

Mr. WILSON. Mr. Chairman, we find, to begin with, there are very few officers who stay to 64. Most begin retiring about fifty years of age.

Mr. McMILLAN. I have had people come to me trying to get a waiver for one year past the age. Would it add anything to your problem if the age limit were increased to 34 years?

Mr. WILSON. We consider it would add to the problem of retirement. We have difficulty now with most not serving much past 50 years of age.

Mr. McMILLAN. A number of them retire after 20 years' service?

Mr. WILSON. Yes, if they are 50 years of age. And, of course, we did move the age from 29 to 30, and we do not see where we would pick up enough men to pay for the earlier loss of other men by raising the age another year or so. If we could raise it to 40 or 42 to get men who have retired from the military, that might be advantageous, but as it stands now we find most of our men retiring at age 50 or shortly thereafter.

Mr. WHITENER. Mr. Commissioner and gentlemen, we appreciate your being with us and your comments on the many items. We have been talking about community relations. I wonder sometimes about public relations. I mention this since you are now in the leadership of the District Government. I often wonder what would happen if instead of our sending a man to the moon they were sending a man down here and before he got here the only information he had as to where he was coming, to the Nation's Capital, was newspaper stories and stories by public officials about the Nation's Capital. In most places, especially down my way, the average citizen would defend the public schools of his community even if he had a little reservation about it. He would defend his local institutions of higher education; he would defend his Police Department and his city government and all the facets that go to make up his community.

But here, if one had no other information than the statements made by community leaders and sometimes by public officials, one would think Washington had the worst highway system in the world, the worst people in the world, the worst schools in the world, the most run-down school buildings and public buildings, and so on. Nothing you read about Washington is good. I would like to see somebody sometime brag on the Nation's Capital, because I happen to be proud of it. Down my way, as a result of this bad publicity about the City of Washington, D.C., if you talk to a young lady about coming here to work she gets all excited about it, but after she goes home and talks to her parents about it, the next day she comes back and says, "My parents won't let me go there because it is such a horrible place."

I don't think it is so terrible as the press and other media picture it. I don't think Congress is as bad in its relationship to the District of Columbia as folks imply here in the public media. I would hope that somewhere along the line under this new administration—and I want to say to you, Mr. Commissioner, that I think you have done a good job of taking a sound position on the condition of the District of Columbia—I would like to see all of us start talking about positive things.

If we had only one of the thousands of things you have in the District of Columbia in my State, it would be on every map published by the State as a place that you ought to see when you are in North