

As I said before, the people who are going to be affected are the low-income level people, the people who are somewhat illiterate. I think that it is really a sociological problem that should be given a lot of consideration first.

For instance, there are the job opportunities for these people. A lot of them do not have jobs and cannot get jobs because of either race or because of educational attainment and what-have-you. The jobs are just not made available to him.

"So what am I going to do? I have a family. I want to live, too."

Well, I mean I do not approve of these crimes, but I think we have got to get to the root of this thing.

The CHAIRMAN. A number of people have advanced the same theory, as far as the long-range solution of the problem is concerned, the problems related to unemployment, substandard housing, poor schooling, and some breakdown in the welfare system.

Mr. BENTON. One point, and I do not know whether this has been expressed previously or not, that I want to make is that I think this proposed legislation is going to be applicable purely to the District of Columbia. And I think that some consideration should be given to the fact that the Metropolitan Police Department is going to be involved and I think that some consideration should be given to a re-organization perhaps of that Department itself.

I think that a lot of the trouble, insofar as solving these crimes are concerned, is as a result of the Police Department itself.

For instance, I think that the individual members do not have the interest of the District of Columbia really at heart because the vast majority of them live in other jurisdictions. They are nonresidents.

I think if they, in order to hold those jobs, were required to be residents of the District of Columbia, I think perhaps that would make a big difference in the total effectiveness of the Department itself.

I think that they would have a greater interest, you see, not only because of the fact that they are drawing their money, their means of making a living, from the District but also the fact that they reside here. Their families reside here and their children reside here.

I think it would create a greater personal interest in themselves, I mean, as an individual, and not just go by mere authority or by mere orders.

And, secondly, I think the morale somewhat could be improved because I think there is no question about the fact that the morale is quite low in some areas because some of the members are not afforded an opportunity to advance or they are being held in certain categories. There is no question about that, and it is usually because of their race.

Secondly, they are not permitted to serve in certain positions, for instance, squad cars and scout cars and what-have-you.

They have a tendency to isolate them into certain groups, which is bad for morale.

They have police dogs which so far are not really effective. They only operate in certain areas of the city and again it is those of the low income and illiterate people.

I think that something should be done in that area. I think if that were done that might be some improvement.

Actually, I do not think there is any need for legislation at this time.