

Mr. Gude. I don't have the information right at hand about the cost for the judicial system as compared to the cost of the police organization or the rehabilitation machinery in our anticrime set-up. As I recall it, the relative cost of the judicial system is very low, not because it is low relatively it means that you can necessarily ignore each dollar of increase. I think each dollar has to be counted carefully and if there is no objection, I would like to insert the statement about the cost of the judicial system relative to the other aspects of the system in the record.

Judge GREENE. As I say, Congressman, the cost of operating the Court of General Sessions is less than the fines and forfeitures that the court collects. So the court is not costing the taxpayers any more money.

(The prepared statement of Judge Greene is as follows:)

STATEMENT OF CHIEF JUDGE HAROLD H. GREENE

My name is Harold Greene. I am chief judge of the District of Columbia Court of General Sessions. I very much appreciate this opportunity to testify in support of H.R. 15678, H.R. 15679, H.R. 12738, and H.R. 14202, which deal with the salaries and the retirement benefits of the judges of the District of Columbia Court of General Sessions. I should like to make it clear at the outset that in testifying in favor of these bills I speak for all of the judges of our court. The Board of Judges of the Court of General Sessions unanimously endorsed the concepts embodied in these bills and favors their enactment. I also wish to express the gratitude of our Board of Judges and my own for the action of the committee in scheduling these hearings. We hope that the hearings will be productive and will lead to the enactment of the bills under consideration.

The salary provisions of H. R. 15678 are identical with those of H. R. 12738, except that the former would make any increases retroactive to October 1, 1967, while the latter does not contain a retroactivity feature. Both of these bills would increase the salary of associate judges of the Court of General Sessions to \$27,500 and of the chief judge to \$28,000. They would also increase the salary of associate judges of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals to \$28,500 and of the chief judge of that court to \$29,000.

An increase in the compensation of the judges of the Court of General Sessions was first proposed by the President's Commission on Crime in the District of Columbia in 1966, and it has been strongly supported by other, impartial bodies and groups since that time. The specific increases to \$27,500 and \$28,000 respectively were suggested by the Committee on the Administration of Justice of the Judicial Council, under the chairmanship of Mr. Gerhard Gesell, now a judge on the U.S. District Court, after that committee had conducted a survey of salary ranges in similar courts in large urban centers.

Both the Crime Commission and the Judicial Council Committee indicated that, in view of the constantly increasing duties and the ever expanding workload of the Court of General Sessions, it was important, as the Committee put it, "to make service on this court more attractive and give its judges a status commensurate with their responsibilities."

The fact is that the Court of General Sessions now handles 97% of the litigation of this city, including the bulk of the serious criminal offenses. All of the recent increase in criminal prosecutions has been absorbed by our court, where criminal offenses tried rose 100% in the last 16 years, while they increased not at all or very little in the United States District Court. In spite of this staggering caseload, our court was able actually to reduce its backlog of criminal jury cases from 2,065 on January 1, 1967 to 1,597 on April 1, 1968.

The Court of General Sessions also bore the entire brunt of the judicial work required in connection with the civil disorder early last month. From Friday morning, April 5, to Monday midnight April 8, the court never closed. Judges and clerical personnel worked in 12-hour shifts around the clock, and by Monday night, every one of the persons arrested during the riot—except only those released on citation—had been presented to the court. The court is now engaged in holding trials and preliminary hearings in many hundreds of these cases.