

Carolina. Yet one would get the impression here that there is nothing in the District but chaos, disorder, neglect by public officials toward your institutions. It shocks me to see this attitude of complete negativism about everything that is done here in the City of Washington. I don't know where you have been, but I guarantee in some of the meetings you have attended there have been some, maybe many, people who have stood up and spoken with this approach: that Congress is so cruel to the District of Columbia, that the needs of the people are disregarded, that the new Commissioner is hard-headed about the vital needs of the community.

Of course, I have not lived in a lot of places, but I have been in a lot of places around the world, and I have not been any place where this general sentiment prevails as it does in the District of Columbia. I wonder, if we worked together, if we could not get one editorial favorable to the Nation's Capital.

Mr. WASHINGTON. It is so close to me——

Mr. WHITENER. You love this city or you would not be here. You said that earlier. The whole Nation loves it.

Mr. WASHINGTON. I think you have struck a note that is so significant and that is, we have not done enough to tell about the good things and to display them and talk enough about them and put them on the signboards. The one thing I have tried to do since I have been back is to capture an entire positive attitude of optimism about our town. It is not only a psychology but an optimism to show the needs and what we are doing, trying to get people to work in unity and harmony so we can do many things. But we are doing many things. We are meeting with the department heads. We want them to spend more time telling the people about the positive things we are doing and not only the things that are always blown up. Most departments have not told their story completely. As an example, hardly anyone realizes the number of programs going on in welfare. We ought to be talking so people will understand. Of course there is room for additions and many other things, but I think people have to get a totally optimistic point of view about their own home town. This is the place we want to raise our children, and we ought to be thinking about it in those terms. I salute you for that observation because I certainly intend to work on it myself.

Mr. WHITENER. Chief Wilson comes from my home county, and if you were down there with him he would show you the new high school, and he would show you Belmont Abbey College and Sacred Heart College, and he would not tell you Belmont Abbey College is a bad college because the monks many years ago made the bricks with their own hands. He wouldn't say, "Look at that old building." He would say, "It is one of the finest buildings in the country, built by hand by dedicated men." And he wouldn't run down our schools. He would be proud of the new high school, but he wouldn't run down our other schools. Here, with all your fine new school buildings, you never read anything in the paper except about one or two that are old and run down. Certainly we want to do something about the old and run down buildings, but let us not talk all the time about our deficiencies.

Maybe you and I together can get our press and other news media on another tack for a while and make these folks proud of Washington. If you kept telling me I lived in the worst community in the world