

Now, if I am not mistaken, the minimum sentence and minimum penalty in Virginia is 8 years. I do not think that they get less than 8 years for an armed robbery.

And I think it is just like that in Maryland, but I would like to put that into the record.

The CHAIRMAN. I think that we should have inserted in the record this information and this, I am sure, the staff people could do.

We should have inserted in the record a tabulation, which must be easily obtainable, of the minimum sentences in those States where they have minimum sentences, and the maximum sentences for all of the States.

I think it would be very helpful to run this out by way of comparing it with other jurisdictions.

Chief MURRAY. Yes, sir; I think it would.

The CHAIRMAN. The staff will do that. We will have them procure that information for us.

Chief MURRAY. All right.

(The documents referred to may be seen on p. 711.)

Chief MURRAY. I will state to this committee that I do believe that punishment of the criminal does deter crime, and I do think that crime prevention might be well served by an urging of the courts to impose greater penalties, under existing law, on criminal offenders, but I will leave it for the Congress to decide whether or not minimum sentences prescribed by law are the best method of obtaining adequate punishment.

The CHAIRMAN. I take it you do not take a position then on whether we should or should not have mandatory sentences?

Chief MURRAY. Yes, sir. I would rather leave that to the courts, to the district attorney, and the Congress.

The CHAIRMAN. When you wear a different hat and serve on the Law Enforcement Council, do you vote for or against the mandatory minimum sentence or—

Chief MURRAY. I was not present at that meeting, Mr. Chairman, and some of the other things that they voted for I take an exception to and I vote against, some of the other things that are coming up.

The CHAIRMAN. I understand. The mandatory minimum sentence, you take no position?

Chief MURRAY. No, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. You think that is a matter primarily for the prosecuting attorney and the courts?

Chief MURRAY. Yes, sir.

I feel, Mr. Chairman, that the Police Department's job is to arrest offenders and send them to court and hope that justice will be done.

The CHAIRMAN. If we were to write a mandatory minimum sentence into the statutes of the District of Columbia, do you believe that would cut down the crime rate here in the District?

Chief MURRAY. It might—

The CHAIRMAN. Would that deter the criminal?

Chief MURRAY. Yes; I think it might be a deterrent.

The CHAIRMAN. It might be a deterrent?

And I certainly agree that the punishment of a criminal does deter crime. I think that is certainly true.

I asked either Mr. Clemmer or Mr. Acheson—I have forgotten which one it was—as to their thinking on this point, of knowing that