

lecting the debt in an extortive fashion. So he has committed a crime—in the event that extortion is committed with respect to Mr. Jones, or as a result, the original businessman is a principal to that crime—whether he viewed it that way or not.

Resistance, of course, to the organized underworld is never tolerated. The use of physical force will be resorted to if all other persuasions fail. Where the borrower has no tangible business, the underworld will compel him to become a tool in some other criminal venture. An illustrative example of this is the case of Jerry Wolff. This is the man's real name. However, he is no longer in this part of the country, and we believe he is safe from any further retribution.

I would like to briefly describe to you the story of Mr. Wolff, and play a tape that might be helpful to this committee.

Mr. Nathan Sackin, who has been subpoenaed here as a witness, is the owner of a number of drycleaning establishments in the city of New York. Sackin became indebted to an underworld figure by the name of John Sonny Franzese. I submitted a copy of Mr. Franzese's criminal record to the committee for its files. You will notice among other brushes with the law that he was convicted in April of 1966 on numerous counts of bank robbery—this was a Federal trial—and he was sentenced to a term in prison of 50 years.

Franzese, according to the information developed by the bureau city police department, is a member of the Joseph Colombo unit of the organized underworld.

The CHAIRMAN. Is that part of the Cosa Nostra? Or do you know?

Mr. METZGER. We have never taken a position as to that particular expression, Senator. I personally have not heard that expression used by anyone in the underworld. But from what you mean, I would say yes. It is the organized underworld that is referred to by some people as the Cosa Nostra. Whether it is referred to by the underworld as the Cosa Nostra remains to be seen.

Now, Sackin had difficulty in repaying moneys owed to Franzese, and agreed to act as a frontman for Franzese money. And he, amongst other customers, cultivated, while running his drycleaning business, I might add, one Gerald Wolff, who was then employed in a major stock brokerage house in Manhattan. Wolff became more and more enmeshed in the transactions with the shark Sackin, and soon found that he was unable to meet his payments and became delinquent.

At this point he was informed, for the first time, that he had been borrowing underworld money. He was threatened on numerous occasions—he was told he would be mutilated and eventually murdered if he continued to be delinquent in his payments. During the course of these conversations, in his relationship with Sackin and Sackin's associates, Green and Bishansky—that is Sackin's overassociates—Wolff was pushed from a moving automobile and sustained injury.

However, it was not the intention of the underworld to let Wolff off with merely a beating. He was first induced to produce new loan shark customers for the shark Sackin, and did so. He provided three or four other customers, who, by the way, eventually became similarly enmeshed.

As I understand it, one of those victims eventually committed suicide. There is no direct proof that this was related to the loan sharking transaction, but the fact is duly noted.