

Mr. BUCCIERI. Same answer.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you expect, Mr. Buccieri, or would you be willing to—not insofar as you are concerned, but tell us how this particular business works, the loan shark business, how you get your customers?

Mr. BUCCIERI. Same answer.

The CHAIRMAN. Can I gather from your statements that you do not expect to tell us anything at this committee hearing?

Mr. BUCCIERI. Same answer.

The CHAIRMAN. What crime is it that you envision that you would be prosecuted for if you answered?

Mr. BUCCIERI. Same answer.

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

Mr. POVICH. That is correct, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. You are in fact claiming that any answer you might give would lead to possible conviction of a crime; is that correct?

Mr. POVICH. The witness is relying on his fifth amendment rights against self-incrimination.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you care to state for what crime you believe your answers might tend to incriminate you?

Mr. BUCCIERI. Same answer.

The CHAIRMAN. Is it violation of the usury laws of Illinois or New York?

Mr. BUCCIERI. Same answer.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you know what the usury law is in Illinois?

Mr. BUCCIERI. Same answer.

The CHAIRMAN. I want to make this point. The testimony we have heard this morning has impugned your reputation as a citizen, it has alleged you engaged in the loan shark racket. Now, you have the opportunity to answer those charges and to clear them up if you care to do so. You have, of course, remained silent and pled your rights under the fifth amendment. However, the committee can only conclude that you choose to acquiesce in the statements that have been made about you and your activities, and that therefore those statements that have been made about you must be substantially correct. Would you agree with that statement?

Mr. BUCCIERI. Same answer.

The CHAIRMAN. All right. I do not see any purpose in going on further with this. You are excused.

Mr. POVICH. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Our next witness is Mr. Robert J. Walker, chief investigator of the Illinois Crime Investigation Commission.

Mr. Walker, we are very happy to have you. You may proceed as you like.

We do have a time problem. The safe streets and crime bill is on the floor of the Senate today. Of course, it is of great concern to you, and it is of great concern to the Senators. We will be voting thus. I need to be there as quickly as I can. If you will make your testimony brief and to the point, that will be appreciated.