

The CHAIRMAN. All right. Mr. Cottell, you may briefly describe that for us.

Mr. COTTELL. Mr. Lombardo has no criminal record. He is a close associate of Sebastian Aloï, who has a criminal record, and who is a member of the Colombo criminal family in New York City. Mr. Lombardo has detailed knowledge of the loan sharking activities of Mr. Aloï, as is illustrated by the transcripts of conversations which we shall submit to the committee as part of their record.

Mr. METZGER. I think these transcripts, Senator, will show Lombardo's participation in these activities, and they speak for themselves—unless of course you want to hear them.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, I think that the testimony is becoming cumulative. We understand, I think, what the problem is at this point. So we will make them a part of the record.

Now, anything else before I ask you some questions, Mr. Metzger?

Mr. METZGER. We would like to make one last comment, and that is on the subject of electronic eavesdropping, wiretaps. I want to say this very briefly. Particularly in the area of loan sharking, this is an invaluable tool in the apprehension of members of the organized underworld. The victims of the underworld, unless confronted with their conversations, will invariably refuse to disclose their relationship, no matter how victimized they may have been, with members of the organized underworld. I hope that the committee, in addition to proposing legislation respecting criminal usury, will support individually any legislation that may be proposed with respect to easing the altogether too restrictive existing statutes respecting this form of evidence gathering.

The CHAIRMAN. All right, sir.

That was one of the questions I was going to ask you—how important you think that the use of electronic eavesdropping devices are in stopping the loan sharking racket?

Mr. METZGER. I think it is virtually mandatory that we have it.

The CHAIRMAN. We have before us, as you know, a bill pending in the Senate, the safe streets and crime bill, which has in it a provision allowing the use of electronic eavesdropping devices under certain conditions. What you are saying is you think it is desirable, and it should be used even more than the provisions which we have in our bill?

Mr. METZGER. Yes, sir. Judicially, controlled, within constitutional safeguards, this is an invaluable law-enforcement tool that cannot be duplicated.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you think that the Federal Government should pass a law setting limits of criminal usury, and that the Federal Government should combat this activity through the various agencies, such as the FBI?

Mr. METZGER. Absolutely, sir. Particularly in view of the fact that many States do not have adequate legislation, nor adequate facilities for these sort of investigations. The Federal investigation agencies, combined with the State agencies, amount to organized law enforcement versus organized crime, which is the only way that organized crime can be successfully combatted.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you have any specific ideas as to what limitations we should put into a proposed statute? For example, anyone