

What are you doing about it, and what is being done about educating the attorney generals of the United States whom you criticized for lack of activity in this field?

Mr. RUTH. I have talked to a lot of police officials about this problem and raised the same question you have—why don't you tell your mayor what is going on in your city? I get a lot of responses. But I think the most frequent response is "When I walk in to tell him about it he says 'Don't tell me, I don't want to know who is involved, I don't want to know who is doing what.'" And he sends the police chief back to the police department, tells them—I don't want to be embarrassed by any Federal raids in this city, so keep the lid on as much as you can, but there again there is no push to request appropriations to set up a specific organized crime unit.

I think the attorneys general on a national level are trying to acquaint themselves with the problem of organized crime. But again there is a somewhat typical pattern in the States. An attorney general who comes in new and fresh and eager and young and wants to do something about organized crime, he may even set up an organized crime unit in the State police or in the attorney general's office. Then they go out and make their first series of raids, probably in ten to fifteen small towns. That night the telephone starts ringing and practically half the State legislature is on the phone. And they tell the attorney general "What you are trying to do, you are trying to kill me. You are not going to get that increased appropriation for the State police," et cetera, et cetera, et cetera. And it takes a very courageous attorney general, and a very courageous governor to resist these measures which appear whenever a local program or a state program is started in organized crime, because one of the problems is if you go deep enough, you are always going to turn up either a city government employee or an elected public official at one level or another. And this does not do anybody any good from a political standpoint, and people make enemies this way, through organized crime programs. I do not think very many political figures have made friends through a positive organized crime enforcement program. This is one of the practical realities.

The CHAIRMAN. All right.

May I just say, Mr. Ruth—I cannot help but agree with my distinguished colleague from Wisconsin. I think that your testimony has been very helpful. I do not personally like the implications that the mayors or State legislators or public officials are too frequently indifferent to this problem. The reason we are having this hearing today is to do something about the problem. I might say the reason I got started in public life as a prosecutor was because I prosecuted certain public officials, and because of that successful prosecution, I became known in my State, and therefore was able to run for public office. So it has always been of great concern to me to see if we could not eliminate what I think is a very small percentage of public officials who may have some connection or some desire to protect any criminal elements. I do not believe your contention that the mayors of the major cities, if told there is crime in their cities, would say "Don't tell me about it, because I do not want to hear about it." I do not agree with that at all. I think most of the mayors that I know are very much interested in eliminating whatever crime they can find going on in their cities, and certainly within their own departments.