

I am wondering, in light of that change in the cost of housing, plus the fact that hopefully, if we ever get the Three Sisters Bridge and a few other things straightened out, we will have better communications and transportation facilities within the entire metropolitan area, whether Mr. Murphy or the Commissioner or someone couldn't consider easing this restriction and extending that boundary somewhat. I have heard that several members of the Police Department have wanted to move out further, mainly for economic reasons, so they could have a home with a little more land. They have felt they could live more within their incomes if they could move out a little further. I think there is justification for this.

I have heard that in effect you have had to lower the entrance qualifications for candidates for the Fire Department in recent years. Is that correct?

Mr. WEITZEL. No, sir. We have a proposal to lower the height to five foot seven. That is the only qualification we have recommended lowering.

Mr. BROYHILL. You haven't actually lowered the mental requirements for the Police or Fire Department, although in the latter you have been obliged to accept candidates of marginal qualifications on the mental examination?

Mr. WEITZEL. No, sir.

Mr. WILSON. We have lowered the height requirement, and lowered the sight requirement from a flat 20-20 to a 23-40 corrected. We have been working with the Civil Service Commission to determine whether the mental test that is now given is truly effective in selecting good police officers, but no decision has been made on that at this time.

Mr. BROYHILL. Mr. Chairman, I don't want to belabor this point concerning the problems the police are having in the precincts, but I think the overwhelming majority of our civilized society recognizes that they must support the police. I don't think there is any question that everybody in the District Government fully recognizes that problem. I hope the phrase "support your police" doesn't become just a cliché, with no real meaning.

I am not the expert that you are, Mr. Murphy, but I have heard that it has become something of a vogue nowadays, on the part of some people, to challenge the policeman's authority and to see just how far they can push law enforcement officials.

We have nationally known figures, as you well know, who do not hesitate to appear on nationwide television and make the threat that they will come to Washington and foment mass civil disobedience. Again, this is a challenge to the endurance of law enforcement officials.

I think that somewhere along the line we are going to have to go a little further than just to draw up a phrase, "support your local police".

I noticed some of the people in this audience turned their heads a little when Mr. McMillan said something about the police officers shooting people.

Nobody is advocating that. I am sure Mr. McMillan isn't. But it is a fact that today we have reckless disregard for the constitutional rights of the citizen. The police chief in Miami, Walter Headley, has employed what some people might consider severe tactics, but he has unshackled the arms of his city's police force, and the record shows that crime there has been reduced by fifty per cent as a result. And I