

harm will come to you and the children." Well, I took the payment over to what was called the Vic Damone Pizzeria, in Chicago, oh, I believe it is, Larabee Street—yes, I believe it is Larabee. I could be wrong. And I made the payment.

Well, I made about two payments there in person. Upon my second payment to these people, I was offered to become a prostitute to keep up with these payments.

The CHAIRMAN. Who suggested that you become a prostitute?

Mrs. SMITH. Joseph Grieco offered this to me. And I told him, I said, "No, so long as I have two hands, and I can work, I will scrub floors, but I will never do that for a living." Well, I had left, and I could not come up with the money on the next payment. I received a phone call at the place where I was employed, and they told me that if I wanted to see my son, I had better come up with a payment.

The CHAIRMAN. What did they say about your son?

Mrs. SMITH. They told me if I wanted to see my son again, I had better come up with a payment then or else. Well, I did not know what to say. My son was in kindergarten. It was 3:30. The boy wasn't home. School was only two blocks from home. Well, I waited; 4 o'clock, and the boy did not show up. In the meantime I had talked to my boss, I explained as little as I could without going into detail why I needed the money. I had borrowed from my boss the amount of \$40, which I immediately took over to the Pizzeria place, and I gave it to Grieco. When I got there, I asked where my boy was. He said, "Have you got the payment?" I said, "Yes, I have. Now, where is my boy?" He says, "Don't worry, your kid will be there when you get home." When I got home my son was there. I asked my son. And he didn't make it out that he was picked up, but he did say two men had stopped him and talked to him.

The CHAIRMAN. Two men what?

Mrs. SMITH. Two men had stopped him and talked to him.

There was another occasion when they had beaten my husband so severely it put my husband in a hospital. They broke his nose, he had a severe cut over the left eye which required 12 stitches. His mouth, his whole face was almost completely beyond recognition.

I do not know exactly how I can make it clear to everyone in this room present, what these people are, or the fear. But, Senator, if ever a woman had any hatred in her heart, I have. And I want to see these people put where they belong. I do not know what more I can say. Maybe there are some questions you would like to ask.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, I do not think you need to say any more, actually. You, of course, have been cooperating with the authorities.

When did you decide to go to talk with the authorities about this?

Mrs. SMITH. Well, the first time I discussed anything with the authorities was shortly after the one fellow, which was my late husband's coworker, was severely beaten and later died in the hospital, from the loan sharks. And my husband became quite alarmed, quite frightened, for all our sakes, and he decided to tell the police.

The CHAIRMAN. Was this fellow who was beaten also a victim of the loan sharks?

Mrs. SMITH. Yes, sir, he was.

The CHAIRMAN. All right. So then your husband talked it over with you, and you decided you would then go to see the police?