

2 Pack 11-12-77

HOODS

A Guide to Knowing . . .

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Newsday

• **Who Is The Enemy?**

The Justice Department is distributing a pocket-sized paperback handbook designed to tell the nation's policemen all they wanted to know about organized crime but were afraid to ask.

The Booklet, a 49-page effort entitled "Police Guide on Organized Crime," is published by a prestige house: The Technical Assistance Division of the Office of Criminal Justice Assistance of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration of the U.S. Department of Justice.

"The purpose of the thing is technical assistance to

help the policeman on the beat recognize organized crime activities and tell him what he can do about them," according to a Justice Department spokesman, Dean St. Dennis. "Hopefully, it will be distributed to most of the policemen in the country. You stick it in your hip pocket and walk the beat."

Fifteen thousand copies of the handbook were printed and distributed last November and December, St. Dennis said. To date, the department has received 230,000 new orders and has begun a second printing of 300,000 copies.

Here are highlights of the information and instruction

that the Justice Department is passing out to America's lawmen:

• **How do street crime and organized crime differ?**

As a practical matter, when a mugger, purse-snatcher or car thief is arrested and convicted, the number of future assaults and thefts will be fewer than would otherwise be the case. If a member of an organized crime group were arrested for running operations involving policy, loan sharking or labor racketeering, he would merely be replaced and the illegal activity would continue as if nothing had happened.

• **Where in the United**

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... The Rackets

CRIME, From L30

groups limit their role to the importation and initial distribution of heroin. The drug passes through several levels of distribution and dilution before it reaches the pusher (dealer) and then the addict.

The prostitution racket is also the domain of organized crime in many areas, and just as the narcotics involvement of organized crime leads to street crime by the addict to finance his habit so does the underworld's prostitution operation result in extortion of clients.

• How serious are the hijacking and fencing activities of the organized underworld?

In many cities, these activities are considered very difficult problems. The trend toward larger trucks and containerization has probably whetted organized crime's hijacking appetite—indeed, the organization and resources of organized crime groups enable the leaders of such groups to mastermind hijackings.

• How is organized crime active in labor racketeering?

According to many authorities unions rank as organized crime's prime target in the future—not that they have been especially neglected in the past. A major lure is the \$100 billion plus in union welfare and pension

funds, growing monthly at the rate of \$1 billion.

• If gambling and other operations of the underworld are so successful, why do members of organized crime become involved in legitimate business — or is this involvement exaggerated?

Rather than exaggerated, organized crime's involvement in legitimate business is usually underestimated. The results of one investigation indicated that of 113 major organized crime figures, 98 were involved in 159 businesses.

• What is a scam?

A scam is a form of bankruptcy fraud occasionally committed by organized-crime groups. A businessman heavily in debt to a loanshark, for example, may be forced to take on the shark as a partner or even turn over the business to him. Thereafter, the racketeer gradually begins to order increasing quantities of merchandise on credit, often including goods not related to the usual line of the business.

• Why is it essential to report what you observe?

Your information alone may not make a case, but combined with that from other patrolmen it could supply a missing link . . . Report everything you feel relates to organized crime. When in doubt: REPORT IT!

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when appropriate, investigator. You are a supplier of information. Factual information is the raw material of prosecutors.

• What are the activities of organized crime groups? In financial terms, what is the most serious activity engaged in by organized crime?

Gambling activity is the most serious form of organized crime. This activity supplies the financial grease that lubricates the machinery of other operations, such as importation of narcotics, penetration of legitimate business, corruption of officials and so on.

A raid on 12 gambling locations in a major city turned up records indicating an annual \$285 million gross. Taking into consideration that the 12 locations represent only one third of the city's known gambling spots, officials estimated a yearly gambling take of close to \$1 billion.

• Is the street bookie a member of organized crime?

The street bookie should be considered a vital part of the total picture of organized crime.

• What is this "gambling hierarchy"?

On the bottom rung is the street bookie, handbook, street agent, commissionman or runner. Regardless of what he is called, his function is to serve as a contact with the betting public. This contact may be in person, by phone or both. He may remain at a fixed location or call on his customers. Working on salary or for a

percentage of customer losses, he funnels bets to his employers. In addition to employing commissionmen, bookmakers may solicit bets personally. They often operate behind the cover of a "legitimate business," such as a cigar store, candy shop or restaurant.

Frequently, the bookmaker faces the situation where, if a certain team or horse should win, he would sustain a heavy loss. In such cases, he places "lay-off" bets with a lay-off man, usually another bookmaker who undertakes such risks. This position is often held by an underworld leader.

Loan-sharking provides organized crime with its second-largest source of income. Some loan-sharks can provide loans amounting to \$1 million. Often an underworld boss distributes large sums — \$100,000, for example — to his underlings, who pay the boss 1 per cent interest ("juice" or "vigorous") weekly for the funds. The underlings in turn parcel out this money to lower-level personnel, who are charged 1½ to 2½ per cent interest. These lower-level personnel (loan-sharks) charge the borrowing public 5 to 10 per cent weekly. Many borrowers are unable to keep up with the interest payments. The body of a borrower is the loan-sharks ultimate "collateral" and beatings often occur if payments are not met.

• To what extent is organized crime involved in narcotics and prostitution?

Generally, organized crime

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States does organized crime operate?

The tentacles of organized crime stretch from coast to coast, although metropolitan areas are favored targets. Even rural areas have not escaped the attention of organized crime. It will operate wherever the profits appear attractive.

• How much income does organized crime gross annually?

The exact figure, of course, is impossible to pinpoint. But all reliable estimates indicate that organized crime's annual gross income is well into the multi-billion-dollar range.

• Is one ethnic group responsible for organized crime?

No. Members of organized crime belong to many different ethnic groups; organized crime encompasses more than those in any one group or section of a community. This is so even though the various terms used to describe organized crime sometimes

convey the impression of control by one ethnic group.

• Aren't members of the organized underworld basically just a bunch of eccentric, colorful and harmless hoods?

No. Actually, some member of organized crime groups are capable of the most vicious acts conceivable. A police officer is regarded with disdain, despite the "friendly" attitude an underworld member may display toward him.

Organized crime is con-

siderably more than a semi-humorous bunch of bumbling hoods. It's a force that if permitted to thrive will erode this nation's educational, cultural, political, moral, economic and legal systems.

• How does organized crime relate to the police officer's job?

In brief, what is my role in relation to organized crime?

Primarily, your role is one of an observer and,
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