

ago this summer. I understand that your committee has been advised of certain safeguards by the Post Office Department. Your committee has been advised in executive session.

Publicly, I can state that we know of much better programs, we believe, and that the men with the responsibilities in the Post Office Department are much better trained, we hope and we believe, in the use of firearms. I think Plymouth was a costly lesson for all of us, but I trust that it was a lesson and we have gained much insight into what we need to do in the Post Office Department so we might do a good job.

Mr. BROOKS. You will recall, at the time we examined the guards, we asked them if they carried a pistol. They said, "yes, we sure do." We asked them if they had ever fired it? "No, sir, I never fired it." This was pretty much of a shock because a man carrying a pistol who has never fired it is more dangerous than a man without anything just sitting there—to himself, his friends, other employees—and a minimum danger to somebody who would assault him and maybe take it away from him.

Mr. WATSON. Yes, sir; I do recall that lesson.

Mr. BROOKS. You were not involved in that, and I know you are well aware of the use of firearms yourself.

Mr. WATSON. Yes, sir. I think for a fuller explanation on this subject I would like to refer to Mr. Henry Montague.

Mr. MONTAGUE. To go back to the Plymouth case, Congressman, the investigation continued until—

Mr. BROOKS. Would you like to move up here and sit at the table?

Mr. MONTAGUE. The investigation continued until an indictment was returned July 31, 1967. That covered three persons. The trial started on November 6, 1967. One of the three persons, Thomas R. Richards, was missing on the day the trial started. The trial of the other two persons continued, and they were acquitted. The third person, Richards, who was under indictment, and still is, has not been found. Therefore the prosecution features have not yet been finished.

While the Federal statute runs for 5 years, the State statute runs for 10 years. Therefore it is still possible to get further prosecutions in this case if further evidence is developed.

With regard to the recommendations made by this subcommittee on the handling of valuable shipments, Postmaster General Gronouski addressed a letter to you in December 1963, wherein he commended the recommendations of this subcommittee and stated that they had been put into effect to a great degree, and he found them to be beneficial. I have a copy of the report—

Mr. BROOKS. Did you concur in that letter, Mr. Montague?

Mr. MONTAGUE. Yes, sir. I have a copy of your report dated April 10, 1963, with me. In that report you list five recommendations and all of those recommendations have been followed in full or in part. When I say in part, I mean that the Post Office Department went as far as it thought advisable and feasible to go with regard, for instance, to the use of armored vehicles.