

Many of us are extremely pleased and want to take this opportunity to compliment you, Mr. Washington, and your new Director of Public Safety, Mr. Murphy, on the steps you are taking to attack the crime problem. Many of us feel Washington, D.C. is a place where we should create a model-type Police Department that other Police Departments in the United States can learn from and copy, and I hope from these hearings and the later hearings that will be held we will be able to accomplish this.

STATEMENT OF HON. BASIL WHITENER, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, CHAIRMAN OF SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 4.

Mr. WHITENER. May I say I appreciate very much the attitude of the members of the Police and Fire Departments of the District of Columbia. Last year many of them talked to members of this Committee about the pay legislation, and we were a little concerned that we were not able to act upon it at that time. Chairman McMillan and I assured them that early in this session we would proceed with hearings and give expeditious consideration to their situation.

Their attitude has been one of dignity. We have not had marches to the Capitol and picketing and hollering. I, as one member of the committee, appreciate this attitude and I feel it will pay off in the long run. We on this Committee have always had a special place in our affections for members of the Police and Fire Departments, not only in the field of pay but in the field of working conditions and taking some of the shackles off the law enforcement people. We have not always had the fullest cooperation at various levels in some of the efforts we have made. Notwithstanding that, the police, particularly, who have been involved more than the Fire Department in these matters, have been most patient.

We are hoping we have a different attitude now on some of these matters and that the community will give more support to the men in uniform who serve their community night and day.

We are delighted to have with us representatives of the District of Columbia Government, headed by Commissioner Walter E. Washington. The Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Thomas W. Fletcher, is with us; also Mr. Patrick V. Murphy, the Director of Public Safety; our good friend, Deputy Police Chief Wilson; Assistant Fire Chief William C. Weitzel; John Eaton of the Personnel Office; and Mr. Thomas F. Moyer of the Office of the Corporation Counsel.

So, Commissioner Washington, if you would come forward and bring with you as many of these other gentlemen as you would like to have sitting with you here, we shall hear you.