

STATEMENT OF HON. WALTER E. WASHINGTON, COMMISSIONER
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, ACCOMPANIED BY THOMAS
W. FLETCHER, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER; PATRICK V. MURPHY,
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY; JERRY V. WILSON, DEPUTY
CHIEF, METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR CHIEF
JOHN B. LAYTON; WILLIAM C. WEITZEL, ASSISTANT FIRE
CHIEF FOR CHIEF HENRY A. GALOTTA; THOMAS F. MOYER,
ASSISTANT CORPORATION COUNSEL; AND JOHN EATON,
PERSONNEL OFFICER

Mr. WASHINGTON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to say that Chief Layton is attending a meeting of public officials from across the Nation at Airlie House or he would be here this morning; he wanted to come. And Chief Galotta is ill this morning. He has just gotten out of the hospital and was unable to come.

I want to say, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, that I appreciate so much the reception you have given me. This is my first appearance before the committee. I have tried to get around and meet some of you individually and intend to do more of this in line with Chairman McMillan's suggestion that I meet with you both in executive session and otherwise. He is most gracious, and Mr. Nelsen was also most gracious in having me up to meet some of the members of the committee on the Republican side.

I want to say to you and assure you that my attitude is one of trying to do the very best I can for the City of Washington, D.C. I love this city; it has been very good to me and to my family; and I would like to think I can work in this background so that everyone might have an opportunity and be able to live safely in the city and on the streets and that our forces and personnel serving this town can work in dignity and can work in peace. I know that this is a great objective of this committee, and I want you to know that it is my full intention to work as hard as I can to achieve the goals that we talk about in making this a model city, a city where all people can survive and thrive and raise their families in decency and that the streets will be peaceful enough that all can walk on them in dignity. You have my solemn pledge that this is the basis on which I intend to go after my job and do my work.

I certainly concur with the statements that have already been made that our policemen and firemen who are rendering great service to this city should be given every incentive and that we should make every possible means available to them to improve the service and to strengthen the service and strengthen the conditions under which they labor.

I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss the relevant bills which concern proposed salary increases and other benefits for policemen and firemen in the District of Columbia. There is an urgent need for an increase in the salaries of policemen and firemen.

At this time, I ask that there be incorporated in the record of the hearing the letter of October 10, 1967 from the District of Columbia Government, transmitting a report on the first three cited bills including a recommendation that they be amended in their entirety