

Mr. MULTER. Why do you limit it? Why do you say it will go on only for two years, they will never have an opportunity again to continue in the plainclothes division of the Department; thereafter, if they participate in examinations for sergeants of police, they must then give up the right to remain in plainclothes.

Deputy Chief WILSON. It would continue for four years and after that.

Mr. MULTER. Whether four or ten years, what right have you now to say to these men, whether it be four or five years or any other time, after that expiration of time you will have to give up your right to remain in the plainclothes division of the Department, investigative or detective of whatever you please, thereafter you will take a competitive examination and if you pass it you are going to have to take our assignment either in uniform or otherwise?

Deputy Chief WILSON. Yes, sir; this is so.

Mr. MULTER. What right do you have to make that change?

Deputy Chief WILSON. The purpose of selecting four years is that we assume that within four years the grade will be largely eliminated through attrition. We do not know this and of course continuation beyond that is subject to further discussion when we see what has happened in the ensuing four years.

Mr. MULTER. What do you think will happen at the end of four years. How many of these 138 men in the force of detectives will still be on the force four years from now?

Deputy Chief WILSON. I would expect four years from now, Mr. Chairman, that most of them will either have achieved the grade of detective sergeant or of sergeant for four years have expired. Half of them approximately have elected to compete for uniform sergeant and are very likely to be promoted if they qualified on the example and the other half I expect have a very good opportunity of being promoted, assuming they pass the exam.

Mr. MULTER. If that is so, why do you need the limitation? If only five or ten are left, why take the opportunity from them to remain in the detective or investigative division and competing in the examination? Why, whether it be 5, 10 or 15 men remaining four years from now, still just detectives, why should you take away from them the right to compete for the position of sergeant but remaining in the plainclothes division?

Deputy Chief WILSON. This was a decision which the Chief made, Mr. Chairman, on the assumption that most of them or all of them will be gone within four years. If they are not I will think we will examine the position again. We do not want to announce, as it were, we were going to continue the position indefinitely.

Mr. MULTER. I have discussed this at length with Chief Layton off the record, and I respect him as a very valuable and valiant Chief of Police, and with all due deference to him, I say this most respectfully, I understand his views but I disagree with him in this particular case. As a legislator I am compelled to say I think it is unjust and unfair to these men to do what you are doing here. As a lawyer I think what you are trying to do here is illegal.

I do not think you have or he has any right to say to these men, who in effect had a contract when they entered the service that they can remain in the Detective Investigative Plainclothes Division of the Department and move up the ladder, that now you are taking