

of all serious criminal offenses. The salary of \$23,500 was established a few years ago, and since that time the work of the Court including the work load of each judge has increased substantially. As a city we simply must see to it that this great bulk of our civil and criminal work is in the hands of judges in whom the community has utmost confidence and respect.

I am satisfied that the interests of the District will be advanced if this bill is enacted into law. In view of the increased role the courts are playing in the efforts to solve the District's crime problem, it is important as never before that the community recognize its responsibility to support the judiciary and to take steps to make service on the local courts more attractive and give the judges a status commensurate with their important responsibilities.

We urge, therefore, that this Subcommittee give favorable consideration to the bills presently before it as we think it is a modest increase in salary that is long overdue and will result in strengthening these courts which are important to the community.

I will appreciate it if you will include this letter as a part of your proceedings.

Thanking you, I am,

Very truly yours,

ROBERT C. BAKER, *Chairman.*

Mr. WHITENER. Well, gentlemen, if there is nothing further to be presented, I want to thank you for being with us. I hope you understand the informality. I know that you judges are more accustomed to dignified proceedings than the general run of folks, but I find this type of hearing where we have the type people who talk as lawyers to one another it works out a little better, at least for me, to have the opportunity to move back and forth from one question to another than where you just hear formal statements. I don't suppose we saved any time but you get a little better record of what ought to be in the record.

So I wouldn't have any of you think we are trying to cut you off if you have anything else to say in behalf of these bills.

Judge GREENE. We appreciate, certainly speaking for myself, and I am sure for all of us, the patience of the committee and the consideration that it is giving this.

Mr. WHITENER. Thank you very much.

(Whereupon, at 12:25 p.m. the subcommittee adjourned, subject to call of the Chair.)

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