

Senator HATFIELD. Are you saying to us it is not the inadequacy of the State legislation, but rather the inadequacy of the professional training program of law enforcement agencies?

Mr. SALERNO. Yes. I believe this would be a necessary part of implementing the legislation as it exists.

Senator HATFIELD. Do you feel that the legislation, then, if it had this adjunct of professional training, adequate professional training, would be sufficient, or would be adequate without Federal legislation?

Mr. SALERNO. I do not know—I do not know. I do know that to a very considerable degree, there are loan sharking matters which do transcend State lines. I think then in the area of loan sharking you would have the same thing as you have in other areas of law enforcement.

At the present time, for example, most of the States that I know of have some kind of legislation against narcotics, trafficking and sale. That does not preclude the very necessary need for Federal agencies to be in this field. The same thing is true of gambling as compared to interstate gambling. I think this would be in addition to those something that could best serve the Nation if it were enforced on both levels of government.

Senator HATFIELD. Has the national council you represent drafted a model State law and distributed it to the various States for their action?

Mr. SALERNO. Relating to loan sharking?

Senator HATFIELD. Yes.

Mr. SALERNO. No, sir; we have not.

Senator HATFIELD. Would this be helpful, do you feel?

Mr. SALERNO. I think it might be, yes. I think it might be, because I do know that a number of States are giving some consideration to revising their statutes. Pennsylvania is one that I know of. Massachusetts is another.

Senator HATFIELD. Do you know if the Council of State Governments or the Council on Uniform Laws has done any work in drafting a model State law on loan sharking?

Mr. SALERNO. I do not know, sir.

Senator HATFIELD. What about some of the smaller States? How widespread would you say this is—beyond the nine jurisdictions to which you referred in your testimony?

Mr. SALERNO. I believe that it is rather widely spread. I do believe, as I said in my statement, if you have a booming economy, if you have a great deal of competition, if you have a tight money market existing anywhere, you have those elements which are necessary to make loan sharking an attractive business.

I could not say on the basis of an actual survey of any kind that I have taken—but I do know I have been to jurisdictions other than the nine I have mentioned. When I have sat down with law enforcement people or others in the criminal justice system, and described loan sharking, they begin to tell me that they are taking on a growing awareness of this possibility, that they have seen signs of it growing.

Senator HATFIELD. So it would exist, then, in those States where there might not be any great element of the so-called Mafia or the mob operating—that it could exist independently of that?