

"* * * the preservation and expansion of competition within free enterprise is basic not only to the economic well-being but to the security of this nation * * *"
Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Before you leave—we are going to have Mr. Buccieri come before the committee this morning. Can you summarize very briefly what is his record as it relates to loan sharking, rather than have us put it in the record.

Mr. SIRAGUSA. Our investigation indicates that Fiore "Fifi" Buccieri, and his brother Frank, form a separate juice racketeering faction. He is now considered—Fiore is the more important of the two—he is now considered to be probably the No. 1 juice racketeer in the Chicago area. He has also been involved in legitimate business.

"Fifi" Buccieri at one time had a factoring corporation. The corporation is used, we are convinced, to cloak his activities, because under existing Illinois law, under existing criminal usury law, business loans are permitted. Therefore you could get a loan from him in his capacity as an executive of the various factoring corporations, and still remain beyond the law.

"Fifi" Buccieri also has a rather important outfit working under his direction. He, at one time, ran the Vic Damone Pizza Co.—this is Vic Damone, the singer. This pizza company, the factoring company, were all located in one building in Chicago. Some time ago, when the first revelation was discovered by the Chicago Police Department concerning the Vic Damone Pizza Co., Mr. Vic Damone was questioned by the press obviously, and he said that he had met a fellow named Joseph Grieco, and through him he happened to meet "Fifi" Buccieri, but really did not know who Mr. Buccieri was. He did admit—Mr. Damone—to loaning his name to this company—mostly as an endorsement. He did not know the reputation of these business associates, he claimed.

Yet about a year ago there was a big party given at the Edgewater Beach Hotel in Chicago, which has a reputation of having been one of the most elegant hotels in Chicago. And this party was given by a Santa Fe saddle and gun club. This is a club which exists on a farm and on land which is owned by Buccieri and his associates. They gave a party at the Edgewater Beach Hotel. Just about every mobster in Chicago was there. And they even had what I thought to be a colossal gall in selling lottery tickets which were distributed before this ball to win a big prize. On top of that, Vic Damone was the star attraction of the evening—he sang. And he stated publicly that he was playing in New York City, a nightclub date. Before he signed that contract, he had asked his employer, or rather told his employer, that he would have to be excused on a certain date in order to go sing at the Edgewater Beach Hotel in Chicago for his very dear friend, "Fifi" Buccieri—which to me was rather a strange statement to make, since he had previously said less than a year before that that he hardly knew Mr. Buccieri.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much. Your testimony has been most helpful, Mr. Siragusa.

At this time I would like to ask the witness, Mr. Buccieri, if he would take a seat in the witness stand.

Mr. Buccieri, I understand from our counsel that you do not propose to testify before this committee. That being the case, I am