

Mr. MURPHY. Yes, sir.

Mr. SISK. Certainly we are going to be concerned about the safety of the city. And as I say, I hope that in the future we do not try these things in the newspapers. I have not heard you indicate it, but it would seem to me that your talking to newspapers before you talk to some other people earlier here got you off on a bit of the wrong foot, if I can just be blunt about it, because I think you will have to agree with me. This is not how to get along with and influence people to try cases in the newspaper. And I think this is one of the things that caused a lot of the concern among people here in Washington, particularly the incident which was mentioned by my good friend from North Carolina. Instead of talking to the press, you should have been talking to the Chief, at least I believe that is what you should have been doing. And I would hope in the future that we can avoid some of this newspaper, this trial by newspaper, before we get to the facts of the case.

That is all, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Sisk, you, I know have always expressed a great interest in the Police Department and the D.C. Government in general. If you have some more important questions you want to ask, please continue.

Mr. SISK. I think I will not take more time now, Mr. Chairman because there are too many members waiting.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Horton.

Mr. HORTON. Mr. Murphy, your new position as Safety Director is, of course, a new position in the government of the City of Washington. I am sure that it is authorized by Re-organization Plan #3 of 1967. I do not know that there was any amplification when the Re-organization Act was before the Congress with regard to this specific function. I am familiar with the function of the Commissioner of Public Safety because in the City of Rochester we have this setup. I served on the Rochester Council, and I am familiar with the manner in which it is operated there. I am sure you are familiar with the City of Rochester and the setup there. Because Washington never has had a position similar to Safety Director, a hearing such as this is probably a very good thing for public information.

What other departments or agencies are under your authority as the Commissioner of Public Safety?

Mr. MURPHY. The Fire Department and the Office of Civil Defense.

Mr. HORTON. Now, do you have the same responsibilities with the others?

Mr. MURPHY. Yes, sir.

Mr. HORTON. Certainly you do not feel, do you, that you have the authority to go in and make promotions within these various departments. This is up to the Chief of the Police or the Chief of the Fire Department.

Mr. MURPHY. The authority for promotion up to certain ranks has been assigned within the department; above certain ranks has required action by the Commissioner in the past, I understand. I would certainly be concerned about promotions and will discuss them with the Chief of the Police Department, Fire Department, and it is my hope that we will always be in agreement on every promotion that is made.