

Giuseppi Esposito, or Joseph who nick was named "Dimmey" or Don Peppino" was born on April 28, 1872 just out side of Naples, Italy in a town named Acerra. After leaving Italy in 1895 and a few jobs in New York and Boston, Diamond Joe landed in Chicago were he would become a fixture of little Italy being called unofficial mayor of Chicago.

According to a Chicago Crime Commission report dated November 9, 1956 Diamond Joe was the one who may have actually brought Al Capone and his family to Chicago. Johnny Torrio may have helped Capone come to Chicago, but it was through the efforts of Diamond Joe that Capone made his



way to the windy city. Esposito furnished Capone with sizeable sums of money for him to live on upon arrival. While Diamond Joe was living in New York, he killed a man he claimed that was in self-defense. He learned that a man was waiting at his residence to kill him. With this information, he got the upper hand and shot the man before the assassin had a chance.

As Diamond Joe's power in politics grew, he became very close with Republican leader and United States senator Charles Dineen. Esposito's clout was so powerful that at a big dinner held following the election of President Coolidge, Esposito reportedly sat at the head table. Diamond Joe's influence reached as far as New York through his close friend ship with New York boss Frank Costello. Esposito's power is best summed up in a case that a member of his group was convicted of murder and was scheduled to be hung. Esposito called a conference with the judge in the case gave him several thousand dollars, a new trial was granted, and all of a sudden none of the witnesses were available and Esposito's friend was set free.

According to the report, Dimond Joe controlled a house of prostitution on Wabash Avenue. He organized numerous protective associations from which he derived a large amount of money. During the time, he had two secretaries, one of whom was a young man just starting in politics named Roland Libonati.