

Generally, about organized crime, in recent years studies by the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice and testimony by FBI Director, J. Edgar Hoover, have established authoritatively that the core of organized crime is the criminal fraternity, La Cosa Nostra. The broad outline of La Cosa Nostra's structure has been detailed so many times recently that only a few highlights need be mentioned here:

La Cosa Nostra is an organization that possesses the attributes of fraternalism, diversified corporate business and a moral fascism.

The organization enters upon any illegal activity that promises greatest economic gain at least risk of detection. The activities are pursued concurrently all the time by every Cosa Nostra family. Of these multifold illegal operations, gambling and loan sharking are believed to produce the largest income.

La Cosa Nostra is known to have 24 groups, or "families," operating in almost all sectors of the Nation. Each family is semiautonomous. But a board of directors comprised of the most powerful family leaders acts as a final arbitration board for otherwise unresolved interfamily problems.

The general hierarchical structure of each family includes a boss, underboss, counselor, captains, and so-called soldiers, or button men.

Membership in the organization is limited to persons of Italian extraction. Of the more than 20 million American Italians in the United States, probably less than 6,000 are members of La Cosa Nostra.

Each family utilizes thousands of nonmember individual affiliates, of every ethnic derivation, at the street level of illegal activity.

Untold millions of Americans are satisfied customers of La Cosa Nostra and its affiliates.

Directly, and through intermediaries, the organization cultivates and achieves friendship and favor from individuals in the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government at the local, State, and Federal level.

In many localities, the organization has acquired control of several legitimate businesses and of several union locals. To my knowledge, no such business or labor union so controlled has been free thereafter from one or more forms of illegal operation.

Fear, favor, secrecy, insulation, and cohesion have achieved for La Cosa Nostra a unique position in our society. Organized opposition is pitifully small and vacillating. Law-enforcement activities, inadequate as they are in this field across the country, stand as an island surrounded by political opposition or nonsupport.

To my knowledge, no law-enforcement officer has ever been able to infiltrate La Cosa Nostra, become a member thereof, and report on its day-to-day method of operation. In the Federal enforcement effort of the past 7 years, fewer than 6 percent of the organization's members have been convicted of a crime.

Massive amounts of intelligence, that serve to prove the specifics of the above, will lie forever fallow in Federal files because the data were secured by illegal electronic surveillance. Unseen by a disbelieving public and unused by frustrated law-enforcement officers, this data, though rightfully suppressed from public ventilation, serves to further the 'tis-t'aint dichotomy in the public debate as to whether or not organized crime is a serious problem that deserves a place on our