

When I think of, for example, the kind of men who have applied or have made their availability known for appointment to the United States District Court, and the kind of people who have sort of attempted to receive endorsements for appointments to our courts, I believe that in some instances at least it indicates that our court does not have the statute that it should; and I think it is something of the kind of benefits that are available, and the salary and retirement to have something to do with it. So I don't believe that the salary and retirement benefits are irrelevant to excellence in the judicial structure and the kind of justice that is administered.

Secondly, Congressman, I would say this, that the kind of funds, the kind of financial expenditures that we are talking about here—and I realize that Congress is concerned about funds and we are concerned about the expenditure of funds—but the kind of funds that we are talking about here are so small in proportion to the other needs.

Mr. STEIGER. That is always the case.

Judge GREENE. I really think, in terms of bringing up the Court of General Sessions, which, after all, is the major trial court in this jurisdiction to a real position of strength and excellence, where we are talking about really perhaps at the most, several hundred thousand dollars when millions of dollars are spent on programs which have at best a marginal effect on the welfare of the city, I really don't think we are talking about proportions when a choice—let me say a choice would have to be made between the two.

Mr. STEIGER. What you are saying is that we can really afford both?

Judge GREENE. I think the Congress and the city and we, the citizens, can afford both, particularly since this is not something we will be talking about thousands and thousands of employees who will get vast salary increases, or—

Mr. STEIGER. Of course they will get those increases on top of this. You do recognize that. That has been the history. The other expenses will continue, of course. You are right, this is a very small percentage. Percentage-wise it is infinitesimal. It is from the infinitesimal part that the whole is made, I am sure you are aware of that.

Judge GREENE. Well, Congressman, I really would like to emphasize, if I can, in all seriousness that the administration of justice and the role that the courts perform and particularly the Court of General Sessions, since for all intents and purposes it is the major trial court in this jurisdiction, is so far out of proportion in relationship to the money that is spent on it. As a matter of fact, Congressman Steiger, this court actually, if I may put it that way, is a money making proposition. We turn back more money to the Treasury each year out of fines and forfeitures than our total budget comes out to so in terms of just straight finance accounting, the court is not costing the taxpayers any money.

Judge HALLECK. I would like to make a couple of observations with Judge Greene's permission. You mentioned who else is going to get salary increases, Congressman. My secretary has already had a couple of salary increases since I have been there, and I haven't. My clerk has just received a salary increase. I think everybody at the courthouse except the judge has received periodic salary increases. So it isn't a question of just judges getting salary increases.

Mr. STEIGER. When was the last judicial increase?