

and the request was made by the Governor—and the troops were not sent in immediately because of certain political implications. The same may be true in connection with the National Guard situation here in our own community.

So the timeliness is a matter—the timeliness of calling out these supplemental enforcement agencies is extremely important; and I would like to get some comment from you with respect to some improvement in that decision-making process, and also of the curfew, and also with respect to the authority for more police, not—when I say more police, I don't mean a policeman on every corner, but certainly more than the authorization under which you are presently operating.

POLICE VACANCIES

Mr. MURPHY. Congressman, at the time that Mayor Washington took office and at the time of my appointment to this position, there were approximately 385 vacancies for police officers in the city. Even before my appointment, the Mayor had, through the assistance of the President and the Department of Defense, developed a recruitment program in cooperation with the Military that provided for early discharge of servicemen who would accept the appointment to Police departments.

Between that program and our own recruitment program, which has been intensified, we have been able since December to reduce the number of vacancies from about 385 to 164 at last count. This is a significant recruitment accomplishment, and I think an indication of high morale in the Police Department and the willingness and desire of many young men to become policemen today, even though it is becoming a more difficult job every day.

We are hopeful, Congressman, that we can close that gap completely within the next few months; and although we have not finalized our thinking on requesting additional positions, we are certainly giving much consideration to that. But we see our first step as that of filling existing vacancies before requesting additional positions.

TROOPS

Concerning the time limits of a call for assistance from the National Guard and the Military—all of my experience through our troubled days indicated to me that we were receiving very prompt response to our request, as I described yesterday.

The decision, the tentative decision, which just had to be finalized Friday a.m., was made very early Friday morning to have the National Guard on duty Friday evening, April 5th. In our discussions with the Military, all that I know about it, suggests to me that the gearing up, the turning of the wheels, was begun immediately upon our indication of our concern that we needed help sooner.

I think Mr. McGiffert may have described yesterday, and he may wish to speak to this question, but it is simply a fact that the movement of troops does take some period of time. But I am satisfied that even the well-laid plans that existed before April 4th have been further refined to provide us with an even more rapid response if we should require it again in the future.