

enacted into law that our crime problems in the District of Columbia will continue to multiply manifold rather than commence to diminish.

Mr. Chairman, in conclusion, I would like to speak briefly about a matter not covered directly by H.R. 7525, but bearing a direct and undeniable effect upon the total District crime problem. An attitude and inclination toward lawlessness and disrespect for the property and rights of others is becoming progressively greater among the youth of the District of Columbia.

The number of multiple offenders in the 16- and 17-year-old brackets, both male and female, continues to rise at an unbelievably alarming rate with the result that we are actually raising and breeding a generation of young criminals who are committing heinous adult crimes but continues to be treated as juveniles by our courts.

Age has become, and remains today, the arbitrary line of division for a criminal act. The current practice of treating these incorrigible young criminals, the vast majority of the 16- and 17-year-old multiple offenders, as juveniles should not be condoned by our lawmakers or by society. The demonstrated contempt these youths have for law and order and civilized living is absolutely appalling.

Today, modern justice dictates that rehabilitation and readjustment to society are all important. The law-abiding citizen who maintains a well-balanced adjustment to society is ignored today with the result his rights are constantly abridged to provide repeated readjustment opportunities for the youthful criminal. There must be a limit to the degree of flexibility our society can possess in dealing with juvenile offenders.

In the Nation's Capital, this limit has been passed long ago. The shocking release of four juveniles, recidivists beyond any question, with unbelievable records of criminal activity, serves as a glowing illustration of the need for a stern reappraisal of our current methods of punishment for the so-called juvenile offender.

Mr. Chairman, the citizen of the District of Columbia is entitled to the same protection from his police force as the citizen in 1 of the 50 States. You, and your fellow Members of the Congress, have the power to provide our fine Police Department with the tools to give us this protection. In your deliberations, we ask that you consider us, the law abiding, equally with the criminal, hopefully, to be adjusted to society.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members of the Senate District Committee for this opportunity to set forth the views of the Chevy Chase Citizens Association in support of H.R. 7525.

I have something not in the prepared statement, to say, and this is a comment concerning yesterday's testimony before this committee which I would like to comment on, if I may.

The CHAIRMAN. Certainly, we will be glad to have your comments.

Mr. PATTERSON. Yesterday before this committee a witness stated that he believed that there was a positive correlation between the humane welfare regulations of the city of Buffalo, N.Y., and the low crime rate there.

He also stated that scrupulous police work and the humane approach to the welfare problems spells Buffalo as America's best behaved big city.

A review of the facts and statistics from the Uniform Crime Report of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, released July 19, 1963, do not