

As to the organized crime problem generally, I cannot voice any great optimism about the future. Certainly organized crime will have to deal with the black power movement. Negroes now will not long tolerate the exploitation inflicted upon them by La Cosa Nostra. And perhaps organized crime will endure the equivalent of the student revolution; this equivalent could be termed "solider power," as the younger generation in the ranks of organized crime may lose the respect that now binds them to Cosa Nostra leaders and demand more power and more of the revenue. It is too early to forecast what such developments might bring to the present structure and cohesion of La Cosa Nostra.

As a nation, we are merely picking and scratching at the corporate structure of organized crime. We prosecute certain individuals for individual crimes and the organization continues. And this prosecutive activity is apparent in some regularity only at the Federal level and in a very few States and cities. We have been unable to devise a national strategy to attack the foundations of the structure itself. Individuals are not indispensable to a strong organization. Such a structure can easily survive change of personnel and law enforcement alone cannot dismantle it. Lasting progress will result only when the politicians, the regulatory agencies, the business world, the labor unions, the scholars and other professional disciplines join the battle. Can you think of any mayor in any large city who has told his citizenry about the true nature of organized crime, or who has even listed organized crime as a serious problem deserving action priority in the program of city government? I cannot. Perhaps with recent disclosures in the mass media, some meaningful counteraction by these joint forces will erupt. As the National Crime Commission concluded: "The extraordinary thing about organized crime is that America has tolerated it for so long."

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Ruth.

Senator Nelson, do you have any questions?

Senator NELSON. I am sure, Mr. Chairman, that the vast majority of the people of the country are not prepared to tolerate organized crime.

What specific suggestions do you have to combat organized crime?

Mr. RUTH. Well, I disagree with you, Senator. I think the vast majority of Americans are perfectly happy to tolerate organized crime for one or more reasons. We put together a program in the National Crime Commission with about 26 or 27 recommendations as to what the Commission thought the Nation ought to do about organized crime. I think as a starter—

Senator NELSON. Let me interrupt for a moment. That may be a matter of semantics. I have been around for a good many years. I have yet to run into a single person who is willing to tolerate organized crime. Certainly one of the problems is a lack of knowledge about its existence and what it does, as you have testified. I think as far as the general public is concerned, you could not find more than a fraction of 1 percent who are willing to accept organized crime. I do not think there is any doubt about that. So one of the problems, then, is to educate the public that it in fact exists, as you say in your own testimony.

The public's toleration of crime is like its toleration of poverty. Most of the public do not wish to tolerate poverty, but most of the public