

day that our law-abiding citizens no longer enjoy peace and protection day or night on the streets, in their homes, in their churches, and in their place of business.

It is a known fact among people who want to know the truth, that night attendance has decreased in citizen association meetings, church services, and that restaurants (in many areas) do not enjoy the evening patronage that they once had. It has come to my attention that certain dining rooms are closing (after 20 years of service) because the older people are deathly afraid to be out. The fact that the National Geographic lecture at 5 is very popular, that the Lisner afternoon concert programs are being well attended, that church bazaars advertise afternoon hours rather than late evening hours as they once used to do, and that more early evening schedules are being adopted for meetings, classes, et cetera, is surely indicative of the growing fear of being assaulted.

People do not travel alone but usually try to get a ride with someone and by the way, everyone insists that the doors be locked. Does this not point up a danger and a restraint on the free movement of the law-abiding citizen?

We speak of our concern for the well-being of our people. Are we thinking seriously of another category of citizens? The doctors, nurses, ambulance drivers, policemen, firemen, utility service people, and those who serve us in emergencies. These are only a few who serve us at night. What are we doing to protect them? As you know, it is absolutely necessary for them to be out at night in all types of neighborhoods, and I call your attention to page 8 of Report No. 579 of the District of Columbia crime, this report shows that during 1962, the District of Columbia ranked 1st in aggravated assault (assault with a dangerous weapon), 2d in robbery, 4th in murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, 5th in housebreaking, 10th in forcible rape, 10th in auto theft, 11th in larceny. Rather disgraceful, isn't it?

Are we going to permit our streets to become dead because of the absence of law-abiding citizens because they are afraid to go out? Are we going to permit freedom of movement only to the criminals? Are we going to put off punishing the criminals until our tourist trade becomes nonexistent?

Gentlemen, it is high time that something be done about this deplorable condition. We the citizens are not apathetic—many do not have the time to appear here—others are shy and cannot speak before you—we know what the problem is—you are talking only about the known reported crimes.

We are also concerned with the many crimes which are committed every day but which are not known to our police and the news media. You ask why that is? People are afraid because of the consequences (if they testify against the criminal) to their personal safety. Others do not wish to be embarrassed by questioning in a courtroom, the mental anguish is too great. And because of the leniency of many court decisions in favor of the criminal, they feel that the criminal will eventually be let off and so what is the use?

Therefore, the North Washington Council wishes to go on record today as supporting H.R. 7525, known as the omnibus crime bill. We are wholly in accord with the purpose of the bill and are deeply grateful for the time and effort expended by Chairman McMillan, and members of the House District Committee.