

an arrest, and much of the time of a patrol officer is spent in preventing crime and maintaining the peace in a manner that does not involve making arrests.

Of course, a police officer is not a social worker and I do not claim that what was reported in the press is an accurate report of my statement, but he does, as a matter of fact—a good police officer—he prevents crime.

Mr. DOWDY. That is the reason we have laws, to prevent crime. We have penal statutes to punish, and that is to prevent crime, and the reason we have officers on the street is to have a show of authority so that people know that it is our intention to enforce the law. That has been my theory all the time. As far as family squabbles are concerned, it is better to get them threshed out because when you get to court there will be nobody to testify anyway.

Mr. MURPHY. Yes, sir. Congressman, a police officer has very broad discretion. Every police officer has great power. That is why it seems to me we have this desperate need for upgrading the police service; not only in this city, but in this entire nation.

Unfortunately, in the past quarter century, the relative position of the police officer in our society has declined.

Mr. DOWDY. Isn't that because he hasn't had the backing of his superiors and the courts have been taking out after him rather than trying to enforce laws against crime?

Mr. MURPHY. Well, Congressman, with all due respect, I think there is a factor there, but I think we have failed to upgrade our police.

I wholeheartedly agree with the National Crime Commission's recommendation that police officers should have higher education.

I think Mr. Hoover has demonstrated this with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. When he took it over many years ago, he determined to upgrade the Federal Bureau of Investigation and he has made it a truly professional law enforcement organization. It is one of the few in the United States. I think the police administrators of this nation are anxious to upgrade their police departments, to provide more education and to provide incentives for education.

Mr. DOWDY. Isn't there something else about the F.B.I.? All the F.B.I. agents know that Hoover is behind them. I sometimes wonder if our policemen know that their superiors are behind them, or even think they are behind them. Isn't there a distinction there?

Mr. MURPHY. Congressman, as I said earlier, I took this position to stand behind every police officer in this city who does his job. That is my pledge to you, that I will do that. I think the Mayor knows that I have said I want to stay in this position only so long as I can do my job in that way. I have accepted this appointment because the Mayor gave me his assurance that he was behind me completely in supporting and providing the leadership for the policemen in this city who needed so much in this important year, and I pledge to you I will give whatever support I can.

Mr. DOWDY. If you get the policemen here in the District of Columbia to believe that you are behind them rather than that you will support the rabble-rousers, or give them some trouble, you will have much better morale in the police department. That is my opinion.

Mr. MURPHY. I assure you my position on law and order is clear. We will provide law and order in this city to the best of our ability and we will make it clear to anyone who thinks otherwise that we are