

In my 12 years of law-enforcement experience this was probably the roughest and toughest high echelon mob faction I encountered. A 24-hour guard is still maintained on all three of the Chiagouris brothers, and for good reason.

The court prosecution was handled by Assistant State's Attorneys Patrick A. Tuite, who is now chief of the criminal division, and George P. Lynch who since left the State's attorney's office to engage in a private law practice. These two young men did a masterful job unfolding an intricate web of diabolical criminal usury and in besting four middle-aged, highly competent, and experienced defense counsels.

I would also like to acknowledge the excellent cooperation we received from Mr. John Stamos, who succeeded Judge War as Cook County State's attorney, and his first assistant, Mr. Louis Garippo. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. All right. Thank you very much. That is an interesting, if not an inspiring story, insofar as the inspiration comes from the fine work which the police department did.

Let me ask you this simple, naive question.

How come these fellows are supposed to be so tough—how come they beat up everybody? Are they big, husky guys?

Mr. WALKER. No. As a matter of fact, Messino is not a big guy. He is not too tall. However, their reputations, Senator, precede them. Nobody wants to take the chance of fighting back.

The CHAIRMAN. In other words, they are obviously bullies. For example, if they saw you, I doubt they would pop you on the nose. Do you think they would?

Mr. WALKER. I would hope for their sake they would not.

The CHAIRMAN. I would hope so, too.

All right. I congratulate you on the work that you have done.

Mr. WALKER. Thank you, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. I am proud of it. Thank you.

Now we have scheduled as our next witness Mary Smith, which is, of course, a fictitious name. She has asked, and I would ask too, that she not be photographed. She believes that it would endanger her family. And so if you do not mind, Mr. Cameraman, let us treat her as she wants to be treated.

Do you want Mr. Walker or somebody to sit with you, Mrs. Smith?

STATEMENT OF MARY SMITH (VICTIM OF CHICAGO LOAN SHARK OPERATIONS)

Mrs. SMITH. No, sir, I do not think that will be necessary.

The CHAIRMAN. All right.

Now, they would like to take a picture from the back of you. Would that be all right? I do not feel that would in any way compromise you.

Mrs. SMITH. No, sir; it would not.

The CHAIRMAN. Mrs. Smith, do you have something that you would like to say before we ask you questions, or would you prefer that we ask questions?

Mrs. SMITH. There is a lot I have to say, Senator.

The CHAIRMAN. Why don't you tell us, then. It might be best if you would tell us about how your husband got involved, as you know it.