

The CHAIRMAN. The law would not need to be changed in that regard to meet your point then.

Chief MURRAY. No, it would not.

The CHAIRMAN. In other words, the judge today, if a man is convicted of two crimes, could impose consecutive sentences?

Chief MURRAY. He can do that if he wants to now.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes, but we cannot help you then in that regard?

Chief MURRAY. No, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. That is a matter for the judges.

Chief MURRAY. That is a matter for the judge.

It is not a matter for the U.S. attorney or for the Police Department.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes. I was not quite clear on that paragraph.

Thank you, Chief.

Chief MURRAY. Section 508 of title V codifies the provisions of the Police Regulations of the District of Columbia relating to the making of false or fictitious reports to the Police Department.

This police regulation provision has been very useful to us in our investigation of crimes and other matters within the purview of our responsibility.

I am informed that the penalties provided for this offense by section 508 will generate some problems for prosecution of these charges by permitting demands for trial by jury.

It is fitting that testimony on this potential problem come from the prosecutor rather than the police; therefore, I will confine my remarks to a comment that any dilution of the effectiveness of the existing regulation would certainly be harmful to law enforcement.

I think Mr. Acheson testified that jury trials would be harmful.

DAMAGE TO PROPERTY, KIDNAPING, AND PROSECUTIONS

As this Department understands it, S. 486 will make certain amendments to the statutes relating to damage or destruction of property, to kidnapping, and to prosecutions of certain offenses within the District of Columbia.

I believe that the changes in the statutes relating to damage of property and to kidnapping are logical and useful, and I would recommend their enactment by the Congress.

Since those provision of this bill relating to changes in prosecuting officials do not relate specifically to the duties of this Department, no comment from me would seem necessary on those subjects.

GENERAL CRIME CONDITIONS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

In February of this year, I made a full report to this committee, in joint hearings with the House Committee on the District of Columbia, on overall crime conditions within this city.

I do not want to take the time of this committee today to reiterate all of the points I covered in February. And, as the committee has scheduled for another date the discussion of *Mallory* and *Mallory*-related sections of H.R. 7527, I will not seek to justify those provisions today.

I would, however, like to inform the committee that the overall crime situation in the District has not become better since February. The trend of offenses has continued consistently upward, and it is note-