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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, TAMPA (44-NEW) (P)

DATE: 2/14/78

FROM : SUPERVISOR [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: JAMES T. RUSSELL,
STATE ATTORNEY,
CLEARWATER, FLORIDA;
JUDY CARANNA - VICTIM;
[REDACTED] - VICTIM

*44-2051**
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/19/01 BY JUDY CARANNA - 183-47-123

(OO:TP)

On 2/14/78, two manila folders with a number of documents enclosed therein were received from victim, JUDY CARANNA. The material was received in an envelope addressed to SAC PHILIP A. McNIFF at the FBI, Tampa. Also received was a three-page letter from victim, JUDY CARANNA, in which she alleges that State Attorney RUSSELL is misusing his office and using [REDACTED] victim, [REDACTED] as a weapon to further persecute [REDACTED]

Case Agent should promptly acknowledge receipt of victim, CARANNA's communications in writing, conduct appropriate review of enclosed material and promptly submit FD-365.

② Tampa
RHD/bat
(2)
bat



5010-110

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

Date

2/16/78

Title and Character of Case

JAMES T. RUSSELL, STATE ATTY.
CLWR, FLA.
JUDY CARANINA, VICTIM
CR (C)

Date Property Acquired

2/14/78

Source From Which Property Acquired

VICTIM - JUDY CARANINA

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit

BULKY RM.

Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same

INVESTIGATIVE AID

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

(2) TWO MANILA FOLDERS WITH A NUMBER
OF DOCUMENTS ENCLOSED IN A LARGE ENVELOPE
ADDRESSED TO: { FBI
500 ZACK
TAMPA, FLA.
ATTN: PHILIP A. MCNIFF

① FILE
1- BULKY
1- TICKLER

Sent to Bu. 2/28/78,
smw

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and Date)

Field File #

44-2697-1B1

OO:

TP

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 16 1978	
FBI-TAMPA	

LAB REPORT (Serial #) 10
LATENT FINGERPRINT REPORT (Serial #) 10

CHAIN OF POSSESSION

NAME	NAME		
From:	To:	Time:	Date:
From:	To:	Time:	Date:
From:	To:	Time:	Date:
From: 1 - LICKES	To:	Time:	Date:
From: 1 - BOCK	To:	Time:	Date:
From: 1 - LICE	To:	Time:	Date:
From:	To:	Time:	Date:
From:	To:	Time:	Date:
From:	To:	Time:	Date:
From:	To:	Time:	Date:

ADDITIONAL LAB FINDINGS OR CHAIN OF POSSESSION

DOCKED TO: FBI

OF DOCUMENTS EMPLOYED IN A FIVE EMBROID
(5) TWO WHOLE EMBROID WITH A VIEWER

BOOK & KW

INVESTIGATIVE AID

5/14/28

ALABAMA - MICHIGAN

CS (C)

ALABAMA - MICHIGAN

STATE

STATE

5/14/28

Post Office Box 3301
Tampa, Florida 33601
February 17, 1978

Mrs. Judy Caranna Petrantonio



b6
b7C

Dear Mrs. Petrantonio:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated February 9, 1978, and the two manila folders with a number of documents enclosed.

This matter will be reviewed and presented to the U. S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Washington, D. C., for their consideration.

Very truly yours,

PHILIP A. McNIFF
Special Agent in Charge

1 - Addressee

2 - Tampa (44-2697)

TM/bat

(3)

bat



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b7C

SERIALIZED
FILED

44-2697-2

Tampa, Florida
February 28, 1978

JAMES T. RUSSELL,
STATE ATTORNEY,
CLEARWATER, FLORIDA;
JUDY CARANNA PETRANTONI -
VICTIM:

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b7C

[REDACTED] - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS

On February 14, 1978, the Federal Bureau of Investigation at Tampa, Florida, received two manila folders with a number of documents enclosed therein, including a letter from Judy Caranna Petrantonni, dated February 9, 1978. The material was addressed to FBI, 500 Zack Street, Tampa, Florida 33601, Attention: Philip A. McNiff, and bore the return address of [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] and was postmarked February 12, 1978, at Tampa, Florida.

The following is the letter received from Judy Caranna Petrantonni:

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

4 - Bureau--1--U. S. Attorney, Tampa, Fla.

① - Tampa (44-2697)(C)

TM:smw

(5)

smw

44-2697-3
SEARCHED _____
INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED *[initials]*
FILED *[initials]*

/ Feb 9th 1978

Judy Laramna Petrantoni

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Re: In the Interest of [redacted]
[redacted]b6
b7C

[redacted] is being abused by the State of Florida, used as a weapon to further persecute [redacted] by the Pinellas Co. State Attorney's James T. Russell (to further smear and discredit his and my testimony) while a pending suit in Federal Court in Tampa, before Judge Terrell Hodges, [redacted]

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over a period of a year [redacted]

turned over to [redacted] to send to [redacted]

Enclosed is a package, which I request an investigation of James T. Russell's conduct, and motivations, for the abuse of power, documented, especially his relentless persecution of [redacted]

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[redacted] in connection with [redacted] Why where the facts not all completely brought out, as in the alleged bribery of City Commissioner [redacted] who at the time he said he took a bribe from the [redacted] was in fact living with [redacted]

[redacted] to those with any voice at all this shows a connection between [redacted] and James Russell in the take over of a [redacted]

Allegations of [redacted] are simply to cover-up for the [redacted]

[redacted] and [redacted] which James Russell plays up to further ruin our reputation, hopefully to falsely impersonate us, drive us crazy, or to an act of

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violence (which would be helpfull or the means in which they are using their money and political clout to steal [redacted] [redacted], because when our children are used, and taken, as a result of dirty politics — the pressure is intense — because we love our [redacted] very much, and when they, public officials ^{b6} ^{b7C} use children politically they are guilty of the most hideous crime of child abuse.

I haven't been allowed [redacted] in over two weeks, the last time [redacted] office (I had to force that

[redacted] [redacted] ^{b6} ^{b7C} order the necessary [redacted] reevaluated [redacted] and I had to bring it to the attention of [redacted] that [redacted] must have [redacted]

he won't take my word for it so I had to call [redacted] back into the room where he confirmed what I had told [redacted] Amy [redacted] knows that, but how much time does an old woman or 50 years old with 4 children have to give [redacted]

The following Friday we weren't allowed to [redacted] said [redacted] and today [redacted] from [redacted] said [redacted] was [redacted] and [redacted] At [redacted] office he'd noted his [redacted] everytime I see him his [redacted] promised ^{b6} ^{b7C}

I get to see him tomorrow. It hurts so much to know how [redacted]

[redacted] is being psychologically abused everytime [redacted] and a part of both of our spirit and heart dies, he must think [redacted] to allow them to [redacted] I won't any more! [redacted]

[redacted] - this must end. ^{b6} ^{b7C}

Judge Page ignored all the good testimony while a week in

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advance James T. Russell put out the word he wanted this case won no matter what despite all [redacted] in our behalf, he had no grounds to base his decision to [redacted].

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The records and court transcript that should be public and open to the press, are sealed in the Judges Chambers and our motion for rehearing denied. In this America or Russia [redacted] said he'd back us all the way and [redacted]

Senator Don Chamberlain called Judge Page and told him he couldn't get away with this!

[redacted] wait [redacted] on [redacted] records, and what they did to me as I accused their [redacted] is criminal, and a violation of my civil rights, just to protect their [redacted].

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I am regaining or taking [redacted] tomorrow from [redacted] who is [redacted] he will no longer be a political prisoner.

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b7C

I beg help from the F.B.I. and by taking [redacted] I'm making this a Federal case to expose the [redacted] Judge Page. point out the abuse of power, continued malicious persecution by James T. Russell.

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I can't get justice in this corrupt biased country, and after spending a couple of days with [redacted] I will call the F.B.I to come get us - and I pray James Russell doesn't get to us first. He is an animal.

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I have [redacted] and it will be so great to [redacted] again. I have no money for a good lawyer, so I beg help from the public and the news media, to get the whole truth, the facts, give me justice. [redacted] and stop letting [redacted] be abused for political reasons! Public please help me I'm a 22 year old mother with 3 children at home - write - do what you can but please demand that I get justice and that [redacted] be protected! Judy Caranna Petrononi

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b7C

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JAMES T. RUSSELL, STATE ATTORNEY,
CLEARWATER, FLORIDA;
JUDY CARANNA PETRANTONI - VICTIM;
[REDACTED] - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS

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One of the manila folders received contained numerous documents, newspaper clippings and information regarding a civil suit filed by Judy Ann Caranna regarding [REDACTED] According to the documents, [REDACTED] occurred on [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] went out to the [REDACTED] the surroundings. At which time [REDACTED]

The documents contain several letters and other material wherein Petrantonni indicates she is unsatisfied with the [REDACTED] by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

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Other miscellaneous documents are also included in this folder.

The second manila folder received is labeled [REDACTED] Sent by Sympathetic [REDACTED] It contains numerous [REDACTED] documents and letters including handwritten notes. Also included is a [REDACTED] presumably setting forth the investigation conducted by [REDACTED]

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Documents indicated [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] and that [REDACTED] and Judy Caranna [REDACTED] occurred on [REDACTED] and as a result of [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Judy Caranna and [REDACTED] were married on [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and in his opinion, it showed an indication of [REDACTED] which appeared on [REDACTED]

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JAMES T. RUSSELL, STATE ATTORNEY,
CLEARWATER, FLORIDA;

JUDY CARANNA PETRANTONI - VICTIM;

[REDACTED] - VICTIM

CIVIL RIGHTS

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[REDACTED] in his opinion within seven
days of the date [REDACTED] were taken looking

Also, [REDACTED] has previously been [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] and noticed no such [REDACTED]
Inasmuch as [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] the Clearwater Police Department was
notified and pictures were taken.

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Documents further reveal that two days prior to
[REDACTED]
October 26, 1977, Judy Petrantonl was arrested for shoplifting.
Also, in a petition filed by HRS before the Pinellas County
Court System on November 4, 1977, it indicated that in the
opinion of two psychiatrists, Judy Ann Caranna is suffering
from acute schizophrenia and is likely to injure herself or
others. Also, documents reflect that [REDACTED] is
on [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] pending further
investigation.

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On November 9, 1977, Judge Richard A. Miller ruled that
Judy Petrantonl was not a danger to herself or others.

On January 13, 1978, by court order of Judge Jace A.
Pace, Pinellas County, Florida, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] pending further order of the court. Also, [REDACTED]
were authorized for the [REDACTED] and Judy Caranna Petrantonl
was to continue counsel with [REDACTED]

Appearing in "The Clearwater Sun," a local Clearwater
newspaper, in the Thursday, February 16, 1978, edition, was an
article by Lynne Perri, entitled, "Judy Petrantonl Arrested for
Illegally Taking Son." This article included background

JAMES T. RUSSELL, STATE ATTORNEY,
CLEARWATER, FLORIDA;
JUDY CARANNA PETRANTONI - VICTIM;
[REDACTED] - VICTIM

CIVIL RIGHTS

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b7C

information regarding the case and also stated the following:

"Extradition hearings were expected to begin today for the return of Judy Caranna Petrantonni, a 22 year old city woman arrested Wednesday in Washington, D. C., and charged with illegally removing her son from a state foster home."

F B I

Date: 2/28/78

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Precedence)

To: Director, FBI

ATTENTION:

☒ GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
☒ CIVIL RIGHTS SECTION
☐ CRIMINAL SECTION
☐ INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

From: SAC, TAMPA (44-2697) (C)

Subject: **JAMES T. RUSSELL,**
STATE ATTORNEY,
CLEARWATER, FLORIDA;
JUDY CARANNA PETRANTONI, aka
Judy Ann Caranna - VICTIM;
[REDACTED] - VICTIM

☒ CR ☒ (C) ☐ EL ☐ DIH ☐ CRA-64
☐ PA ☐ PE ☐ PF ☐ E
☐ DAMV ☐ DAMV-FR ☐ CAA
☐ AP ☐ IWFC ☐ CWAA ☐ FI
☐ EID ☐ Bomb Threats ☐ Extremist Matters
☐ White Hate ☐ Black

Summary of Complaint:

Enclosed for the Bureau are four copies of a self-explanatory LHM. Also, enclosed for the Bureau are the documents (2 manila folders) provided by victim, PETRANTONI, which are to be forwarded to the U. S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, for their consideration.

Inasmuch as the documents are quite voluminous and some of which are of questionable quality and not conducive to copying, the Tampa Division is not copying the documents and the enclosures are the only copy of the documents received.

INDICES: ☐ Negative ☒ See Summary

ACTION: UACB:

☒ No further action being taken and☒ LHM enclosed☐ FD-376 (Enc. to LHM)☐ LHM being submitted☐ Report being submitted☐ Preliminary investigation instituted☐ Limited investigation instituted☐ Investigation continuing☒ Copy to: ☒ USA, Tampa, Fla.☐ Secret Service☒ ATF

2 - Bureau (Enc. 6)

① - Tampa

TM:smw

(3)

SEARCHED

INDEXED

SERIALIZED

FILED

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

Per

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TP 44-2697

Files of the Tampa Office contain no pertinent information regarding [REDACTED] However, the following information pertains to [REDACTED] JUDY CARANNA PETRANTONI, who is mentioned in the letter received from the victim:

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] INCORPORATED
CLEARWATER, FLORIDA
RICO
(OO: TAMPA) -
Tampa file-183-47
Bufile 183-370

It is noted that a review of this file indicated that when JUDY CARANNA (now JUDY CARANNA PETRANTONI) was interviewed by Bureau Agents on June 18, 1976, at Mobile, Ala., she expressed a fear that due to her one time close relationship with [REDACTED] during which time he confided in her the numerous activities he had in the [REDACTED] she feels that if called to testify before the Grand Jury, she and her children should be protected against [REDACTED] and his associates.

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Inasmuch as this complaint does not involve an allegation of brutality, no further investigation is being conducted.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Judy Petrantoni Arrested For Illegally Taking Son

By LYNNE PERRI
Sun Staff Writer

Extradition hearings were expected to begin today for the return of Judy Caranna Petrantoni, a 22-year-old city woman arrested Wednesday in Washington, D.C., and charged with illegally removing her son from a state foster home.

Her 2-year-old son Christopher had been placed in a Clearwater foster home last October pending a child-abuse investigation by the state attorney's office and the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services.

Foster care was ordered after doctors reported bruises on Christopher's back and thigh that they said could not be explained adequately by his parents.

HRS officials were expected to fly to Washington today for a hearing in juvenile court.

HRS officials have informed Gov. Reubin Askew of the case, and he reportedly has asked to be kept abreast of the situation.

The warrant for Mrs. Petrantoni's arrest was teletyped Wednesday afternoon to Washington by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Department and she was arrested in her hotel

room at 5 p.m.

Mrs. Petrantoni, who spent the night in a Washington jail, still was being held on \$5,000 bond this morning, sheriff's department spokesman Merrill Stebbins said.

Christopher has been placed in foster care by the Department of Human Resources in Washington.

He is taking medication daily because of severe head, arm and eye injuries he sustained after falling from the sixth floor of the Holiday Inn On the Beach last summer.

Washington police said the infant was in good condition. However, his mother had taken Christopher to a children's hospital in Washington for further tests because she said she could not

get adequate care in Pinellas.

Mrs. Petrantoni said her daughter Stephanie, who lives at 430 Windward Passage on Island Estates with her two step-brothers and step-father Angelo S. "Butch" Petrantoni, would join her soon.

Wednesday, Petrantoni flew to Washington to be with his wife. On probation after pleading no contest in 1976 to a county zoning bribery charge, Petrantoni said he had permission from his probation officer to remain in the capital for two weeks.

He said he is determined to take the custody case to the FBI if necessary and charged that local officials were persecuting him because of his past.

"They're not going to get away with this anymore," he said. If extradition could not be avoided, "I'll jump my probation and take my family to Costa Rica."

An angry Judy Petrantoni rushed into the unlocked foster home Saturday afternoon, snatched her son and fled to her car parked nearby, police said.

She repeatedly has denied abusing her son and HRS officials in December labeled the relationship between mother and child "positive."

However, after the unexplained bruises in October raised suspicions of child abuse, Christopher was ordered to remain in foster care until this summer when the case was expected to be reviewed.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

CLEARWATER SUN
CLEARWATER, FLA.
page-1A

Date: 2/16/78
Edition:

Title:

Character:
or

Classification: 44-2697 C
Submitting Office: TAMPA

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SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 2 1978	

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FBI/DOJ

44-2697-5

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Mrs. Petrantoni Arrested In Georgia

By LAURIN MARCH
and LYNNE PERRI
Sun Staff Writers

A young mother sought by Pinellas County law enforcement officials for allegedly taking her son from a state foster home has been charged with speeding and fleeing from police officers in Gwinnett County, Ga.

Judy Caranna Petrantoni, 430 Windward Passage, was arrested about 5 a.m. Thursday after a chase through four Georgia counties at speeds up to 95 miles per hour, said Jerry Poole of the Georgia State Police.

Mrs. Petrantoni, 22, and her husband Angelo S. "Butch" Petrantoni were returning to Florida after Mrs. Petrantoni waived her right to an extradition hearing in Washington, D.C.

Mrs. Petrantoni had taken her son Christopher to the capital after apparently snatching him from a Clearwater foster home. Christopher has since been returned to the state by officials of the State Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services (HRS), who have placed him in another foster home.

The chase apparently started after the couple pulled into a service station off Interstate-85 in Banks County. They got \$12 worth of gas and left without paying, Poole said. The station attendant called police, who stopped the Petrantonis shortly thereafter.

While police questioned Petrantoni outside of the vehicle, his wife, who police had left in the passenger seat, started the car and drove away. She led police 25 miles through Banks, Jackson, Barrow and Gwinnett counties before she was apprehended.

Poole had heard radio broadcasts from pursuing officers and was waiting for her at the I-85 intersection with Georgia Road 20. He said he had to maneuver his vehicle in front of hers before she would stop. When he got out of his car she again tried to flee, he said, smashing the rear of his car and striking a passing motorist, whose car blocked hers from further escape, about 20 minutes after the chase had begun.

"I can see that you folks don't know how to drive," Poole said Mrs. Petrantoni told him after her arrest.

Mrs. Petrantoni's son had been placed in foster care last October while the state attorney's office and HRS officials investigated the possibility of child abuse.

The child, under medical care after falling from the sixth floor of a Clearwater Beach hotel last summer, will be two years old Tuesday.

Mrs. Petrantoni is in Milledgeville, Ga., Central State Hospital under court order, according to sheriff's deputies in Gwinnett County. Her husband said she was recovering from exhaustion and a miscarriage. Mrs. Petrantoni was four months pregnant.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

CLEARWATER SUN
Clearwater, Fla.
PAGE 2A

Date: 2/25/78
Edition:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification: 44-2697
Submitting Office: TAMPA

44-2697-6

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Petrantonis don't take their woes lying down

By SUSAN DENLEY
St. Petersburg Times Staff Writer

From threatening to create an international incident in sophisticated Washington to kicking up a ruckus in cracker Georgia, Judy and Angelo Petrantonis were busy last week.

It was a study in contrasts — but not surprising to those who know the Clearwater couple's flair for the dramatic grand gesture.

Early in the week, the Petrantonis made the rounds of government offices in Washington trying to win aid in their fight to have their 20-month-old son returned to them from foster care. To anyone willing to listen — even an assistant deputy at the Russian consulate — they told the story of the Pinellas power-wielders who they say have conspired against them.

THEY WENT to the Russian consulate, Petrantonis told a reporter in a telephone call, "to make an international incident."

At midweek, the Petrantonis were arrested in rural North Georgia for allegedly shorting a gasoline station attendant by \$1 and trying to elude police in a high-speed chase. Petrantonis posted a cash bond that also serves as a fine. But his 22-year-old wife was ordered to a state psychiatric hospital by a judge, a slightly amused Lawrenceville, Ga. police spokesman said.

In Pinellas officialdom, there are some who are amused, others who wince at the mention of the Petrantonis. The Petrantonis have been nothing but trouble to many local officials.

First off, a firm owned by the bearded, beefy Petrantonis and other family members was at the center of a Clearwater City Hall scandal in 1975 in which three high-ranking city officials lost their jobs. The officials allegedly allowed thousands of dollars in overpayments to the Petrantonis' firm under a utility-line contract. Two of the employees were later reinstated.

THEN PETRANTONIS and his father were arrested and charged with bribing a county zoning technician and with perjury. After an initial mistrial, both later pleaded no contest in exchange for probation.

Ever since the city and county scandals came to light, the Petrantonis have loudly proclaimed their innocence. They were framed, they say, by powerful political forces in Pinellas County.

Specifically, they blame George Ruppel — wealthy banker, onetime county commissioner and longtime political mover who also was their partner in a limerock mine in Pasco County. They say Ruppel, through Pinellas-Pasco State Atty. James T. Russell, is persecuting them to gain control of the mine and run them out of the state.

Russell and Ruppel have denied the allegations. But that hasn't stopped the tenacious Petrantonis from writing to the FBI, picketing on the steps of the Pinellas County Courthouse and trying to get an appointment with President Carter to complain about them.

RUPPEL AND THE Petrantonis are slugging it out in federal court, where Ruppel is trying to foreclose liens he placed against the mine, win back money he lent the Petrantonis and fend off the IRS, which is claiming about \$170,000 in back taxes and Social Security payroll deductions the Petrantonis allegedly never paid.

(IRS closed the mine because of the unpaid taxes, but it is now being operated by a company under a lease.)

Ruppel's claim is based on more than \$1-million in loans he personally extended to the Petrantonis to help them run the mine from June 1972 — when he was introduced to the family by County Commission Chairman Charles E. Rainey — until 1975, federal court records show.

Although it is Ruppel who is out \$1-million, Angelo Petrantonis sees himself as the victim.

AND THE spicy-tongued, flame-tempered Petrantonis never gives up fighting.

Now his fight is centered around his 20-month-old son Christopher.

Christopher came to officials' attention last July when he fell from a sixth-floor balcony at a Clearwater Beach motel. Severely injured, he survived, and his mother filed a \$1-million damage suit against the motel.

The State Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services (HRS) and Russell's office investigated the unusual incident for possible child abuse, but no charges were filed, and Christopher was returned to his mother.

In October, Christopher was readmitted to Morton F. Plant Hospital in Clearwater with bruises and other injuries that his parents say were suffered in a seizure related to his fall. His mother was also admitted — to the hospital psychiatric ward. Doctors diagnosed her as schizophrenic — a diagnosis she believes is part of a conspiracy. She was released from the hospital when doctors decided she was not dangerous.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

ST. PETERSBURG TIMES
St. Petersburg, Fla.
Page 3B

Date: 2/27/78

Edition:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification: 44-2697-7
Submitting Office: TAMPA

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

MAR 2 1978

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FBI/DOJ

BUT ON THE advice of two pediatricians, Christopher was released to HRS pending a child-abuse investigation. He was placed in a foster home by a judge's order, with the case to be reviewed in June.

The Petrantonis insist Christopher was taken from them because of "politics." They have written letters to elected and appointed officials in Tallahassee and Washington pleading for help.

Two weeks ago, Mrs. Petrantoni found Christopher's foster home and forcibly took him. She was arrested a few days later in Washington and released on bail. Christopher was returned to foster care.

The Petrantonis' trip to the Russian consulate was made, Angelo said, to draw attention to his plight.

"IF WE DON'T get any help, we are going to make an international incident of the joke of President Carter's stand on human rights," Petrantoni said, adding, "We will be happy to move to Russia.

"As far as I'm concerned, to hell with the United States . . . or with any country that would use a baby to play political games."



Angelo Petrantoni: 'If we don't get any help, we are going to make an international incident of the joke of President Carter's stand on human rights. We will be happy to move to Russia. As far as I'm concerned, to hell with the United States . . . or with any country that would use a baby to play political games.'