

Mrs. SMITH. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. And what did the police have you do at that time?

Mrs. SMITH. Well, they asked a great deal of questions upon which I could give any answers I gave. And, of course, my husband told me not to worry, that he was doing this for our sakes, to protect us, and I went along with this.

The CHAIRMAN. Now, what finally happened to your husband?

Mrs. SMITH. My husband finally shot himself.

The CHAIRMAN. Is it your believe that his suicide was a result of the threat of these gangsters, these loan sharks, to him and his family?

Mrs. SMITH. Senator, I think everything led up to the final day of his death. I think being subject as the man was subject to epileptic convulsions due to the severe beatings, the threats, the fear, yes, sir. They all drove him to it.

The CHAIRMAN. All right. I think that is all we want to ask you.

Do you have something you would like to add?

Mrs. SMITH. Only that I wish to God somebody would get going and put these people away.

The CHAIRMAN. Let me ask you one question.

How much was the loan, and how much did your husband and you finally pay? How much was the original loan, so far as you could ascertain?

Mrs. SMITH. The original amount that I knew of was between \$200 to \$300. We paid back over the year \$1,000.

The CHAIRMAN. All right.

Thank you very much, Mary Smith, for your testimony. I commend you on your bravery and your courage in going to the police.

Mrs. SMITH. Senator, I have one other thing. May I?

The CHAIRMAN. Surely.

Mrs. SMITH. I am not a very brave person. I am not going to sit here and say I am not scared or nervous, because I am. But someone once told me if they could get six of the worst hoodlums in any of the syndicate operations, and line them against the wall, and place me with a gun, these people wouldn't be so brave. I only wish that people would realize these people are only brave and strong so long as they can let them be forced upon people who have no way of defending themselves. If these people would once learn by coming forward, they can help stop it and put an end to it, I think maybe more people will come forward.

The CHAIRMAN. That is as good a note as I could end on.

All right, Mary Smith. Thank you very much for your very moving and telling testimony.

Now, would everybody just stay seated until Mary Smith has left the room, so we can help her and her family to conceal their identity, so that they will not have to live in fear.

The committee will stand in recess subject to call of the Chair.

(Whereupon, at 12:25 p.m., the committee was adjourned, to reconvene subject to the call of the Chair.)