

cause, it is for the Children's Home, or it is for some orphanage. Besides it gives the fellows just a little fun once in a while. You are being sort of hard-nosed by wanting your State police to raid the local groups." These were highly reputable groups, formed for fraternalism, for promoting patriotism, and yet at the same time engaging in activities which were by State statute illegal.

I had State senators, I had State representatives, I had mayors calling me, visiting my office, men who were themselves not connected with any kind of organized crime. These were just some illegal operators who happened to operate within or outside of the State who would bring in a few one-armed bandits for a special occasion now and then, for a charitable cause.

So I merely indicate to you that I think your point is well established, that apathy on the part of public leaders is one of the problems that we face today.

And let me go one step further. I think it is within the general attitude of many in the public today, both in political leadership roles and citizenship roles, that small crime is all right—it is only when we get into the big league that we want to avoid it. In other words, they are trying to put a certain stamp of approval on little activities—bingo, penny ante, one-armed bandits and thing that may not be related to any national syndicate—but which under local statutes are still illegal, are still outlawed. They want to wink at that type of thing. I am not saying this is true with all. I am saying there are enough instances where your testimony I think has support. I can give it support by my own experiences. The overwhelming majority of legislators, the overwhelming number of mayors, I agree with the chairman, are upright people who want to make sure law is enforced, and crime is run out. But I think it comes down to a question of definition—what is crime. Have we restricted our general national attitude toward crime as the big operation, the national syndicate, as, say, distinguished from the little poker game that is going on in the next door neighbor's house, or down at the local club, or the distinguished country club that paid off its mortgage with illegal one-armed bandits? Would you say there has been unconscious or conscious effort to deliberate between big and little crime, and accept little crime and reject big crime?

Mr. RUTH. Well, I think there may be that tendency, Senator, because people think that little crime has no connection with big crime. I think one of the problems as to vice enforcement in the big cities is that the enforcement has its greatest effect in the ghettos. I mean the old analogy that gambling—the poker game at the country club is legal, and not to be touched by the police, but the poker game in the alley and the ghetto, because they do not have a country club to go to, is suddenly a source of danger to which a vice squad might put 10 men, and make a big raid which appears in the papers the next day.

I do not see any reason to have vice squads on a police department and raid these penny ante games in ghettos, unless it can be proven that such games lead to personal violence. I would put those men to work on an organized crime squad, or recruit other men, and try to get at this large business of crime.