One of the problems with loansharking is that traditional police departments have not thought of their jurisdiction as extending to commercial crimes, so that the consumer fraud business and the loansharking becomes a job—well, we will give that to the district attorney, who is too busy to go out and ferret out crime as well as prosecute it. So it is kind of a vacuum as far as law enforcement is concerned, as far as loansharking and other commercial crimes—which are participated in by people that wear white shirts rather than people who live in the ghettos and try to make a nickel once in a while in a poker game.

Senator HATFIELD. Would you indicate whether or not you feel that there is something to be accomplished here by having a model State statute in which—relating now specifically to loan sharking—in which States could have a stronger law enforcement role to play in this—not as opposed to a Federal statute, but perhaps supplemental to and coordinated with a Federal statute.

Mr. RUTH. I think it would be very helpful, sir. I worked on the loan sharking statute for the State of New Jersey, and I would be happy to share that proposal with this committee.

Senator HATFIELD. Are you acquainted with the widespread activity in loan sharking beyond the large cities to which we have had most of our testimony addressed to today? How prevalent would you estimate or know this to be?

Mr. RUTH. I do not think I could really be honest and give an estimate of that sort, sir. When we get out of the large cities, I expect that there are people who are available, again in plants, and in the smaller communities, to lend money. But I would not know how they would connect themselves with organized crime.

I know in Pennsylvania there are crime czars in the small cities, and that these crime czars obtain services from New York or Philadelphia, and pay tribute to these groups. But I would not know whether or not an individual operation such as loan sharking which is part of this small town's total crime picture would have direct connection with New York or Philadelphia.

Senator HATFIELD. I am grateful for your testimony.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Nelson?

Senator NELSON. I understood Senator Hatfield to say he disagreed with his colleagues but then I could not find where he disagreed with anything I had said. I have not said there are not corrupt public officials. Everybody would have to be naive not to recognize that. My main point was that I think there is a lack of education and knowledge and understanding among the public about how important and how extensive organized crime is. I further said that the attorney generals except in the modest sized States—I think those are exactly the words I used—come to office with no experience, background, or knowledge about organized crime, no built-in institution within the attorney general's office that is aimed specifically at organized crime. And therefore part of the problem is to educate them as well as the public. And I was wondering what more we could do to educate the public about this problem.

Mr. Salerno testified that many of the police officials do not really understand the loan sharking business. If the police officials do not