

angered me, you made my patience thin, we are going to increase the juice rate. From now on instead of 10 percent a week it will be 15 percent a week."

Mr. GROSSMAN. Could I ask you at this point—aren't all these attempts at physical violence extortion? Isn't there a Federal extortion statute that these people can be prosecuted under?

Mr. SIRAGUSA. Yes, it is extortion. Even under State statutes you could still prosecute them for intimidation, or extortion. The one trouble you have in this area, as well as all gangster areas, is this fear, the reluctance of victims to come forth to testify. It is this terrible fear that grips them that prevents them from going to the authorities. Unless you have witnesses in a court of law, you cannot prosecute.

We have spoken literally to at least 200 juice victims who have no reluctance in telling me the gory details in my office. But when you ask them to sign a complaint to go to court, that is a different story.

Mr. GROSSMAN. The testimony of New York witnesses made it sound like the New York situation was more subtle. Your pictures of lead pipes seems to be a lot more in the old gangster era, which I take it still continues more in Chicago.

Mr. SIRAGUSA. I am a native of New York myself. I live in Illinois. And I do not like to take a back seat to my former State. But I may have not put this in the proper context.

I think that with the violence which has been displayed in Chicago, there is still enough sophistication to make New York look silly. And I think many refinements of racketeering activities—I think some of the real good gimmicks in this loan shark racket have been invented in Chicago, I think that in Chicago we will not take a back seat when it comes to using sophistication in racketeering. This is a dubious distinction—but I must say this.

New York obviously, being a city twice the size of Chicago, you have twice as many of everything. Therefore, New York City is indisputably the crime capital of the country. And we might rank No. 2. By the same token, if you give me the opportunity, I want to say that in Chicago we too have a fine law enforcement setup, we have many Federal agencies, we have State agencies, State police, crime commission, Chicago Police Department, insurance office, the States attorneys police—collectively I think we are just as good, if not better, than law enforcement agencies in other States in which I will include New York. This is a debatable issue, obviously. I know some of my New York friends will take exception to it. But this is my conviction.

Mr. GROSSMAN. Thank you.

Mr. SIRAGUSA. I have possibly overemphasized the violent aspect of the juice racket because I hope that if these hearings are given proper nationwide publicity, that the public will become shocked immediately, and not wait until the juice racket takes hold in a community, and not wait until the first sign of violence to become convinced that it is a vicious racket. So I am guilty of emphasizing the violent aspects of it, which I think are the most atrocious characteristics of this racket.

In addition to collaterals—rather in addition to these assessments, these arbitrary assessments, which must be paid if the juice customer is late in making his payments, we do have a little gimmick in Chicago, and I do not know whether this applies to New York—and I think perhaps this is where the degree of sophistication takes place.