

STATEMENT OF PATRICK V. MURPHY, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT, ACCOMPANIED BY JOHN B. LAYTON, CHIEF, METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT; HENRY A. GALOTTA, CHIEF, FIRE DEPARTMENT; DAVID G. BRESS, ESQUIRE, U.S. ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA; AND HON. DAVID E. MCGIFFERT, UNDER SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Mr. MURPHY. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I appreciate your having me here at this meeting of the Committee, to give us this opportunity, and I am sure that I speak for Chief Layton and the Command of the Police Department and Mr. McGiffert, and the Department of Justice, in expressing that appreciation.

I have not prepared a formal statement, Mr. Chairman, but I would like to point out that shortly after my appointment to the new position of Director of Public Safety, I went down with Chief Layton and his staff and we reviewed the plans that had been made by the Department; and the Department has done a considerable amount of planning in the past for the handling of crowds, demonstrations, and disorders.

As a result of my review of what the Department had been doing, and my agreement with the policies which Chief Layton had established previously, we simply increased our training and planning back in February sometime. Captain Sanders was assigned full time to the function of the planning and training for disorder prevention and control.

Many meetings were held within the Department and plans were refined. When we had our unfortunate experiences in early April, those plans, in my view, were very effective. The members of the Department, in my view, responded marvelously, not only to the recalls to come back to duty, where the response was so prompt and so complete, but in the good judgment that a policeman used in dealing with an extremely difficult situation.

As I said earlier, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate this opportunity to clarify some of the rumors, and what I honestly think is some of the misunderstanding about the kind of problem we face and the manner in which we dealt with it. This city, like every large city in the United States, is policed by relatively few policemen.

We have an authorized strength of 3100 officers, but we have been somewhat short of personnel. We have had vacancies.

As to police, a population of 800,000 people and a large number of people who reside outside of the District but come here to work and do business every day, and a very large visitor population each year.

So we police this city, as I believe, as other large cities, on the principle that the people support the police; and frankly, if the people do not support the police, it is impossible to have law and order. So, this Department has done a great deal of work and obviously has had tremendous community support.

People report crimes to our police officers. They give information to our policemen. They have come to the assistance of our police officers frequently. They willingly come to court and testify as wit-