

Raise your right hand—do you solemnly swear the evidence you shall give before this Senate committee shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. LOMBARDO. I do.

The CHAIRMAN. Have a seat, sir.

TESTIMONY OF RALPH LOMBARDO, AN ALLEGED LEADER OF NEW YORK LOAN SHARK RACKET; ACCOMPANIED BY ED BRACKEN, ATTORNEY

The CHAIRMAN. Do you know Sebastian Aloï?

Mr. LOMBARDO. I respectfully refuse to answer any questions within the scope of this inquiry upon the grounds that the answers may tend to incriminate me, degrade me, and may subject me to a penalty or forfeiture.

The CHAIRMAN. Is it not a fact that you are a button man for Aloï?

Mr. LOMBARDO. I respectfully refuse to answer any questions within the scope of this inquiry upon the grounds that the answer may tend to incriminate me, degrade me, and subject me to a penalty or forfeiture.

The CHAIRMAN. Is it not true that you worked in Aloï's flower shop?

Mr. LOMBARDO. I respectfully refuse to answer any questions within the scope of this inquiry upon the grounds that the answers may tend to incriminate me, degrade me, and may subject me to a penalty or forfeiture.

The CHAIRMAN. Is it not a fact that you know Sebastian Aloï to be a member of the Joseph Colombo family?

Mr. LOMBARDO. I respectfully refuse to answer any questions within the scope of this inquiry upon the grounds that the answer may tend to incriminate me, degrade me, and may subject me to a penalty or forfeiture.

The CHAIRMAN. Isn't it a fact that Aloï sponsored you to be a soldier in that family?

Mr. LOMBARDO. I respectfully refuse to answer any questions within the scope of this inquiry upon the grounds that the answers may tend to incriminate me, degrade me, and subject me to penalty or forfeiture.

The CHAIRMAN. For the record, I want to say section 193 of title II of the United States Code provides that a witness may not refuse to answer a congressional committee on the grounds that his answer would tend to disgrace him or render him infamous. I want to make it abundantly clear that your objection is not based on those grounds. Is that correct?

Mr. BRACKEN. May I hear that inquiry, Senator?

The CHAIRMAN. The question I am asking is that we want to make it clear that your objections to testifying are not based on the ground that it would disgrace him or render him infamous. You are claiming the fifth.

Mr. BRACKEN. That is correct, sir. And also the other grounds as stated in the answer given.

The CHAIRMAN. For what crime do you believe your answer might lead to your prosecution?