

## JURY HEARS 2 VIEWS OF TOCCO U.S. PORTRAYS HIM AS MOB BOSS

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The voice **of** Jack **Tocco** , reputed to be a Detroit mob boss, is never heard on the hundreds **of** hours **of** wiretapped conversations captured by FBI bugs.

But no bookie could be roughed up, no murder planned and no plot to toss a pipe bomb through a window hatched without the say-so **of Tocco** , 71, and his underlings in the Detroit Cosa Nostra, a government lawyer said Monday.

"That approval, that authorization, comes from Jack William **Tocco** through" his captains, Assistant U.S. Attorney Keith Corbett told a federal **jury** in his opening statement in the racketeering trial **of Tocco of** Grosse Pointe Park and five men suspected **of** being his "capos" and members.

By contrast, **Tocco** was described as a victim **of** his father's sins, by his Detroit attorney, David Griem. He described **Tocco** as a hardworking family man under "a government microscope" for 35-40 years. **Tocco** 's father, William **Tocco** , a Sicilian immigrant, was a bootlegger, like Joseph Kennedy, the father **of** former President John F. Kennedy, Griem said.

The two **views** came nearly two years after a grand **jury** handed down a 57-page indictment against Jack **Tocco** and 16 others in what could be the government's last chance to bring down Detroit's alleged mob bosses. The indictment alleges a 30-year conspiracy **of** extortion, loan-sharking, illegal gambling, obstruction **of** justice and attempts to gain control over Nevada casinos.

Charged with racketeering along with **Tocco** are Anthony Zerilli, 70, **of** Sterling Heights; Anthony **Tocco** , 66, **of** Grosse Pointe Park; Anthony Corrado, 62, **of** Clinton Township, all suspected **of** being mob captains, and Clinton Township residents Nove **Tocco** , 50, and Paul Corrado, 39, both reputed to be mob members.

Relatives **of** brothers Jack and Anthony **Tocco** filled the courtroom's first rows.

Only two defense attorneys made statements Monday. The other statements were to be given this morning.

The trial could last four months.

Much testimony on mob rituals is expected to come from Alphonse (Little Al) D'Arco, a government informant who once led the Lucchese crime family in New York and New Jersey.

The Detroit family, headed by **Tocco** since 1979, is part **of** a national crime organization, Corbett told jurors. The Detroit Cosa Nostra family operates through word **of** mouth, not faxes, documents or memos, to protect **Tocco** and other high members from any connection, Corbett said.

**Tocco** 's attorney urged the **jury** to "judge Jack **Tocco** by what he has done," referring to his eight children and accomplishments. Jack **Tocco** is active in his church, Little League and a home for the developmentally disabled, Griem said.

Griem painted a picture **of** a man who rolled up his sleeves, planted sod, laid concrete and learned the linen and construction businesses after graduating from college.

He blamed the latest criminal charges in part on tapes **of** conversations between Nove **Tocco** and Paul Corrado, two relatives **of** Jack **Tocco** .

The tapes could become more **of** a problem for Nove **Tocco** and Paul Corrado, whose attorney called him a member **of** "Nitwit Incorporated."

"He is a nitwit, a nitwit," Robert Morgan **of** Detroit said **of** his client.

The tapes were **of** two men talking about mobsters, using lines from movies such as "The Godfather," Morgan said.

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