

has been a very great drop in crime, particularly crime against women.

Efforts such as these could run counter to the law and the consequence of enforcement could create a field day for the criminal who would not be so restricted.

The language of the bill is far too dangerous to become law. It should be stricken in its entirety. The question of gun control legislation is proceeding in an orderly manner in the Congress, and this should be allowed to continue. Subcommittees in both House and Senate have reported favorably on gun control legislation.

In the meantime, the purposes of the gun control amendment can be properly served by strict enforcement of the present firearms acts, both National and State, and by a more realistic attitude toward crime control and prevention at all levels of government.

To me, the most creditable part of the bill is the riot control language included at the last moment. If endorsed, this language would help to prevent a recurrence of last year's violence.

Bills containing riot control provisions twice have been passed by the House and generally disregarded in the Senate, but presumably there is now sufficient interest in this type of legislation to help insure action without taking riot control language on to civil rights legislation. I don't think a bill that is bad as a whole should ride on the merits of one good section.

The CHAIRMAN. Does that conclude your statement?

Mr. SIKES. Yes, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Sikes. In the interest of time, I won't ask any questions. I just want to congratulate the able and distinguished gentleman from Florida upon a very good statement.

Mr. SIKES. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. And one that bears out previous testimony on the gun question as well as on the housing question by other witnesses who have appeared here.

Any questions Mr. Smith?

Mr. SMITH. No questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Any other questions?

(No response.)

Mr. YOUNG. I have no questions. Thank you, Mr. Sikes.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. MacGregor.

**STATEMENT OF HON. CLARK MacGREGOR, A REPRESENTATIVE IN
THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES FROM THE THIRD DIS-
TRICT OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA**

The CHAIRMAN. We will be glad to hear from you, Mr. MacGregor.

Mr. MacGREGOR. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee on Rules, I deeply appreciate the opportunity to appear before this distinguished committee. My statement will be very brief. I will be pleased to endeavor or to respond to such questions as the chairman and members of the committee may have.

I believe that the House should adopt the Senate-passed civil rights bill of 1968, H.R. 2516. On two previous occasions, one occurring before my congressional service started, and one in 1964 in which I was