

The CHAIRMAN. Well, I certainly appreciate your views, Mr. Benton, and I thank you for returning this morning.

Thank you very much.

Our next witness will be Mrs. Margaret A. Fischer, president of the Mount Pleasant Citizens Association.

**STATEMENT OF MRS. MARGARET A. FISCHER, ON BEHALF OF THE
NORTH WASHINGTON COUNCIL, WASHINGTON, D.C.**

The CHAIRMAN. Mrs. Fischer?

Mrs. FISCHER. Good morning, Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee.

I forgot my reading glasses this morning, so if I am a little hesitant in what I am reading you will know why.

The CHAIRMAN. Surely; you just proceed in your own way, Mrs. Fischer.

Mrs. FISCHER. I would like to say, Senator Bible, that I am here for the North Washington Council. It is true that I am president of the Mount Pleasant Citizens Association.

I am not here as a lawyer. I am simply here before this committee as someone who has been very active in civic matters. I am a member of the board down at the Federation of Citizens Associations.

I am on the police and fire committee, and I am also a member of the legislative committee.

I only give you this background so that you will know that I have been deeply interested in this crime situation here in the District of Columbia.

The CHAIRMAN. Surely.

Mrs. FISCHER. My name is Mrs. Margaret A. Fischer, and I am here as the duly authorized delegate from the North Washington Council which is composed of nine citizens associations that is, Arkansas, Brightwood, Chillum Heights, Columbia Heights, Crestwood, Mount Pleasant, Kalorama, Petworth, Shepherd Park, all located in the Northwest section of Washington, D.C., west of Rock Creek Park.

These associations have served their community and our Capital diligently for many years, in fact, Brightwood Association celebrated its 74th year of service, and my own Mount Pleasant Association has 53 years of service behind it. I mention this that you may know that we are not newcomers to this area and that we have an understanding of the problems which exist and we desire to correct them.

Our actions in the past have consistently pointed up our deep concern because of the rise in crimes and deplored the soft policy shown toward the criminals. We strongly supported the antiloitering law and thereby hoped to get children off the streets and help parents to assume responsibility for their whereabouts.

We also supported Judge Davis' legislation which would have taken juveniles between the ages of 16 and 18 out of the jurisdiction of the juvenile court and would have had them tried as adults in the municipal court. In the past, we have presented our resolutions regarding the seriousness of crime to members of the Senate and House District Committees and the newspapers of our city.

I am here today because we again note with grave alarm the ever increase in crime figures covering all categories, and realize every