

Organized crime has a market

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the third in a series of 15 articles exploring "Crime and Justice in America." The articles are the text for an Oakland University course taught by Prof. Jesse Pitts in the Birmingham Center for Continuing Education.

By FRANCIS A.J. IANNI

Fear of having one's home burglarized, or of being mugged or held at gunpoint for one's wallet, has left few persons indifferent to the "crime problem" in America.

But how many of us who waited in line to see "Godfather Part II" lost any sleep that night worrying about organized criminal activity in American cities?

Organized crime has become such an integral part of the politics and economics of urban life that most Americans do not consider it a personal problem.

Although a number of illegal activities are defined by law enforcement officials as products of organized crime—drug peddling, gambling, prostitution, extortion, and loan sharking—large segments of the public regard some of these crimes as minor "vices" that hurt no one except perhaps the tax collector.

Over the years, organized crime—viewed by many as the special domain of Italian immigrants—has thrived on public demands for its services and on widespread corruption. It has virtually become an "American way of life."

AS EARLY AS the last decade of the 19th century, when it reputed "Mafiosi" accused of assassinating the city's police chief were lynched by a New Orleans mob, it was alleged that Italians brought organized crime with them to America.

Eight years after the New Orleans lynchings, a Harris Poll indicated that a majority of Americans—a decisive 78 to 17 per cent of the sample—believed "there is a secret organiza-



Francis A.J. Ianni is trained in psychology, sociology and anthropology. He is author of "A Family Business: Kinship and Social Control in Organized Crime," "Black Mafia: Ethnic Succession in Organized Crime" and "The Crime Society." He holds a joint appointment as professor and director of the Horace Mann Lincoln Institute and Columbia University and consultant in medical psychology at St. Luke's Hospital psychiatric center in New York City.

tion engaged in organized crime in this country which is called the Mafia."

A number of governmental investigatory bodies have held similar views. In 1961 Sen. Estes Kefauver's senate crime committee concluded "there is a nationwide crime syndicate known as the Mafia (whose) leaders are usually found in control of the most lucrative rackets in their cities."

President Lyndon Johnson's 1965 Task Force on Organized Crime similarly concluded, "There is a nationwide alliance of at least 24 tightly knit Mafia 'families' which control organized crime in the United States," whose members "are Italians and Sicilians or of Italian or Sicilian descent."

According to the task force, these "families," linked by agreements and obeying a nine-member commission, control most of the illegal gambling and loan sharking operations in the United States, as well as narcotics importation.

The task force also found that the Mafia had infiltrated legitimate businesses and labor unions and had made liaisons that gave them power over officials at all levels of government.

A SMALL BUT growing number of law enforcement officials, journalists and social scientists who have been studying organized crime interpret these same facts quite differently. They see organized crime as an integral part of the American social and economic system, involving 11

the lawless bands of the James Brothers, the Youngers and the Daltons terrorized the western frontier.

Then in the late 19th century, the "robber barons"—the Eastern industrial giants—transformed that frontier into financial empires.

It was not, however, until the 20th century that the growth of the modern city that organized crime, as we know it today, developed.

THE ORGANIZED crime that now thrives in American cities is rooted in the social and economic history of urban life.

Urban history documents how the growth of the American city resulted in complex but demonstrable relationships among minorities, politicians and organized crime. It is this network of relationships that reveals organized

(Continued on page 13A)

SNOWMOBILE CLOTHING AT DISCOUNT PRICES

Midwest and Raven snowmobile clothing for the whole family at discount prices. Complete range of sizes starting from child's 3 to adults 4X. We also have long for you tall folks.

SNOWMOBILE PARTS

WE HAVE A LARGE LINE OF SNOWMOBILE REPLACEMENT PARTS FOR CURRENT AND OLD MODEL MACHINES AT DISCOUNT PRICES.

Raven Junior One-Piece Suit

Reg. \$64 NOW **\$32**

RECREATIONAL LEISURE CORP.

30717 WEST 10 MILE ROAD
FARMINGTON HILLS 477-0212
HOURS: MON. 9-8 WEEKDAYS 9-6 SAT. 9-4

Announcement

We are pleased to announce the addition of

Mary Hunter

accomplished, expert interior remodeler to our design staff.

(formerly of Charlotte Clark Kitchens)

Kitchens by Lenore

For all your custom kitchen remodeling and case work needs 358-0840
29455 Northwestern Hwy. Southfield, MI 48034

JANUARY Sale

Enjoy heating comfort plus maximum efficiency with a LENNOX CONSERVATOR gas furnace. Electronic ignition, heat-saver flue damper and DURACURVE™ heat exchanger give you more change, more heat for your money.

Get a free estimate from the energy savers at:

KAST HEATING and COOLING

580 S. Telegraph at Orchard Lake Rd. in Pontiac
Other offices in Royal Oak
Call 642-7150 338-9255 LI2-3856

Extra saving on many fine Lennox products NOW during Kast's Warehouse Clearance.

GET MORE FROM KAST IN '78!

THE BOARDROOM

For the most interesting ways to keep up appearances.

Somerset Mall • Fairlane Towne Center
(inside Hughes & Hatcher)

If You Know Where to Shop Good Taste Costs No More

somerset mall

Big Beaver Road at Coolidge, Troy
Open Mon., Thurs., Fri., 10-9
Other days 10-5
Closed Sundays & Holidays

15% OFF SALE

ALL LAMPS & LIGHTING FIXTURES
SALE ENDS JAN. 31st

LAMPCRAFT, INC.
4312 N. WOODWARD
ROYAL OAK, BETWEEN 13 & 14 Mile
549-1399

JEWELRY

The owner is in the store

Nobody cares more about the customers of a store than the owner of a store. Ours is right here to help you choose the precious gem that is forever. It's too personal, too important a moment to trust to long-distance management, we say. You agree? Stop by and see Mr. Ohrenstein. Or call and make an appointment. Either way, Mr. Ohrenstein whose lifework is the study of diamonds and colored stones — is at your service. It makes a difference. Remember, nobody cares more.

George Ohrenstein Jewelers Ltd.
Genuine Jewellers Diamonds Free Our Stones
Practicing Fine Arts
11 Mile & Lahar 353-2146

international interiors

STOREWIDE WINTER SALE

10% TO 40% OFF ALL STOCK

UP TO 15% OFF ON SELECTED SPECIAL ORDERS

An outstanding value at \$599.00, 104" wide, 71" high, 16 1/2" deep. Available in Rosewood \$899.00.

True Danish quality is exhibited in this bedroom suite. Available in a wide selection of pieces it is crafted in both Teak and Walnut.

Quality upholstery is available from carefully selected manufacturers. Prompt delivery available on a variety of groups displayed on our floor.

Perhaps our most unique dining group is highlighted by handcrafted tile set into each top and extension. Available in 4 woods and five different tile patterns. 61" long x 38" wide, extends to 96". Buffet and chairs to match.

house of denmark
893 SOUTH ROCHESTER ROAD • ROCHESTER, MICH.
TUE., WED., SAT. 10:00-5:30 THUR., FRI. 10:00-9:00
SUN. 12:00-5:00 CLOSED MONDAY (313) 651-9430
INTERIOR DESIGN SERVICE AVAILABLE (1 1/2 miles North of M-59)