

Mr. MURPHY. I am very concerned about police officers being shown the proper respect in court as well as on the streets and in police buildings. I think its tragic that there is the amount of disrespect for police officers that we see today. And to the extent that I can be helpful in trying to improve that respect and the fair and proper treatment of officers in court, I will attempt to do so.

Mr. WHITENER. I am sure you are familiar with the study that was made by a special subcommittee of this Committee on morale and recruitment, and this is one of the key areas in which we found morale problems, that not only the courts but some of the Government officials had committed acts or done things which caused the police to feel that they were not being supported by either the courts or the public officials.

Mr. MURPHY. Yes, sir.

Mr. WHITENER. I was just wondering how do you go about liaison with the courts. Do you deal with the Chief Judge or do you deal with all the judges in a judicial conference, or how?

Mr. MURPHY. Well, I have met with the Chief Judge of the District Court and some of the other members of that bench. I am very concerned that there seems—it seems to me there is so much misunderstanding of the function of the police officers. I think it is tragic that we find this even in some courts and in some prosecutors' offices. I would certainly urge members of the bench and prosecutors as well as other interested people to come down with us, to come right out with us in a police car and see the difficult problems that the officer faces every day. It seems to be that the police officer is the man in the middle. In this year 1968, he is frequently misunderstood by people of good will and others. And I think there is a great need for this entire nation to develop a better understanding of the difficulty of the police officer's function in our complex and changing society today. A police officer is the man who our society sends out to deal with its most difficult problems, the problem society itself has not successfully dealt with, and we must support the police officer in a better way. We must understand him, cooperate with him and assist him, not only our citizens but people in the rest of the criminal justice branch as well.

Mr. WHITENER. Mr. Murphy, on the date of February 7, 1968 in the Evening Star, you were quoted as follows: "Obviously I will be making many of the decisions that previously were made at Chief Layton's level." What did you mean to imply by that statement?

Mr. MURPHY. Well, Congressman, as I have seen my position, since this position did not exist in the District Government before and because my responsibility extends only to the three agencies that come under me, the Police Department, Fire Department and Office of Civil Defense, that I would have the time to devote to these three departments that the Commissioner of the District Government responsible for the agencies in the past did not have, because he had many other responsibilities, and because I do have a police background I will be involved in the development of new policy. Of course, there is much policy in the Department in existence which Chief Layton has developed and has been developed historically in the Department, and much of that policy will remain. But in developing new policy I think I will play an active role.

Mr. WHITENER. In this same story in the Evening Star you were alleged to have indicated that you might go directly to a subordinate