

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Congressman, I think that is an accurate reporting of what I said. Frankly, I was gravely concerned, and continue to be gravely concerned, about reports of police officers drinking alcoholic beverages in police or on police property, and I was gravely concerned about the incident which occurred, the discharging of firearms by police officers without—

Mr. WHITENER. Do you find anything to indicate that Chief Layton was not equally concerned about that?

Mr. MURPHY. No, sir; I did not find anything, but I was concerned, sir, about some of the actions of officials of the Department at various levels, and that would reach from Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain and maybe higher.

Mr. WHITENER. What you were commenting—as you were quoted in the press, you were not referring to sergeants, lieutenants, or captains, were you?

Mr. MURPHY. I was referring to captains, sir, and possibly higher ranking officers. I think responsibility for discipline in a police department does rest with officers at the precinct level and higher levels.

Mr. WHITENER. You said, according to this newspaper article, I quote, "This was not an example of strong discipline. It was an example of weakness some place." Have you determined where that weakness was?

Mr. MURPHY. Sir, I am concerned about drinking in a police building.

Mr. WHITENER. Of course, everybody should be.

Mr. MURPHY. Yes. I think that is some reflection of a weakness in discipline at least at the precinct level.

Mr. WHITENER. Now, Mr. Murphy, I observe here from your job description that among your many duties that are outlined in your job description (see p. 14) one of them is to "serve in a liaison capacity with the courts in the District of Columbia." What does that embrace, what type of liaison?

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Congressman, I have met with Judges from the various courts in the District where the cases of our police officers are taken for trial.

Mr. WHITENER. Have you made any headway?

Mr. MURPHY. Well, I think some slight headway, sir, not much. We appreciate, I think, the Judges and ourselves in the Police Department, that there are many problems because of our close working relationship, the scheduling of appearances of police officers in court, getting our officers in court on time, trying as much as we possibly can to reduce the loss of time of police officers in court which is taken from work on the streets, understanding the decisions as they come down, as new decisions come down, the necessity for training our officers. We have worked with the Prosecutor's offices as well as in trying to coordinate this entire function.

Mr. WHITENER. Have you made any headway about getting a little cooperation on the part of courts toward abuse of police officers that we have had complaints about?

Mr. MURPHY. No, sir; we have not pursued that particular problem. I hope to get to it, sir.

Mr. WHITENER. Would that not help morale more than making statements to the press criticizing the chief of police and doing that sort of thing?