

Mrs. SMITH. Senator, that is rather long and drawn out, and it is rather difficult to make it very brief, without bringing it to a full understanding.

You see, the loan shark business is something that people should not laugh off. And there is a great many people in this world that are laughing it off. These people are vicious, they are not even animals, because animals kill to survive. These people are lower than animals. They kill for the pleasure of it. They kill just to maim and be cruel and brutal. There is no sense to these people. And why? In God's name, I do not know why these people are not put out of business, because they have no right to live on this earth.

The CHAIRMAN. Why don't you tell us how, as far as you know, your husband got involved with them.

Mrs. SMITH. Well, Senator, it goes back to my late husband, now deceased, who was a very ill man over the years. Due to his illnesses, and the falling behind in our debts, my husband was unable to acquire a loan. Because of this, he had heard that he would be able to obtain a loan.

The CHAIRMAN. What business was your husband in?

Mrs. SMITH. My husband worked for the Chicago Sun Times newspaper.

The CHAIRMAN. He needed a loan. And he heard he could borrow from these people?

Mrs. SMITH. Yes, sir; he did.

Upon being able to borrow it, he was told he would have to give so much back. Well, Senator, if you never had your back against the wall this sounds pretty easy. And the first couple of payments were not bad. But later, as my husband went ill again, and returned to the hospital, it was not so easy. And I had yet not known of this. We began getting calls. At first they would not tell me who they were.

The CHAIRMAN. Let me interrupt you there. Do you recall how much money he borrowed from them?

Mrs. SMITH. Yes, Senator. It was between \$200 and \$300 that was borrowed.

The CHAIRMAN. \$200 and \$300. Did he ever borrow more than that, or were there several transactions in which he borrowed?

Mrs. SMITH. Senator, if he had borrowed more than that, my husband never told me. To my knowledge that was the amount that was borrowed.

The CHAIRMAN. All right. So after he borrowed it, he began to get the telephone calls. You go ahead from there.

Mrs. SMITH. Well, at first they would just ask for my husband. When I said he was not home, who is calling, I will have him call you back, they said "Never mind, just tell him you received a call and he is behind."

The CHAIRMAN. And what?

Mrs. SMITH. That is all there was to it.

The CHAIRMAN. That he received a call and what?

Mrs. SMITH. I was to tell him he was behind, and he would understand. Well, it was one call after another like this. Finally my husband had gone into the hospital, whereupon he told me that I would have to make a payment to this place—and I asked him why. He said: "Because if you don't things are going to be very involved. A lot of