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2 Acquitted in Plumbers Union Case

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A Manhattan jury has acquitted two retired business agents for plumbers union Local 2 of racketeering and grand larceny charges brought in a sweeping 1993 indictment that forced the AFL-CIO to take over the local.

The jury found Stratis Scarlatos, 52, of North Massapequa, not guilty late Tuesday afternoon and returned the second not guilty verdict for John Daly, 57, of Oakland, N.J., yesterday morning.

Jurors were to return to State Supreme Court today to continue deliberations in the trial of Denis Noonan, 48, of Bronxville, who was also a business agent at the time the indictment was

handed up. Scarlatos, who has been a member of Local 2 of the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry for 34 years, said that once the two charges brought under the state Organized Crime Control Act were dropped, he was confident he would be acquitted of the two grand larceny charges that remained. Two racketeering charges were dropped against Scarlatos before he went to trial.

The local's president, six business agents, the two retired business agents and a local executive board member were charged with extorting \$1 million in bribes and kickbacks from contractors with the assistance of associates of organized crime. The contractors made

the payoffs to ensure labor peace, to be allowed to employ nonunion plumbers and to evade work rules contained in the union's contract, Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau said at the time the indictments were announced.

"In all the witnesses testimony, never once did any of them say I threatened them or pushed them against the wall," Scarlatos said outside the courtroom yesterday, where he returned in support of Noonan. "There wasn't one contractor who gave bad testimony against me. There were never any threats mentioned [during testimony]."

Daly, who was acquitted on charges of enterprise corruption, third-degree attempted grand larceny, bribe receiving by a labor official and fourth de-

gree-grand larceny as originally charged in the indictment, thanked "God for a very astute jury. They had a tremendous job to cut through the legal jargon . . ."

The indictment also named Louis Moscatiello Jr., an alleged associate in the Genovese Organized Crime Family, who allegedly mediated disputes within the local, although he was not a member, Morgenthau had said.

Five of the 10 union officials pleaded guilty, including the former president, Peter Salzarulo. Among the others were Peter Bishop, 59, of Huntington Station; Francis Martello of Valley Stream; and Michael Eustace of Babylon. The trial of Martello's son, Paul, 30, also of Valley Stream, is pending.