will not be denied, even if some sacred ikons must be toppled from their pedestals and a few pillars of our so-called civilization must lie shattered in the dust of their ignominy.

*"Fiat justitia, pereat mundus."* Let justice be done even though the world perish! For, indeed, the blood of martyrs is not only the seed of saints; it is also the dragon tooth of social protest, the harbinger and forerunner of mighty upheavals.

Who had any reason to have Carlo murdered? I do not know their names, but there must have been more than a few throughout the world who caressed the hilt of the stiletto and the butt of the pistol at every mention of his name. And who wished Carlo a long and vigorous life, joy, happiness, and a glorious and heroic death, instead of a somber and tragic one? Millions of men and women who had learned to honor and love him, even though they had never seen him and heard but little of his almost legendary exploits in the cause of liberty.

For this man was everybody's friend, tutor, and counselor; he really loved everybody from the derelict and the destitute up to the teacher, the healer, even the man of affairs. He stood staunchly with his spiritual sword unsheathed before every haunted human being—aye, even the thief, the harlot, the gangster, even those he pursued relentlessly until they were discomfited and confounded.

He was a friend of the policeman who arrested him scores of times, of the District Attorney who denounced him as an enemy of society but ate and drank at his table, the jailer who locked him up for interminable days, a friend of everybody but the sinner against the Holy Ghost, the confirmed and ruthless enemy of democracy and equality. Yes, even now he would plead for mercy for his own slayers as Jesus did, although, unlike Jesus, he had no lasting judgment to dispense in the hereafter.

He liked to call himself an Anarchist, and if that term connotes a man who is absolutely free, then he was an Anarchist; but from the point of view of pure doctrine he was all things to all men, and in his endless intellectual vagabondage he never really sought any definite anchorage or moorings.

Who could have hired an unconscionable assassin to murder such a man in the dark of night, in a deserted street, while he was going peacefully back to his home and his own? Who fired the shots in the back of such a man's head, feeling that if he faced the lightning of his eyes, tempered by the angelic beauty of his smile, he must become frozen and petrified in his tracks?

Alas, I do not know! Does anyone know? Let this booklet speak.

ARTURO GIOVANNITI.

### He Died As a Fighter for Freedom

**A** MAN is shot down in the streets of Manhattan. The murdered man is one of those people whom once met you never forget. He has many friends among politicians and labor leaders and journalists and among the working people of that great Italian city which is one of the cities that make up New York. The labor unions give him a magnificent funeral. The press is full of interest in his murder. The police show great energy and discover a car which probably was used in the crime. They discover the garage where the car was kept. They discover the name used by the man who bought that car. They pick up a paroled convict on the suspicion that he might have been one of the agents hired for the killing. From the District Attorney's office come rumors of speedy arrests and indictments.

That was in the winter of 1943.

This is the autumn of 1945.

We still don't know who killed Carlo Tresca, nor why he was killed.

The police who started out with such energy have slowed down. The paroled convict has been released. The clues have melted away. The newspapers, distracted by immense events in Europe and the Pacific, have become apathetic. From the District Attorney's office comes nothing new. Efforts to interest the Attorney General in Washington or the Federal Bureau of Investigation have proved unavailing. Just another unsolved Italian killing.

It is impossible not to get the impression that the responsible public officials have failed to understand the national importance of pushing the investigation of Carlo Tresca's murder through to a successful conclusion.

We live in a dangerous time. There is a very real danger that in the upheavals of these days the minimum decencies and liberties which all Americans, newspaper editors and labor leaders and politicians and

public officials alike, take for granted as the basis of their happiness may be swept away.

We have been awake to the danger overseas. Our young men have given their lives to overcome it. But victories abroad will be of no avail if through cowardice and stupidity and apathy we lose our liberties at home.

The basis of civilized life as we know it is the personal security of the individual. Freedom of speech is part of the foundation of that security. No matter how freely a man speaks or writes, our system of government protects him. If some other individual feels that he has been libeled or slandered he can go to the courts for protection.

When a murder is allowed to go unpunished, the fabric of society, built out of the personal security of all the individuals which make it up, has been damaged. The rule of law has been weakened. A public official who allowed pressures to block the performance of his duty would be committing a dereliction as grave as that of an officer who ran away on the battlefield. In the case of Carlo Tresca's murder a dereliction of duty would be particularly dangerous because the likelihood is that Tresca was murdered to stop his voice. It was almost certainly a political assassination. The likelihood is that somebody killed him to keep him from disclosing information that would have been useful to the American people.

Carlo Tresca came to the United States in an immigrant ship four years ago because he knew this was a country where he would be free to speak his mind against injustice. Living as a guerrilla leader on the fringes of revolt among immigrant laborers against the exploitation they found here along with the opportunity, he very gradually became an American. Individual liberty, which the native born took for granted, as they did the wealth and breadth of the continent, was his daily passion.

He edited a series of Italian papers—*La Plebe*, *Il Proletario*, *L'Avvenire*, and finally *Il Martello*—in the romantic tradition of the revolt of the working class in nineteenth century Europe. In the first years his editorials were all for revolution. He was still drunk with the heady dream of an international working class that would bring peace and freedom to the world. As he took root here and became an American, defense of liberty in this country grew to be his dominant concern. The revolutions the nineteenth century agitators had dreamed of had come to pass and had brought instead of peace and liberty war and oppression to Europe and a new type of despotism more hideous than any in history. Inside the circle of the transplanted Italian world he moved in, Carlo Tresca struggled to keep the Fascist and Communist organizations that had made Europe a hell from reaching out into America. In *Il Martello* he used to the fullest the freedom of speech which is our greatest bulwark against the subversion of our liberties.



Believing that the United States government was defending the freedom of all men against oppression in the war with the Axis Powers he did all he could to help the FBI discover and root out the agents of those foreign organizations that were at work among the foreign born in this country. It was surely as a fighter for American freedom that he was shot down.

The people of America who have made such sacrifices to win the war against murderous forces across the seas have the right to demand energy and courage in their officials at home in defense of that fabric of civilized society which is the protection of all of us.

The following pages contain a summary of what is now known and surmised about Carlo Tresca's killing. I don't know which one of the suggested clues is the correct one, or if any one of them is the correct one, but it is clear that clues exist.

Possibly the discovery of the murderers will prove a difficult and thankless task. In the islands near Japan our soldiers have performed tasks vastly more difficult and thankless and a great deal more dangerous. If any public official has let himself be convinced that the interests which might be involved are too powerful to reach, or that this is merely a routine murder case to be written off on the debit side of his record, and that therefore the easiest course is to let it slide gently into oblivion, perhaps he will now think the matter over and remember how much is at stake and how little it will cost him to do his duty with energy and perseverance, compared with the total sacrifice we have demanded of the men of our fighting forces.

JOHN DE PASSOS

## Who Killed Carlo Tresca?

### The Murder

NEW York City in the vicinity of 15th Street and Fifth Avenue was quiet and the streets almost deserted in the dim-out on Monday evening, January 11, 1943. Carlo Tresca, courageous and uncompromising radical editor, sat in his third-floor office on the southwest corner of that intersection, where he had long carried on a fight against totalitarianism in his Italian-language journal, *Il Martello* (The Hammer.)

He was waiting now with Giuseppe Calabi, an attorney and refugee from Italy, for four other men, who with Tresca and Calabi, had been recently chosen by the New York chapter of the Mazzini Society to form an expanded committee for anti-Fascist campaigning. The four others to whom Tresca had written inviting them to meet him in his office, were Vanni Montana, secretary to Luigi Antonini, president of the Italian-American Labor Council; John Sala, an organizer for the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America; Giovanni Profenna; and Gian Mario Lanzilotti. But they did not appear. No word came from them, and phone calls by the editor failed to locate any of them. At 9:30 Tresca concluded it was useless to wait any longer, and he and Calabi left the office together about 9:38, intending to go to a tavern diagonally opposite on Fifth Avenue before going home.

There are two entrances to the building at 96 Fifth Avenue. As a rule Tresca used the 15th Street door. That night was no exception. He and his companion walked eastward about 75 feet to the corner, then crossed 15th Street. A traffic light halted them at the Avenue, and at that instant a man stepped up behind them and fired four shots from an automatic pistol. One bullet struck Tresca in the back, a second hit him in the head. Then two shots went wild. The victim fell to the pavement beneath a street light which was half obscured by its dim-out shield. The killer escaped in a dark sedan which sped west in 15th Street and disappeared from view. Tresca died on the pavement almost before the death car had vanished.

Samuel Sherman, clothier at 100 Fifth Avenue, heard the shots and saw the car speed away. He notified the police, who arrived shortly, and searching the immediate neighborhood, they found a fully loaded .38 calibre revolver in an ash-can near the Fifth Avenue entrance to No. 96. Since the shooting was done with a .32 automatic pistol, this indicated that two gun-men had waited for Tresca, one posted at each exit from the building. Evidently the crime had been carefully planned,

in the same professional style as the actual shooting, which was done so swiftly and smoothly that Tresca's companion did not have time to get a good look at either the killer or the car in which he made his getaway. From two other witnesses, passers-by, the police presumably got their description of the killer as a man between 35 and 40 years old and about 5 feet 5 inches tall.

### Life of a Fighter

Carlo Tresca's life was a turbulent one, filled with innumerable battles for justice, for free speech, the rights of the underdog, the interests of the working class.

He was born in 1879 in Sulmona, an ancient town in the Abruzzi, set in a high and fertile valley in the Apennines. Although the son of a wealthy land-owner, he never had much sympathy with his own class. It was the peasants and industrial workers whose hard life aroused him to action. By the time he was twenty, he was a Socialist agitator, secretary of the new Railway Workers' Union, and publisher of a revolutionary journal called *Il Germine* (The Seed.) In that paper he exposed the crooked actions of men in high places, and for this was convicted of libel. Proof of the truth of his allegations was not sufficient. Facing prison or exile at twenty-four, he took refuge in Switzerland, where he met, among other exiled Italian radicals, a noisy talker named Benito Mussolini. Tresca thought him a poseur and a charlatan, and that future traitor to Socialism told Tresca he was not radical enough.

In 1904 Carlo emigrated to the United States, where he soon found plenty of scope for his talents as a leader and organizer. Pittsburgh and the problems of the steel workers and coal miners in that area challenged him, and he began to publish an Italian-language paper, *La Plobe* (The Common People.) When in the following year the Industrial Workers of the World, with a revolutionary syndicalist program, was founded in Chicago by Big Bill Haywood, Eugene V. Debs, Daniel De Leon, and others, young Tresca naturally was drawn to it. He became a stormy petrel in the American labor movement, organizing Italian workers in many sections of the country, leading strikes, playing a large part in the great 1912 textile conflict in Lawrence, Mass., in the march of New York City unemployed on the churches, demanding food and shelter, in 1915, and in the historic Mesaba Iron Range strike in Minnesota, where he was indicted with others for "conspiracy to commit murder." In 1917, *L'Avvenire* (The Future), a paper he was then publishing in New York, was barred from the mails because it objected editorially to the United States entering the war in Europe. Two years later he established *Il Martello* (The Hammer), which he continued to publish for the rest of his life.

From the time of the "March on Rome" in 1922, Tresca frequently assailed Mussolini and his Fascist regime. In 1923, after he had violently attacked *Il Duce* and called for abolition of the Italian monarchy, the Fascist Embassy framed up Tresca on a charge of sending obscene matter through the mails. The "obscene matter" was a four-line ad of a birth-control book in *Il Martello*. Tresca was convicted, sentenced to a year and day, and after an appeal to the higher courts had failed, he was sent to Atlanta penitentiary in January, 1925. Public protest, however, compelled President Coolidge to commute his sentence to four months. . . . Free again, he resumed his attacks on the Fascists and increased the number of his enemies.

### Defeated Mussolini's Early Efforts Here

Because of Carlo Tresca, more than any one else, Mussolini failed in his early attempts to organize Fascism among Italian-Americans: it was Carlo's strategy that drove the Blackshirts off the streets of New York in the Nineteen Twenties.

Through his years in America, he worked and fought for countless workers who faced prison terms or execution because of their political convictions. He played an aggressive role in such cases as those of Ettore and Giovannitti, Mooney and Billings, the Centralia (Wash.) I.W.W. defendants, Andrea Salsedo and Roberto Fila, Sacco and Vanzetti, Clemente Lista, Antonio Bellusi, Greco and Carrillo and the Minneapolis Trotskyists. A typical instance was his organization of a united front committee which defended Athos Terzani, the young anti-Fascist who was framed up in 1933, charged with the shooting of a comrade during a free-for-all battle at a meeting of the fascistic *Khaki Shirts of America* in Astoria, L. I. After months of effort, the defense committee was able to amass enough evidence, not only to acquit Terzani, but to compel the indifferent Queens County District Attorney to prosecute the real killer, a *Khaki Shirts* member, and his accessory, the *Khaki Shirts* commander. Both were sent to prison.

Originally sympathetic toward the Revolution in Russia, Tresca found it possible to work with its adherents as late as 1933. But he became alienated as he watched the prodigious growth of Stalinist bureaucracy, and efforts of the Communists in the United States, serving it, to rule or wreck the American labor movement. When the Communists disrupted the big New York hotel strike in 1934, Tresca broke with them for good. The blood purges in Russia in 1936 and the GPU killings in many parts of the world increased his indignation. From that time on, Tresca kept up a running fire of exposure and denunciation of the Stalinist regime in *Il Martello*, while intensifying his attacks on Fascism. With the entry of this nation into another war in 1941, he gave critical support to the United Nations.

## Could the Communists Have Killed Tresca?

Who could possibly have killed Carlo Tresca, or instigated that murder? Who had what might be regarded as a substantial reason to put him out of the way? His friends generally contend that this was a political murder, that Tresca was slain because of his aggressive opposition to one or another of the totalitarian governments or parties, or because he knew too much about one or more persons active in international politics.

Tresca was outspoken in his attacks on Fascism, "ex"-Fascists, and Communists. These attacks were not confined to the columns of his journal. He made them also in speeches, and in conversations in public places.

One of those who attributed his murder to the Fascists was Judge J. Roland Sala, who called a recess in Brooklyn felony Court next morning, and spoke at length to scores of listeners present about the possible reasons for the crime. Others recalled that Carlo Tresca was put on Mussolini's death list in 1931.

Still others suspected the Communists, or some fanatical group on the edges of the Communist movement, remembering that when Tresca went before a federal grand jury to accuse one of their number in connection with the disappearance of Juliet Stuart Poyntz, ex-secret agent for Soviet Russia, the party press had assailed him as a Fascist spy. It was pointed out, too, that on May 14, 1942, he published a front-page attack in *Il Martello* on Carlos Contreras, also known as Enea Sormenti and as Vittorio Vidali, charging him with being "a commandant of spies, thieves, and assassins," and with being one of a band of killers who committed horrible crimes in Spain in the interest of Stalin.

Two hours after Carlo's death, the District Attorney's office was informed that two or three weeks earlier he had told various friends that he had lately seen Contreras-Sormenti-Vidali in New York City and that Tresca had said to them then: "If *here he is*, I smell murder. I wonder who will be the next victim." The authorities also were told soon after the slaying that two Philadelphia anti-Fascists had reported seeing Sormenti lately on a farm near Landisville, N. J., a few miles from Camden.

At one time Sormenti and Tresca had been friendly. Sormenti, at odds with Mussolini, came here from Italy in 1923 and joined up with the Communists, serving as secretary of the Italian Federation within that party. Four years later, he was ordered deported for illegal entry. In those days, before Tresca had become disillusioned about the Communists, he gave whole-hearted support to Sormenti in his fight against deportation, contending that the man would be shot if sent back to Italy, as so many anti-Fascists had been. Finally, Sormenti was permitted

1920

to go to Russia, where (according to the *Herald Tribune*) he attended a GPU school and learned "terrorist methods."

For some eight years before his death Tresca had been an implacable enemy of the Stalinists. In speeches and writings he charged the GPU with the murders of Camillo Berneri, Anarchist leader, in Barcelona; of Rudolph Klement, a lieutenant of Leon Trotsky, in Paris; of Andreas Nin, in the Spanish Civil War; of Trotsky himself, in Mexico; of Ignatz Reiss, a former GPU agent who had made a political break with the Stalinists; and of others struck down in Spain and France.

In *Il Martello*, in May, 1942, Carlo accused Sormenti of moving against the Mazzini Society by order of Stalin. "The method is the same," he wrote. "If you don't want unity with us, you are agents of Hitler and Mussolini." And there were veiled threats. The GPU is not to be taken lightly. When the GPU, through Sormenti, says, "Then let's fight," the meaning of the threat is clear." In another issue, late in May, Tresca again referred to Sormenti in an article headed *The Mazzini Society and the Fraud of Unity*.

The Mazzini Society of America is an alliance of Italian and Americans of Italian descent opposed to all dictatorships and designed to keep burning the torch of freedom and human rights and to promote brotherhood between Italy and the United States.

### Protecting the Mazzini Society

That summer Carlo was in the forefront of a fight to keep the Communists out of the Mazzini organization. At its convention in June, he exploded a verbal bombshell when he read a letter from Mexico City signed with the name of Vittorio Vidali (Sormenti) and addressed to Pietro Allegra, writer for the Stalinist organ, *L'Unità del Popolo*. This letter, Carlo explained, was intercepted before it could reach the addressee. It expressed the wish that Randolfo Pacciardi, who had commanded the Garibaldi Brigade in Spain, take a position leading to an agreement with the Communists. "This," its author wrote, "would be very useful to the anti-Fascists."

Interrupting, Pacciardi averred that he "would not be a Trojan horse for the Communists" and demanded to know where Carlo had got the letter. Tresca declined to answer, but declared: "It is genuine, and that's all that matters."

"Unity is spoken of here," said Tresca, "as it was spoken of during the Spanish Civil War. . . . You, Pacciardi, and I will be put in jail or killed with a shot in the back of the head. If the Communists were sincere I would extend my hand for common action. But they are not, and they must not enter the Mazzini Society." (Italics are ours).

Henceforth Tresca fought relentlessly every attempt to admit Communists into its ranks.

He was a member of the commission headed by Prof. John Dewey which held sittings in Washington, Mexico City, and New York City, and analyzed the charges against Trotsky in the weird Moscow trials of 1937-38, and which returned a verdict of "not guilty." Also in 1942 Tresca was one of 160 well-known persons who signed a protest to President Avila Camacho of Mexico against a "red slander campaign launched by the Communist Party" in an attempt to have certain anti-Fascist refugees deported. These included Victor Serge, Maurice Pivert, Julian Gorkin, and Gustav Regler, all of whom had devoted their lives to the fight for freedom and yet were accused of being leaders of a Fifth Column in Latin America.

After Tresca's death, both the Stalinist press and Robert Minor, assistant national secretary of the American Communist Party, protested that the Communists were averse to murder, and Minor asserted that his party had never found it necessary to combat politically Tresca's views or activities.

But, the Mazzini Society said in a public statement, "... the files of the *Daily Worker* are replete with invective against Tresca." And in 1938, soon after he testified in the Poyntz case, he was attacked by the Italian National Commission of the Communist Party and by Pietro Allegra.

Allegra published a pamphlet entitled *The Moral Suicide of Carlo Tresca*, calling him "politically dead" and assailing him on many counts, including "defeatist acts against anti-Fascist and Republican Spain" and his having "denounced the Communists to the authorities, saying they kidnaped and killed a woman."

"It is painful enough to witness his suicide," Allegra stated. "... If he, Carlo Tresca, had lost all sense of reason and decency, then ... for the sake of the public welfare and for anti-Fascism, it's a duty to put a stop to his detestable, disgusting work as a real and true enemy of anti-Fascists. ..."

"So for reasons of public health, in the interest of anti-Fascism, it's a civic, social work that I'm doing when I concern myself with Carlo Tresca. It's a work of protection, of elimination from society, of beings who are hateful to themselves and to society, which must oust them ..." (Emphasis above is ours.)

About the same time the Italian National Commission of the Communist Party, in a statement featured in the February 28 (1938) issue of *L'Unità Operaia*, Stalinist paper published in New York, said:

"... Tresca's isolation is a measure of elementary defense for all anti-Fascism.

"Without any other preoccupation except that of protecting and safeguarding anti-Fascism, we therefore launch a fraternal appeal to the militants of all groups or political parties, ... that in the common

interest they make Tresca understand that police informers will no longer be tolerated in the political and labor movement. . . ."

01021

### Tresca Sees Grim Meaning in Communist Attack

From this statement Carlo drew a sinister meaning. Answering in *Il Mattello* for March 7, he wrote:

"If Tresca is alive, sane, and not inclined to die, either physically or politically, to [please] the melancholy Pietrino [Allegra] . . . it will be necessary to put him out of the way, definitely. In a word: what is needed is a George Mink, a member of the Communist Party of America, and the murderer of our comrades Berneri and Barbieri. It must not be said that such a sanguinary and macabre idea has not come into the heads of the four lazy fellows who make up the Italian National Commission of the CPA. . . . However, they would like to urge some firebrand to put the idea into execution. It is not always necessary to arm the hand of a killer; enough to inflame the mind of a fanatic.

"One does not have to be very intelligent to understand what the members of the National Commission . . . mean when they shout that the isolation of Tresca is imperative, and when . . . they say it would be a betrayal of anti-Fascists and their conscience . . . not to tell that Tresca must no longer be tolerated. Mussolini used the same words when he wanted to incite to action the murderers of Matteotti; but Mussolini, considering that the designation of the victim was not sufficient, set to work, organized, directed, and took part in the execution of the crime. I am waiting unflinchingly for the four scoundrels of the Commission to act."

But would fanatics incited by the virulent invective of the Communist Party press have resorted to violence against Tresca? Judging from the record of secret agents acting under their influence, it does not seem incredible. And any one who has studied the known circumstances in the case of Victor Alter and Hendryk Erlich, Polish Socialists and anti-Nazi leaders, executed in Soviet Russia in 1942, is not likely to have any doubts about the Stalinist attitude toward the violent extinction of individuals.

What did District Attorney Frank S. Hogan's men find out, if anything, about Sormenti's whereabouts? If it is true that he was in Mexico City on January 11, 1943, as his defenders assert, where was he in the previous month? Where was he on December 22, when "Charles Pappas" bought the murder car? Was any investigation made of the working of secret agents among Communist sympathizers in New York? Did the Hogan staff look into the maneuvering by Communists and ex-Fascists for position in the Mazzini Society? No public statement on these points has ever come from the prosecutor's office.



## Was it the Fascists or Ex-Fascists?

Both the Communists and the Fascists had reason to be hostile to Tresca at the time of his death because of his successful fight to keep them out of the Mazzini Society and his efforts to bar them from the Italian-American Victory Council, then being organized by the Office of War Information. The potential importance of this council was great. It could become a bridge to Italy, a Trojan horse by which Communists and ex-Fascists could get on the inside of American policy in dealing with Italy's future. As we have seen since, Italy is a key piece in Soviet foreign policy. And with the Badoglio regime and the AMG policy matters of recent history, we can see the kind of deal ex-Fascists here hoped to make with the American Government. In both Stalinist and Fascist calculations, the Italian-American Victory Council was a major objective, and the Mazzini Society was the leading organization of Italian anti-Fascists in this country.

The original OWI program called for inclusion in the Council of Generoso Pope and other prominent ex-Fascists, and also of representatives of the International Workers' Order, a fraternal benefit organization which follows the Communist Party line. Tresca was willing to cooperate in forming the Council, but only on condition that it would include neither ex-Fascists nor Stalinists. Since he carried great weight in the Italian-American community, and since he pursued his campaign to keep the Council clear of all totalitarian elements with his usual energy and refusal to compromise, Tresca became a formidable stumbling block to both factions in the weeks immediately preceding his murder.

After his death, OWI spokesmen tried to conceal these differences, giving out statements to which Tresca's widow and some of his close friends took pointed exception. On January 18, 1943, Alan Cranston, then chief of the OWI's foreign language division, made this assertion: "Tresca was not opposed to participation of Communists in the Victory Council, because he felt that all anti-Fascists should unite until Fascism is defeated." Elsewhere Lee Falk, another OWI official, was quoted as saying that while Tresca was on record as opposing the inclusion of the Communists he had agreed not to make an issue of it.

Countering this, Girolamo Valenti, one of the Council's organizing committee, said that three days before the murder, Tresca telephoned to ask that he work with him to keep Communists out of the Council. And Alberto Tarchiani, then national secretary of the Mazzini Society and now Italy's Ambassador to the United States, stated on January 18: "It is a known fact that Tresca was against an alliance with ex-Fascists such as Generoso Pope, and with the Communists." Mr. Tarchiani related that Tresca had been invited to a meeting called by Falk, and had asked his friend, Dr. Umberto Gualtieri, vice-president of the society's New York chapter, to go with him. Tresca told Dr. Gualtieri, according to

Tarchiani, that they would attend merely as observers, and that if he saw ex-Fascists or Communists present, he would leave the assemblage.

The row over the Italian-American Victory Council was only the latest in a long series of episodes in Tresca's twenty-year fight against Italian Fascism. He had struck editorially and in speeches at various men and women who had upheld Mussolini's cause. All the world knows about the Fascist assassination of Matteotti, anti-Fascist member of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, in 1924, and of the Rosselli brothers in France in 1937. But there were hundreds of such killings about which Italians know, yet of which not many others are aware.

### The Murder Car

At first the authorities seemed to be making remarkably rapid progress toward solving the Tresca crime. Late on the night of the killing the police found an abandoned Ford sedan, with all four doors open, in 18th Street near Seventh Avenue, and alongside a subway entrance, five blocks west and north of the murder scene. A bunch of keys hung from the ignition lock. The car had been licensed in the name of Charles Pappas, at a Queens County address which proved non-existent. The Con-Ford Automobile Company, 1902 Broadway, disclosed that it had sold this sedan to "Charles Pappas" for \$300 cash on December 22, three weeks before Tresca was shot down.

It was generally accepted that the killer had escaped in that car, because of its proximity to the crime scene and the evident fact that its occupants had left in great haste. Another factor contributing to this theory was a statement made to the police by Tony Ribarich, a close friend of the slain editor. He said that an attempt had been made to run Tresca down with an automobile two days earlier, on the evening of January 9, as the two were walking past the New School for Social Research on West 12th Street. And he identified the abandoned Ford sedan as the same car—saying he was certain of this because of the angle at which a side rear-vision mirror was fixed.

### Who Was in the Murder Car?

The police not only found a car which it is reasonable to believe was used in this slaying, but they also took into custody, two days later, an ex-convict who was declared by parole officers to have entered that car an hour and a half before Tresca was killed. On the evening of January 11, Carmine Galante, 32 years old, 5 feet 4 inches tall, a petty gangster with a criminal record, visited the Parole Office at 80 Liberty Street to make his routine weekly report. He left the building at 8:10

in what the police described as "undue haste." It was stated that Sidney Gross, supervisor of parole inspectors, had learned that Galante was again associating with known criminals, and therefore had assigned two parole officers, Fred Berson and George Talianoff, to follow him. They had expected him to take the subway, but instead, they said, Galante stepped into a Ford sedan a block away. The motor was running, a man at the wheel. The investigators, on foot because their cars had been taken from them a month previously on account of the gasoline shortage, could not follow Galante, but they took the license number of the sedan.

When the license number of the abandoned car, 1C-9272, was published next day, Berson and Talianoff reported that that was the number of the car into which Galante had stepped the night before. A search for him was begun, and late Tuesday evening he was picked up at Elizabeth and Prince Streets. Taken into custody as a material witness in the Tresca case, Galante denied he had been in any automobile the night before, asserting that he went uptown by subway and saw *Casablanca* in the Hollywood Theatre at 1655 Broadway. A girl accompanied him to the show, he said, but later he contradicted himself, according to the *Harold Tribune*, and said he met her after the show. Another news story stated that he was vague about the details of the film, and although the picture ran 102 minutes, he insisted that he was able to get to his home in an outlying section of Brooklyn by 10:00 p. m.

Carmine Galante has served two prison terms. In 1926 he was sentenced to serve two and a half to five years for attempted robbery with a gun. And in December, 1930, he and two other men held up a collector for the Liebman Brewery in Brooklyn. He fired four shots at the police who captured him. For this holdup, Galante was sentenced to twelve and a half years in Sing Sing, plus two years and five months still to be served under the 1926 conviction. He would have got more as a second offender except that he saved Kings County the expense and trouble of a trial by pleading guilty to "attempted robbery in the first degree, unarmed." This plea was accepted and Galante's lawyer thanked the judge and Assistant District Attorney Cohen for their "wonderful co-operation."

No one has suggested that Galante could have had any political differences with Tresca, or could have known or cared anything about the political issues with which Tresca was concerned. Around the prosecutor's and parole offices, and among the police who worked on the case in the early weeks, it was generally agreed that the man who did the actual shooting must have been hired.

At the time of the 1930 holdup Galante had been a helper in Fulton Fish Market. Now, in 1943, he identified himself to the police as an employee of the Knickerbocker Trucking Company, an incorporated concern with desk room at 520 Broadway, and only one truck. For three

months this corporation had paid Galante \$25 each week—but apparently he had done no work for it. When members of the Knickerbocker company were summoned to the District Attorney's office for questioning, according to Ezio Taddai, one of Carlo Tresca's close friends, who was there at the time, Samuel S. DiFalco came with them as their attorney.

From all accounts, the authorities were unable to get anything out of Galante, although they held him in the Tombs for eight months, and although he was linked by the parole officers to the murder car. District Attorney Hogan characterized him as "prison wise and a tough witness to crack"—yet such witnesses *have* been cracked in the past, and with fewer levers than would seem to have been available to the police in Galante's case. Galante was returned to Sing Sing as a parole violator to serve out his term, which was up in December, 1944. Despite the assertions of the two parole officers that they saw the prisoner enter the escape car on the night of the Tresca murder, Supreme Court Justice Andrew W. Ryan ruled that there was no ground on which the Parole Board could hold Galante any longer, and he was released. Neither Calabi, Tresca's companion at the time of the murder, nor the salesman who sold "Charles Pappas" the murder car, was able to identify Galante in a police line-up. Galante's handwriting, also, is quite unlike that of Charles Pappas as shown on the latter's application for an automobile license.

### The Murder Car Has a Garage

On September 10, 1943, the police arrested Frank Nuccio, a small-time bootlegger who lives at 265 Elizabeth Street, *less than a block from where Galante had been picked up*. Nuccio was held, the authorities explained, because he was the lessee of a near-by eight-car garage in which the escape car was kept up to the night of the slaying. The garage had been located through the bunch of keys left hanging in the ignition lock of that car. From a locksmith who had made one of these keys the police had discovered also that the lock on Nuccio's garage had been *changed a few hours before the Tresca killing*—presumably to prevent the sedan being returned to the garage after the crime. For nearly two months Nuccio was detained under \$25,000 bail. Then, in November, despite strenuous protest by Assistant District Attorney Jacob Grumet, the bail was reduced to \$5,000 and Nuccio was set free by General Sessions Judge George L. Donnellan. Twice since then Nuccio has been arrested on bootlegging charges, and gave new bonds.

Among the clues in the hands of the police is "information" connecting Vito Genovese, alleged former New York City gang chief, with the Tresca case. He disappeared in 1937 when Thomas E. Dewey, as

special prosecutor here, was crusading against organized crime. Ernest Rupolo, convicted gunman, is reported to have told the Kings County (Brooklyn) authorities that Genovese arranged the Tresca killing at the bidding of Mussolini and his son-in-law, Count Ciano. Rupolo's story was told in the hope of getting leniency when he was facing a possible 40-80 years sentence as a second offender. Sentence was deferred by Judge Samuel Leibowitz when an assistant prosecutor said Rupolo had made "valuable disclosures." Following those disclosures Genovese, then serving as an interpreter for the Allied Military Government in Rome, was extradited to New York on a 1934 murder charge. Brought back in June, 1945, he is yet to be tried.

What did District Attorney Hogan's office find out about Genovese's alleged connection with the Tresca slaying?

### Why Has the Investigation Moved So Slowly?

The Tresca case remains a mystery, a double mystery, involving two questions: Who killed Carlo Tresca? and: Why have the District Attorney's office and the police failed to make any headway toward a solution? "Motive" and "opportunity" are the two prime factors to be established in tracking down any murderer. Here is a case in which powerful motives appear to have been established. Two political groups which in the past have shown no scruples about using assassination as a political weapon obviously had an interest in eliminating Carlo Tresca. Prominent individuals long associated with those groups had often been bitterly attacked by Tresca. As for "opportunity," we have the police finding the murder car a few hours after the crime, and two parole officers declaring that they saw a parolee with a bad record enter that car on hour and a half before the murder took place.

Despite all this, no one has been indicted for Tresca's death, and the investigation appears to be at a standstill. At first the police work on the case went ahead with remarkable speed. But when it came to putting things together, the job of the District Attorney's office, the inquiry apparently ran into a blank wall. Why? Was the slow-down due to apathy? Or to official incompetence? Or was some political influence, from one direction or another, an element in the situation?

Soon after the killing, stories were widely current that Galante had been taken into custody prematurely because of conflict among the authorities. On January 18, 1943, Commissioner Valentine's office denied that there had been friction between the D. A.'s office and the police. But on that day the *Daily Mirror* said: "High police officials didn't want Galante picked up. Their plan was to place him under constant surveillance until they had a complete record of his movements and his associates. At Police Headquarters yesterday, an official who declined to be

quoted said the arrest order came after some one outside the Department got panicky. The result is that Galante, wise in the ways of evading police investigation, has kept his mouth shut tightly so that there is no way of knowing whether he is involved in the killing."

Conflict between the District Attorney's office and the press over the Tresca case was cited in June of this year in a signed story by James Parlatore in the newspaper *P.M.* He wrote about an argument between Mr. Hogan and David Charnay, *Daily News* reporter, over the Alfred E. Langford murder mystery.

"Every time we have a murder case," Hogan said, "we get in trouble with the press."

"The trouble with you is, you don't know how to handle yourself and the cases," Charnay answered.

"Apparently," Parlatore stated, "Hogan was referring to the Carlo Tresca case, which remains unsolved after three years, and the Patricia Lonergan case, which the police cracked. In both these murders, Hogan was criticized severely by reporters for his refusal to co-operate."

Declaring that Mr. Hegan was "having friction with police and reporters" on the Langford case, Parlatore quoted some comment on the District Attorney's methods by a police official, who said:

"If that guy downtown would only let us work this case the way we want to, we'd have better luck. . . . We can't make a move unless the DA's office is notified before we take any step."

## Enter Pagnucco

Louis A. Pagnucco is an assistant district attorney on Mr. Hogan's staff. He is interesting to us here for two reasons: 1. For nearly two years he was in charge of the Italian end of the investigation of the Tresca killing—clearly by far the most important end; 2. He was closely associated with Fascists in the past, was honored by them, and he has fulsomely praised Mussolini's regime. Here are the details about that, made public now for the first time.

In 1929, as a senior in the College of the City of New York, Pagnucco wrote a thesis on *Italian Financing in the American Market*. It won for him a prize from the Italian Chamber of Commerce, a New York City organization dominated by sympathizers with Italian Fascism. That thesis was published in expensive brochure form, adorned with a full-page portrait of the author. For this work, which dealt enthusiastically with the doings of the Mussolini regime, the Fascist Italian Ministry of Finance also awarded Pagnucco a gold medal. In a foreword, he thanked the commercial attache of the Fascist Royal Italian Embassy for "invaluable help," "all available Italian data," and "helpful criticism." Here are significant quotes from the text:

"The Italian people under the courageous leadership of Mussolini are now working hard for the first time, are trying to regain their place among the most progressive nations of the world. . . . (p. 5) (Italics are ours.)

"Apart from discussing the theory of Fascism, which has no place in a study of this kind, nobody can deny that the present Administration has guided in a masterful way the Italian people who in the last six years have accomplished wonders, and conquered the benevolence and admiration of the whole world. . . . (p. 8.)

"The Italian people are today working very hard. They will soon be in a position to produce their own capital, they are saving already at the rate of 1,000,000,000 lire per year, and the time of their economic independence may not be very far off. When that time comes, the Italian people will not be borrowers any more, but they will be partners with the Americans and with other peoples in the development of the innumerable resources that the world offers to those who show:

"TENACITY, DISCIPLINE, COURAGE, AND WORK

"(Mussolini's own words.)" (p. 59)

On July 16, 1936, Pagnucco was one of a group of fourteen university students who were awarded cash scholarships from a fund of \$5,200 collected by Generoso Pope, wealthy newspaper publisher, and to which Pope himself gave \$1,000. (Long before that and afterward, Pope was a special target for attacks by Carlo Tresca, editorially and on the public platform, because of the pro-Fascist policy of his newspapers.)

### Pagnucco Makes a Speech

The awards to the students were handed out in Pope's office in Rockefeller Center. As spokesman for the recipients, Pagnucco made a speech of thanks, reported thus in *Il Progresso* next day:

"After addressing words of sincere gratitude to Generoso Pope and all his friends who contributed to the fund for the scholarships, he [Pagnucco] assured them that he and his colleagues felt all the weight of the trust which had been placed on them, and would know how to render themselves worthy of it.

"The hour has arrived," he said, "for the Italians of America to get a place in the sun, as the victorious Duce of New Italy said, and I hope that those who are benefited today may tomorrow reciprocate the good they are receiving by working efficiently and successfully for the growing elevation of Italian prestige in America." (Italics are ours.)

On November 25, 1939, Pagnucco was a guest of honor at a ball held by *Famce Furlane*, a "fraternal club" at 243 East 34th Street which conducted one of twenty-three "Italian language" schools supervised by

the Fascist Royal Consul General, Commendatore Gaetano Vecchiotti. That official, who later left this country under a financial cloud, was high patron of the affair. Guest of Honor No. 1, listed in an elaborate souvenir journal, was Generoso Pope, Grand Officer of the Order of the Crown of Italy. Guest of Honor No. 2 was "Hon. Louis Pagnucco." The souvenir journal included a full page portrait of him, with a caption describing him as "our popular counselor," and three pages of history of the club, by Pagnucco, in which he referred to one member as a "heroic participant" in the Ethiopian War, that war of Fascist aggression against a weaker nation. Among other guests of honor were Count Facchetti-Guiglia and Captain Vincenzo Rossini, both widely known among Italians as Fascist propagandists.

Pagnucco also was one of those listed by *Il Progresso* as being on the platform at a Columbus Day celebration in Columbus Circle in 1941, with Attorney Samuel DiFalco and others. Generoso Pope was chairman. And at a similar 1943 celebration, where Pope again presided, Pagnucco and DiFalco were listed by *Il Progresso* among the guests of honor. DiFalco, it will be recalled, appeared at the District Attorney's office as attorney for the employers of Carmine Galante, early suspect in the Tresca case, when they were summoned for questioning.

### Careers of Pope and Tresca Diverge Widely

Generoso Pope is known as a leader with far reaching influence in the Italian community in New York.

He and Carlo Tresca came to this country as young men in the same year, 1904. Their careers, however, diverged widely. Pope made a fortune as a sand-and-gravel contractor and as publisher of two New York Italian-language dailies, *Corriere d'America*, discontinued in 1942, and *Il Progresso Italo-Americano*, owned by Pope since 1927. *Il Progresso* is the leading Italian daily in the United States. Pope also owns a daily in Philadelphia.

For years Pope's papers openly supported the Mussolini regime and celebrated its workings in their columns day after day. In 1936, on the anniversary of the so-called march on Rome, Pope sent a fervent greeting to *Il Grido della Stirpe*, New York periodical, which in bold type proclaimed itself "Organ of Fascist Propaganda." Pope's greeting, on page 1, said:

"The active and fruitful work performed by *Il Grido della Stirpe*, and by its editor, Domenico Trombetta, among the American communities, deserves commendation and gratitude. . . . Today, October 28, Italian holiday, I commend this paper which extols the glories of the Fascist revolution." [Emphasis is ours.]



In 1937 Pope was photographed while on a visit to Rome's Victory Monument, as he gave the Fascist salute, with two of *Il Duce's* associates Count Ignazio Thaon de Revel, former head of the Fascist League of North America, and Piero Ruffini, director of the Fascist Party outside of Italy.

Repeatedly Tresca assailed Pope, in print and in public speeches, as the chief propagandist for Mussolini in the United States, and after September, 1941, as an "ex-Fascist" whose real beliefs had not changed despite his lofty expressions of Americanism and regard for democracy. In *Il Martello* for October 23, 1934, Tresca devoted most of his front page (then full newspaper size) to a denunciation of the publisher of *Il Progresso* in both Italian and English. That page included an open letter to the editors of all New York City papers and several periodicals, headed: *Generoso Pope Attempts to Censor Anti-Fascists by Terrorism*. It told of an alleged assault upon one of Pope's editors because of his activity in the Newspaper Guild; of underworld characters endeavoring to silence with threats the editor of *La Stampa Libera*, an anti-Fascist daily in New York which had been criticizing Pope; of the same characters forcing a former Pope employee to discontinue publication of *La Tribuna*, also a daily; and of the same men beating up the publisher of a weekly and compelling him "to accept Pope's terms against the advice of his legal counsel."

Continuing on the subject of *La Stampa Libera*, Tresca's open letter said: "In the City of New York today, the editor of a newspaper is in constant danger of physical attack, perhaps of death (our italics) at the hands of underworld characters who disapprove, or represent others who disapprove, this editor's political views! . . . An attempt is being made to inaugurate in the Italian colony in the United States the same political regime in the press as prevails today in Mussolini's Italy!"

Extensive search has failed to find a record of any answer by Pope to Tresca's charges.

From 1934 to the time of his death, Tresca found frequent occasion to criticize the millionaire publisher in his columns and on the public platform. For Pope was long closely associated with officials and business and professional men who were enthusiastic over the Mussolini program. He was a large factor in collecting nearly \$750,000 for Italian war relief while Mussolini's soldiers were mowing down poorly armed Ethiopians. On June 13, 1936, at a Fascist mass-meeting in Madison Square Garden celebrating Italy's victory in that war, Pope spoke of Mussolini as "the greatest man in the world." Subsequently Pope was received in private audience by *Il Duce* in Rome, and at Mussolini's bidding was decorated by Count Ciano with the title of Commander of the Order of Sts. Maurice and Lazarus. As late as 1941 the Mazzini Society asked the Department of Justice to investigate Pope in connection with Fascist fund-raising activities.

## The Making of an Ex-Fascist

In the spring of 1941, Pope was advertising himself as an exponent of democracy. At that time, as the international situation grew more tense, he was named by Mayor LaGuardia as a member of a committee to arrange public demonstrations for *I Am An American Day*.

Tresca now spoke out against Pope anew. In *Il Martello*, he charged that prior to Pope's appointment to that committee an official fraud had been committed in order to whitewash him. In the previous June, Police Commissioner Valentine had distributed to precinct commanders a confidential report on Fascist activities in New York City. The *Times* stated that this report gave "names of publications . . . that sponsor the Fascist movement and try to set one racial group against another."

"Truth, but not all the truth," Tresca said in front-page comment in *Il Martello* for May 14, 1941. "The truth is that that memorandum was put in the hands of Mayor LaGuardia, before it was given to Commissioner Valentine . . . and was doctored by LaGuardia himself. Mr. LaGuardia took pains to strike out from the memorandum any reference to Generoso Pope and his newspapers. . . . Mr. Pope was described as a Fascist activist and his publications as the main source of Fascist propaganda in the United States. LaGuardia ordered all reference to Pope to be stricken out. I know of at least five references to Pope in that memorandum that were taken out."

Others, too, joined in criticizing Pope in the summer of 1941, and the pressure on him was so strong that in an editorial in *Il Progresso* on September 12 he declared that he was "against any government that is against the Government of the United States," and that he had taken a stand for this country "since the European war started and Italy and the United States definitely took sides in opposing camps." But Carlo Tresca naturally was skeptical about this change of attitude toward Fascism.

Pope's relation to the international scene, his political connections both in Washington and New York, and the effect of propaganda in his newspapers upon Italian-Americans, were discussed at length by Tresca and others at a meeting of the Mazzini Society's New York chapter on December 30, 1942. They sought ways to counteract his influence among the Italian-American masses. That was part of the work indicated to be done by the new anti-Fascist action committee, appointed that night, and of which Tresca was named as chairman. Tresca particularly sounded a warning of the possibility that forces in Washington might utilize Pope's followers to justify another Darlan affair in the future, and he called for intensified activity by the Mazzini Society "to nullify the maneuvers of certain political groups in Washington and of those elements who only recently became anti-Fascists."

## The Incident at the Manhattan Club

Shortly after he was killed, some of his friends brought to the attention of the District Attorney's office an incident in which they saw a possible motive for some one doing harm to Tresca. This incident took place at an Italian-American war bond banquet arranged by Paulino Gerli, an importer, and held in the Manhattan Club on September 10, 1942. The story of what happened that evening has been set forth by Ezio Taddei in a pamphlet entitled *The Tresca Case*.

Invited among various other anti-Fascists, Tresca asked a member of the committee in charge whether Generoso Pope would be present. Assured that he would not, Tresca decided to go. Arriving at the dinner, he was nettled when he saw that Pope was there, sitting on the dais. But friends persuaded him to stay. A few minutes later Frank Garofalo, known as a friend of Pope, came in, escorting Miss Dolores Faconti, an Assistant United States District Attorney. Immediately Tresca got up fuming. "This is too much," he protested. "Not only a Fascist, but also his gangster. This is no place for me," and he stalked out of the banquet room.

He had agreed to meet several associates afterward in a Bedford Street restaurant. Going there, he told them he had just "insulted" Pope and Garofalo. Next day a prominent city official who had been at the banquet telephoned Tresca and asked him to keep silent about what had happened the night before. He agreed to. Half an hour later Miss Faconti telephoned and asked if she might come to his office to talk with him. Then she too begged the editor of *Il Martello* not to publicize the incident, and he promised he would not.

Details of this affair and of earlier conflict over Fascism in New York were made known to the District Attorney's office by Taddei, as well as by others. Not satisfied with the response he got there, Taddei delivered a speech in the Rand School of Social Science on February 14, 1943, covering the main points that he published later in his pamphlet.

## Citizens Urge Pagnucco's Removal From Case

Pagnucco's past association with Fascists and Fascist sympathizers came to the attention of District Attorney Hogan on August 8, 1944. Photostatic evidence of that association was dispatched to him by a committee comprising Morris L. Ernst, attorney; former Municipal Court Justice Dorothy Kenyon; Roger N. Baldwin, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union; and Eduard C. Lindeman, member of the faculty of the New York School of Social Work.

This committee urged that Pagnucco be removed from the Tresca investigation on the ground that though he might be honest and con-

scientious, he clearly was not in a position to examine effectively persons from whom he had received favors or honors. The committee contended further that the investigation had not been really exhaustive because persons whose names were known to the District Attorney's office as early as March, 1943, who were close to Tresca and had intimate knowledge of his political conflicts, had not been called and questioned.\*

Prosecutor Hogan acknowledged the committee's letter immediately, stating that he had worked closely with Pagnucco for several years and had full confidence in him. However, he would take the matter up with Assistant District Attorney Jacob Grumet, head of the Homicide Bureau. Not until October 3 was a conference arranged between the committee and Messrs. Hogan and Grumet, to discuss the charges. Again Mr. Hogan declared that he had complete confidence in Pagnucco, and that he would neither displace him nor ask him to withdraw from the investigation. The committee averred that it had no wish to cause Pagnucco to lose his job nor to embarrass him publicly; its only concern was to get him out of the Tresca case since manifestly because of his former associations he would always be handicapped in that inquiry. Perhaps some formula could be arrived at by which Pagnucco could step out of the Tresca picture without losing face.

Days passed without added word from Mr. Hogan. Then his office was informed that the committee could do only one thing—ask Governor Dewey to appoint a special prosecutor to take over the Tresca case—and that it was circulating a petition toward this end. Late in October it had gathered the signatures of 117 well-known men and women opposed to letting political murder go unpunished. The committee was on the point of submitting that petition to the Governor, with the intention of making it public as soon as it was in Mr. Dewey's hands. Then Mr. Hogan suddenly agreed to make a change in the conduct of the inquiry. Because of this, a letter was sent out on November 10, to all signers of the projected petition, explaining that Mr. Hogan, although not agreeing with the committee's contentions about Pagnucco, had consented to put Assistant District Attorney Eleazar Lipsky in direct charge of the Tresca investigation, under Mr. Grumet's supervision. "Mr. Pagnucco, because of his familiarity with the evidence and leads developed to date," the committee's letter read, "will assist Mr. Lipsky so that the progress and continuity of the investigation may not be hampered or interrupted in any way. Any new evidence or new witnesses will be handled by Mr. Grumet and Mr. Lipsky."

It was understood that the new inquiry promised by Mr. Hogan would begin at once. But November and December passed with no sign of action. Mr. Lipsky, who was supposed to have been relieved of his

\* As this pamphlet goes to press, one of those individuals still has not been questioned by Mr. Hogan's office.

court house duties, was still kept busy with usual work. Not until after mid-January did he begin calling witnesses.

Meanwhile, on November 22, a reward of \$5,000 was offered by "more than 100 friends of Carlo Tresca who want to see justice done in this case." This offer "for information leading to apprehension and conviction of those responsible for Tresca's death," and terminating January 11, 1947, was made in the District Attorney's office by Morris L. Ernst, John F. Finerty, and Justice Dorothy Kenyon.

### **A Call for Action!**

At a memorial meeting held in Webster Hall on January 11, 1945, second anniversary of Tresca's death, a resolution was unanimously adopted by 1,200 men and women who rose silently to a standing vote at the hour and minute when he was slain, calling for intensified action by the authorities, and demanding, as Chairman Bertram D. Wolfe said, that the moral and political dim-out in New York be lifted as the physical dim-out had been.

Many of Carlo's friends are skeptical of there ever being any solution of this crime. So many political crimes remain unsolved, at least officially. . . . Aldino Felicani, an old friend and associate of Carlo, published in the *Countercurrent* of Boston in 1944 an open letter to Mayor LaGuardia, asking him: "Is there some political reason why the Tresca mystery has not been solved? . . . Would it complicate our international relations . . . if the forces which inspired that murder were revealed at this time?"

Mayor LaGuardia has never publicly voiced any regret over the Tresca killing, nor has he, so far as is known, put any pressure on the District Attorney's office in this case. When Margaret De Silver Tresca, widow of the slain editor, tried to get an interview with him, to ask his active help, she was told on three different occasions that he was too busy to see her. Yet the Mayor had long been known as Carlo's friend. And neither Prosecutor Hogan nor U. S. Attorney General Biddle could find more than a few minutes for Mrs. Tresca. Mr. Biddle declared that the Department of Justice had no jurisdiction in the case, and Mr. Hogan was called to the telephone in another room soon after Mrs. Tresca was ushered into his presence, and did not return.

### **What Became of the Promised New Inquiry?**

On January 12, 1945, Mr. Hogan told the press that Mr. Lipsky was devoting full time to the Tresca case. But on March 6 he was working on another mystery—the killing of Salvatore Bianco, coat manufac-

urer, in an East 16th Street apartment building elevator. We wonder why. . . . Since then a deep fog of official silence has settled over the Tresca slaying.

Despite the probability that international forces were behind the Tresca slaying, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has never entered the case, holding aloof on the ground that it lacked jurisdiction. Representative Will Rogers Jr. tried to remedy this in March, 1944, by introducing a resolution in the House of Representatives to authorize the FBI to step into any case in which some one, because of his political beliefs, has suffered violence presumably instigated by persons outside the State, and in which the local authorities, after a reasonable length of time, have been unable to apprehend the guilty. But the Rogers resolution died in committee.

The solving of the murder of Carlo Tresca is of vital importance to all groups in this nation, just as the life of Carlo Tresca was of importance to every group in the nation. Political criminals are just as dangerous as war criminals. They have no right to immunity. Political assassination is in fact the worst form of murder, because it is the very negation by violence of democracy, and one of the weapons of totalitarianism from which the modern world has suffered so terribly. Whoever killed Carlo Tresca must be found, if any one of whatever political belief is to remain safe while exercising the privilege of expressing that belief.

Those labor unions particularly for which Tresca did so much and so freely during his lifetime, have a moral obligation never to rest until his murderer and the employer of that murderer have been punished. Progressive citizens in every economic and political group have a moral obligation to insist that every means of investigation be used to apprehend the killer's boss.

### **Lethargy in This Case a Blot on State and Nation**

Primarily it is up to the State of New York, through the District Attorney of New York County, and the City of New York, through its police department, to find the killer of Carlo Tresca and his accessories. But the Mayor of the City also has a clear obligation to make sure that Tresca's slayer and the individual or group who hired him are brought to justice. And the Federal Government cannot escape responsibility in this quest, simply by pleading lack of jurisdiction. If legal technicalities prevent that government from stepping into the case, they should be removed, and if necessary the Rogers bill should be revived and enacted into law.

The lethargy which has characterized the prosecution of this case stands as a blot upon the names of both this state and nation, and its

continuance would stamp the constituted authorities as delict in their duty to protect the freedom and democracy of the United States from political assassins, so alien to American life.

Mussolini is dead. The man who murdered Matteotti and unleashed the forces of oppression and slaughter in the world has met his own kind of justice. But the man who murdered Carlo Tresca is still at large.

#### TRESCA MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Norman Thomas, Chairman  
 Angelica Balabanoff  
 William Henry Chamberlin  
 Frank Crosswaith  
 John Dewey  
 Varian Fry  
 Aron S. Gilmartin  
 America Gonzales  
 Sidney Hertzberg  
 John Haynes Holmes  
 Sidney Hock  
 Harry Kelly  
 Liston M. Oak  
 A. Philip/Randolph  
 Sheba Strunsky  
 Oswald Garrison Villard  
 M. R. Werner  
 Edmund Wilson  
 Bertram D. Wolfe

October, 1915

## HELP GET JUSTICE FOR CARLO TRESCA

To stir the authorities out of their lethargy in the Tresca situation, we need the aid of every man and woman who recognizes the menace in unpunished political murder.

Here are things you can do to help:

1. District Attorney Frank S. Hogan is running for re-election in November on both the Democratic and Republican tickets. Write him at once at 155 Leonard Street, New York City, and tell him he owes it to the whole community to demonstrate clearly before election day that he is actually doing something definite toward apprehending Carlo Tresca's slayers.
2. Urge him to invite the Federal Bureau of Investigation to investigate the international aspects of this case, in view of Tresca's relentless attacks upon totalitarian groups and individuals connected with them.
3. Write to the newly appointed Police Commissioner, Arthur W. Wallender, Police Headquarters, New York City. Urge him to make a new and independent investigation of the Tresca mystery, re-examining closely every clue in hand and every person known to have knowledge of Tresca's political conflicts.
4. If you have information that might shed light on the identity of Tresca's slayers, and indicate the specific reason why he was killed, tell this committee or the District Attorney, or both. One of the guarantees in the \$5,000 reward offer mentioned earlier is that such information will be received in absolute confidence.

TRESCA MEMORIAL COMMITTEE



Tresca Memorial Committee  
Room 905, 112 E. 19th St.  
New York City 3

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

# Office Memo

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DATE: November 28, 1945

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK

SUBJECT: CARLO TRASCIA;  
TRASCIA MEMORIAL COMMITTEE  
SECURITY MATTER - I

Transmitted herewith is a pamphlet entitled, "Who Killed Carlo Trasca?" published by the TRASCIA MEMORIAL COMMITTEE, Room 905, 112 East 10th Street, New York City 3, New York.

This pamphlet is forwarded to the Bureau for information purposes and need not be returned. It was furnished to this office by [redacted] who advised that it was received

*b7D*

INDEXED IN PUBLICATIONS OFFICE

ATTY:DLB  
105-0

61-1335-3987

*Nov 28 1945*

RE:

*Val Jones*

The United States Customs and Immigration and Naturalization Service at 36th Street Airport, Miami, Florida, maintains a stop against the above-named individual.

Should this stop be withdrawn? Yes  No

(Detach file and route form to O. G. Nordmarken, Room 1503)

(This form to be filed in case File No. \_\_\_\_\_)

January 4, 1945

11:34am

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD  
MR. LADD

District Attorney Frank Hogan called from New York City to ask if I would arrange for Jack Cronet, head of his Homicide Bureau, to see an assistant in the Bureau for the purpose of discussing the Carlo Tresca Case. Mr. Hogan felt that in view of Mr. Cronet's knowledge of this case, there might be some information in the Bureau files that would assist him. Mr. Hogan advised that Mr. Cronet would like to come down Tuesday, January 9th. I told Mr. Hogan to have Mr. Cronet call at my office and I would arrange for him to see the proper official.

Very truly yours,

J. E. H.  
John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Director noted: Ladd should see him when he arrives on Tues. H.

JEH:MDH

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

61-1335-399

32 JAN 9 1945

RECEIVED  
DATE 3-14-45  
BY [signature]



"PM"

December 20, 1945

### Hogan Queries About Tresca Case

Concern over "the strange handling" of the three-year-old Carlo Tresca murder investigation by District Attorney Frank S. Hogan was expressed today by Norman Thomas in an open letter to the prosecutor, who has at least five other major murders still unsolved this year.

Thomas, chairman of the Tresca Memorial Committee, wrote to Hogan as a result of a report that five of the prosecutor's aides, including Assistant District Attorney Eleazar Lipsky, in charge of the Tresca case, have resigned effective Dec. 31.

"If Mr. Lipsky actually severs his connections with your office," Thomas wrote, "what plans have you, if any, for the continuance of the Tresca inquiry?"

"Many of Carlo Tresca's friends have wondered at the strange handling of that investigation by your office. Late in October, 1944, when we learned that 117 citizens were about to petition Gov. Dewey for a special prosecutor . . . you agreed to put Mr. Lipsky in charge."

Thomas said "a deep fog has settled over that killing" which occurred in the d'm-out at Fifth Ave. and 15th St. on Jan. 11, 1943.

Hogan's office refused to comment on Thomas's letter because the note "was made public before received by addressee."

61-1335-200  
Enclosure

"World Telegram"  
December 20, 1945

### Tresca Murder Probe To Continue

Investigation of the 1943 unsolved murder of Carlo Tresca, Italian anti-Fascist, will continue despite the resignation of Eleazer Lipsky, a deputy assistant district attorney, who has worked on the case, District Attorney Frank S. Hogan said today.

His statement was made in reply to a letter from Norman Thomas, chairman of the Tresca Memorial Committee, who had voiced the fear that the investigation might suffer because of Mr. Lipsky's resignation.

"I have no comment to make on the (Thomas) letter," said Mr. Hogan, "but Mr. Lipsky is resigning as of the first of the year. He wants to resign and I have no control over him. There'll be another man in his place and the absence of Mr. Lipsky will not hamper the investigation into the death of Mr. Tresca. The investigation is still going on."

61-1335-4106  
Enclosure

"New York Herald Tribune"  
December 21, 1945

### Hogan Asserts Tresca Killer Is Still Hunted

#### Answer to Norman Thomas Letter Says Several Men Devote Full Time to Case

Charges by Norman Thomas, chairman of the Tresca Memorial Committee, that the three-year-old investigation of the murder of the anti-Fascist firebrand and editor, Carlo Tresca, is lagging were emphatically denied yesterday by District Attorney Frank S. Hogan.

"Several detectives are still devoting their full time to the case, and Jacob Grumet (Assistant District Attorney in charge of the homicide bureau) is maintaining direct supervision of the search," Mr. Hogan said.

Carlo Tresca was murdered at 9:30 p.m., Jan. 11, 1943, as a van stopped from the dimout shadows at Fifth Avenue and Fifteenth Street and fired two shots into Mr. Tresca's overcoat-bundled body. Mr. Tresca had just turned the corner coming from the offices of the newspaper "Il Martello" ("The Hammer"), at 2 West Fifteenth Street, whose columns he had used for years to attack and ridicule every form of totalitarianism. The murderer crossed the street and escaped in a car believed to hold two more men.

Hundreds of detectives were immediately put on the case, persons were questioned by the score, but neither the motive for the murder nor the murderer was found. The possibility of Mr. Tresca's having been assassinated by either Fascist or Communist agents called the Federal Bureau of Investigation in on the case and made it one of the most interesting for the public in recent years.

The charges of laxity of investigation were contained in a letter from Mr. Thomas, leader of the Socialist party, to Mr. Hogan, demanding to know what course the investigation would follow after Dec. 31 when Eleazer Lipsky, Assistant District Attorney, is resigning to enter private practice. Mr. Lipsky had been active in the case.

Mr. Hogan said that Mr. Thomas was badly informed if he believed that a murder investigation halted because of the resignation of one member of his office. He also said that Mr. Lipsky had been no more active in the investigation than several other members of his staff.

61-1335-480  
Enclosure



OFFICE OF DIRECTOR  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Record of Telephone Call or Visitor

Mr. Jack Cronet  
called - phoned.

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Hour 2pm Date Jan. 8, 1946

- To: \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Gurnea \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Jones \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Pennington \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Beahm \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS

*Mr. Cronet is Head of the Homicide Bureau who District Attorney Frank Hogan called and spoke to the Director on January 4th. He called at the Reception Room with two other men and was escorted to Mr. Tamm's office to see Mr. Ladd, per the Director's instructions.*

*Mr. Ladd will inform the Director. (They desired to discuss the Carlo Tresca Case.)*

cc Mr. Ladd

*61-1335-401*

mbl

*4/2*

*30 JAN 10 1946*

*[Handwritten signature]*

STANDARD PRACTICE

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, NEW YORK  
FROM : SAC, NEW YORK  
SUBJECT: MURKIN - SECURITY - T

DATE: January 23, 1946

There are being forwarded herewith for the Bureau's information four photostatic copies of articles regarding the above-captioned individual, which appeared in the December, 1945, issue of "The Nation", which was published in New York, New York, and in the New York Times, dated January 11, 1946, entitled, "Demand Solution of Trecca Murder".

Encs. - 4

JTU:WJ  
100-9744

61-1335-402

# DEMAND SOLUTION OF TRESCA MURDER

## Friends at Memorial Meeting Criticize Hogan, but Ex-Aide of Letter Defends Him

The investigation by District Attorney Frank S. Hogan of the murder three years ago of Carlo Tresca, Marxist leader and brother of Il Duce, was criticized and defended last night in a public hearing in the auditorium of Cooper Union Institute. The hearing, which was on the eve of the third anniversary of the Italian radical's death, Tresca was shot in the back in the dimly lit Fifth Avenue and Fifteenth Street on the night of Jan. 11, 1943. Since then meetings have been held and

pamphlets distributed calling on the police and county prosecuting officials to apprehend and punish his assassin.

The speakers at Cooper Union included former Mayor Fiorella H. La Guardia, Mr. Thomas, who presided, Edward Cora, State Industrial Commissioner, Cirio Valenti, editor of the Italian weekly La Parola, Prof. Edward C. Lindeman of the New York School of Social Work, and Enzo Giovannitti, poet and labor organizer, and one surprise speaker—Elihu Lipsey, the assistant district attorney who was the first from the prosecutor's office assigned to the investigation.

Mr. Lipsey was the only one of the speakers who defended Mr. Hogan in the conduct of the case. He told the audience he was no longer on the staff of Mr. Hogan, having resigned recently. But he made it clear that when, as a member of the Homicide Bureau, he was assigned to the case, he was not hampered in the slightest. He blamed "outsiders" for "getting in the way of the investigation." He explained that information that should not have been made public

was given to the press, not by the police or Mr. Hogan or any of his assistants, but by those who were clamoring constantly for prompt arrest and punishment of the Tresca killer.

He said the crime was that of a professional and carefully planned, and that the charge of matter by whom that District Attorney Hogan was not conducting the investigation properly was "poppy-cock."

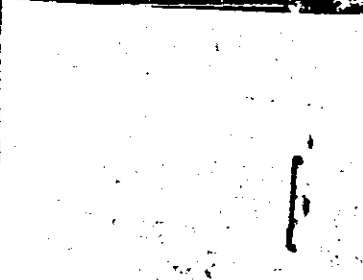
Mr. La Guardia spoke as a lifelong friend of Tresca. He said he was sorry the case was not solved while he was Mayor, and added that the investigation should be kept open and active until the murderer and those responsible were brought to justice.

All the speakers, including Mr. Lipsey, praised Tresca for his constant battles in behalf of the working class and as "a friend of the friendless."

Mr. Giovannitti, after referring to Tresca and his constant difficulties with the authorities because of his work "for the downtrodden," said: "Carlo Tresca is now among the galaxy of the im-

mortals. His name will always be a symbol. He is now in Heaven, soaring westward and eastward to George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Mr. Thomas asked the audience by Mr. Hogan's conduct of the case, whether the guilty had been made. He asked: "Why did District Attorney Hogan's office let three years go by without questioning one of Tresca's best friends about his political contacts? Is some powerful political influence holding back the Tresca investigation?"



402

## THE CARLO TRESCA UNPUNISHED MURDER

**S**IR: With all due allowance for the pressure of world events, we are puzzled by the scant attention given by the daily press to a recent report by 19 responsible individuals of an inquiry into the causes of the delay in finding the slayers of Carlo Tresca, editor of the Italian journal, *Il Martello*. The report was issued in pamphlet form by the Tresca Memorial Committee, 112 East Nineteenth Street, New York 3.

Apparently only two newspapers printed anything about that report, and neither touched the real meat of it.

Our statement was a conscientious effort to serve the cause of justice by a group which sees great social peril in unpunished political murder. We pointed to some remarkable circumstances connected with District Attorney Hogan's investigation of the Tresca crime—especially the fact of which we have documentary evidence, that District Attorney Louis Pagnucco, long in charge of the Italian and had received honors and awards from the State.

Obviously Pagnucco did not belong in the probing of a case in which Fascists were under strong suspicion from the start. Yet Mr. Hogan refused for many weeks to do anything about this, acting only when he heard that 117 citizens were about to petition the Governor for a special prosecutor.

Then he promised a new inquiry, with Assistant District Attorney Lipsky in charge. But that didn't begin for more than two months, and a few weeks after that Mr. Lipsky was working on another murder. Since then a deep fog of official silence has settled over the Tresca killing, committed nearly three years ago. One friend with intimate knowledge of Tresca's political conflicts, whose name was known to the prosecutor's office soon after the crime, has never been questioned.

Mr. Hogan owes it to the whole community to demonstrate clearly that he is actually doing something definite toward apprehending Tresca's murderers.

OSWALD GARRISON VILLARD  
NORMAN THOMAS

New York City

(From *The New Republic* of Nov. 19, 1915)

# DEMAND SOLUTION OF TRESCA MURDER

## Memorial Meeting Criticize Hogan, but Ex-Aide of Lister Defends Him

The investigation by District Attorney Frank E. Hogan of the un- solved murder three years ago of Catholic Frack, anarchist leader and editor of *Il Mattino*, was criticized and defended last night at a public hearing in the auditorium of Cooper Union.

The meeting, under the auspices of the Tresa Memorial Committee, of which Norman Thomas is chairman, was on the eve of the third anniversary of the Italian radical editor's death. Tresa was shot in the back in his apartment at Fifth Avenue and Fifteenth Street on the night of Jan. 11, 1943. Since then, critics have been held and

brochures distributed calling on the police and county prosecuting officials to apprehend and punish his assassin.

The speakers at Cooper Union included former Mayor Fiorella H. La Guardia, Mr. Thomas, who presided, Edward Cori, State Industrial Commissioner, Giacchino Vastanti, editor of the Italian weekly *Il Parola*, Prof. Edward C. Lindbergh of the New York School of Social Work, Arturo Giovannitti, labor organizer, and one of the first from the prosecution's office assigned to the investigation.

Mr. Lipky was the only one of the speakers who defended Mr. Hogan in the conduct of the case. He told the audience he was no longer on the staff of Mr. Hogan, having resigned recently. But he branded Lister that when, as a main- body of the Homeless Bureau, he was assigned to the case, he was not disappointed for getting in blamed "outraged" for the down- the way of the investigation. He explained that information that should not have been made public was given to the press, not by the police or Mr. Hogan or any of his assistants, but by those who were clamoring for prompt punishment of the Tresa-killer.

He said the crime was the work of a professional and carefully planned, and that the charge, no matter by whom, that District Attorney Hogan was not conducting the investigation properly, was "poppy-cock."

Mr. La Guardia spoke as a life-long friend of Tresa. He said he was sorry the case was not solved while he was Mayor, and added that the investigation should be kept open and active until the murderer and those responsible were brought to justice.

Mr. Thomas declared that in spite of the defense of Mr. Hogan by Mr. Lipky, it did not change the fact that no tangible progress toward punishing the guilty had been made. He asked: "Why did District Attorney Hogan's office let three years go by without questioning one of Tresa's best friends about his political connections? Is some powerful political influence holding back the Tresa investigation?"

ENCLOSURE

# THE CARLO TRESCA UNPUNISHED MURDER

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NORMAN THOMAS

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(From *The New Republic* of Nov. 19, 1945)

ENCLOSURE