

the District of Columbia can adequately deal with the cases which may be prosecuted, most of our effort will be futile."

I suggest to the committee that an increase in the authorized number of judges will enable the Court of General Sessions properly to perform its functions and responsibilities. It will permit the court to cope with its ever-growing civil caseload, and it will equip the court to process swiftly and effectively the cases of those persons who may be brought before the bar of justice by the efforts of the police and the prosecuting authorities.

Mr. GUDE. Just one more question. In mentioning a backlog, do you have any information about the backlog in the Court of Appeals?

Judge HOOD. In the Court of Appeals we do have a backlog, but as you may recall, last year Congress passed a law increasing—adding three new judges to our court. As of yet the President has appointed only one. When we get our full complement of judges we hope that we can be able to clear up that backlog. But until the additional judges are appointed, we haven't made any real progress towards cutting down that backlog.

Mr. GUDE. Do you have any figures available, the exact status of the backlog?

Judge HOOD. I did not bring them with me. I brought them here last year when we were asking for the three new judges. I can furnish them as to the number of cases we have pending and unheard, and I can furnish something showing the increase in our work load if you want that.

Mr. GUDE. Yes. Well, if you could, we would appreciate that very much.

Mr. STEIGER. Well, I just wanted to ask Mr. Canfield—he has been sitting there very patiently, if he has any observations that he would care to make?

Mr. CANFIELD. Congressman, I do. Thank you very much for the opportunity.

**STATEMENT OF AUSTIN CANFIELD, ESQ., COMMITTEE ON THE
COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS, BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE DIS-
TRICT OF COLUMBIA**

Mr. CANFIELD. As a representative of the Bar Association today, the position of the Bar is that it is in favor of the bills presently under consideration. As a practicing lawyer and having spent 14 years in the Court of General Sessions, I know a little something about the background of the court and can tell you the plight that the court is in by way of the fact that we have this existing backlog.

I have, in the past, written Congress, I think to Congressman Gude as well. Congressman Broyhill has a bill pending to increase the number of the judges as well as some of the Senators who have similar bills pending which would reach the same results.

In March of 1966, if memory serves me correct, then Chief Judge John Lewis Smith appeared before the Board of the District Committee of the House and he was questioned as to the need for five additional judges at that time. He indicated in his testimony that we could use seven or maybe eight. That was two years ago. Congress gave him five, and we have just recently received the last of our five. That is, the last of our complement has just been filled.

Going back to 1963, or possibly 1964, and I am not certain about my date, we had a court that was fairly current at that time; but