

the Judiciary. I intended to imply that I would do what is appropriate for me. I realize there is a line beyond which it would not be appropriate for me to act.

Mr. WHITENER. I am not going to give you legal advice but I would hate to have a conference with you down in the lock-up.

Mr. MURPHY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. WHITENER. Mr. Nelsen.

Mr. NELSEN. Dealing with your recruitment problems, several weeks ago the Montgomery County Council moved to permit policemen from other jurisdictions to join the force without a reduction in pay. This is obviously competition for recruitment, is it not?

Mr. MURPHY. Yes, sir.

Mr. NELSEN. Is there anything in your planning for the future that would adopt a similar pattern for the District of Columbia?

Mr. MURPHY. I would like to have the opportunity to review that whole area, Congressman. We do not have specific proposals prepared at this time. I think we should attempt to be competitive. I think we should study the possibility of giving credit for police experience in another jurisdiction to a man who would transfer to the Metropolitan Police Department. Unfortunately, I do not have a specific proposal in mind now but will study it.

Mr. NELSEN. How many vacancies do you now have in the Police Department?

Mr. MURPHY. There are slightly less than 300.

Mr. WILSON. 295.

Mr. FLETCHER. Let us point out, if I may, that we have already signed up 96 who will be coming on board from the military with the biggest number by the first of March and some all the way into the first of July.

Mr. NELSEN. In the Fire Department how many vacancies?

Mr. WEITZEL. Thirty-eight.

Mr. NELSEN. It has come to my attention that in one of the proposals before us, sergeants on the police force would be hurt as far as pay rates are concerned in that they would be getting less than they are getting now if the schedule is changed, and less than the maximum rate for privates. Can anybody clear that up for me?

Mr. EATON. Mr. Chairman, as I understand the problem that is probably going to be discussed later by the Associations, it involves a reduction in the time of service for the privates from 19 years to 16 years. They figured out in some cases that a sergeant who was promoted five years ago, would now be receiving less under the new schedule than he would have received had he remained a private. I think it is around \$15 less. But we must consider also that he has been getting more as a sergeant than he would have received as a private. That is something we would hope to look at in the next go-around on the pay.

Mr. NELSEN. I hope if there is any inequity as to salary that recommendations will be made to correct it.

Mr. DOWDY. If the gentleman would yield, I understand this inequity exists under present law.

Mr. EATON. I imagine there is. Any time you make a change it seems there are some small inequities that occur.

Mr. DOWDY. Thank you.