

New York—next banana republic?

The announcement by New York Governor Hugh Carey that he will convene a special session of the state legislature on Sept. 7 to vote up a constitutional amendment permitting gambling in New York signals a new phase in the operation to take over U.S. cities by the entity this review first labeled "Dope, Inc." nearly ten months ago.

New York is now slated to be the showcase for a national urban policy made-in-Britain, a policy that carries "free enterprise" to its ultimate conclusion. Mayor Edward Koch and Gov. Carey have already overseen New York's escalating loss of industrial jobs and the dismantling of such necessary services as schools, hospitals and transport. The transformation of the city into a Sodom and Gomorrah capital for drugs, prostitution and other "entertainments," will under the Koch-Carey plan, be supervised directly by the merchants of death themselves—organized crime.

The plans are already very far advanced. The legislative session is expected to be followed by a pro-gambling referendum in next November's elections. Similar referenda are either already rammed through (as in New Jersey) or proposed in several other states.

Ladbroke's, the largest British gambling house and a key cog in the international drug trafficking, real estate speculation machine, has bought a large tract of land in Westchester County north of Manhattan in anticipation of soaring land values there. Four nursing home for the elderly, situated in the choice seaside areas of Long Beach, Far Rockaway and Coney Island, have been targeted to become the proposed casinos.

A typically British cover of gentility has been devised for this squalid deal. Richard Armao, until a few

days ago the public relations representative for a casino gambling coalition, confided: "It's going to be gambling London-style, in private houses. Ladbroke's is key—we're working with the state legislature to keep organized crime out. We don't want a 42nd Street operation."

Nonetheless, according to indications from Mr. Vincent Reede, director of research for the Casino Gambling Panel, one of the three corporations that will dominate the New York casino scene is the Meyer Lansky-linked Resorts International. Resorts was documented in the popular book *Dope, Inc.: Britain's Opium War Against the United States* as an offshoot of the notorious Perminindex organization that killed JFK and was implicated in the attempted murder of Charles de Gaulle. Under such direction, Mr. Reede predicted, "New York will become a free port" and gambling cruise ships "will be pouring into New York—just like the West Indies."

Perhaps the most dismal note is sounded by the fact that the large commercial banks are rushing to cash in on the expected "action." A consortium of three banks led by

Morgan Guaranty admits having loaned tens of millions of dollars to Dell Webb Construction Co. for building casinos in Las Vegas.

But "Dope, Inc." should not think that British economic policies will wash so easily with other segments of the U.S. population. On Aug. 8, a legalized-gambling bid was set back in the nation's capital when the Washington Board of Elections invalidated over 50 percent of the signatures on petitions being circulated by backers of a referendum to legalize gambling. According to reports, petitions were being collected by children under voting age and a larger percentage of the signatures was fraudulent. Key to the defeat was the work of a group of black Baptist ministers who have been working with other forces toward the formation of a National Anti-Drug Coalition.

As the New York case shows, what is at stake in the fight to destroy the international drug mafia is not merely the drug issue in itself. The very future of American cities as centers of industrial progress and advanced education is on the line.

—Nora Hamerman

The Week in Brief

Italy has a government—but it doesn't bode well for the country's antiterrorism battle. The surprise appointment of former Interior Minister Francesco Cossiga as Premier last week, after incumbent Giulio Andreotti and two other candidates failed, is viewed as a victory for the U.S. Ambassador to Italy Richard Gardner, who had openly opposed Andreotti's collaboration with the Communist Party in

locking up the masterminds of Italian terrorism.

Cossiga, a Christian Democrat, headed the Interior Ministry during the 1977 terrorist buildup that culminated last year in the 54-day kidnap of statesman Aldo Moro. He resigned one day after Moro's body was found, amid widespread rumors that the Red Brigades had spies and collaborators in his ministry.