

Mr. MATHIAS. Well, now, having in mind that we are undergoing here in Washington a rather general re-organization of the whole District government, and having in mind what you are commissioned to do as the Director of Public Safety, do you feel that there is an undue amount of confusion in the police department, or an undue degree of morale difficulty in the police department?

Mr. MURPHY. No, sir. I do not believe that there is any kind of general confusion in the Department. I am very impressed by the way I see day-to-day cases being handled.

I do realize that there are misunderstandings of some kind or another about just what my function is. I feel it has been clear to me. I do not think police morale is low.

I made reference earlier to the fact that I see rapid response to calls. Our officers look smart. They present themselves very well. Their uniforms are neat and clean. I found them to be courteous. I have been very impressed by the number of commendatory letters I have received in my short time in this office concerning the activities of our police officers. I have been very impressed by the activity of our Criminal Investigation Division which last year cleared significantly more cases than it had the previous.

All of these things suggest to me that morale is high. I think the leadership of the Department is good. If there is room for strengthening it, we will certainly try to strengthen it. But I have great confidence in this Department and its leadership, and I am confident that we will be equal to whatever tasks face us in months ahead.

Mr. MATHIAS. And you have no fear that the arrangements which exist will not prove to be incompatible with an increasingly higher level of efficiency in the Department?

Mr. MURPHY. No, sir. As I attempted to indicate earlier, I accepted this position because I have great confidence in Chief Layton. I am delighted that he has indicated to me that he has hope to be part of the team of Commissioner Washington, who is most concerned about our crime problem, and the other problems facing the police department, including traffic accident fatalities and injuries. And Chief Layton has indicated that he will be with me and we will be together, and I am most confident of where we are going.

Mr. MATHIAS. I am very glad to hear that, Mr. Murphy. Thank you very much.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. I wonder, since the time is passing so fast, if we can limit our questioning now to five minutes from here on? Mr. Sisk.

Mr. SISK. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Murphy, who contacted you originally. How did you happen to be contacted for this particular position?

Mr. MURPHY. Commissioner Washington communicated with me.

Mr. SISK. And did you talk to anyone else? Was anyone else involved at all in your employment?

Mr. MURPHY. I discussed—I also had an opportunity to speak with Mr. Fletcher, the Assistant to Commissioner Washington. I made my decision so rapidly that I am uncertain now about some other people who may have spoken with me about it, but principally a very brief conversation with Commissioner Washington and Mr. Fletcher, some people in the city government. It involved a discussion with the personnel office.