

Mr. MURPHY. I think we are as well prepared as we were well prepared for the previous action.

Mr. DOWDY. In other words, you know that the death rate there won't be any more than—there won't be any more than six or eight blocks burned up this time?

Mr. MURPHY. I don't anticipate that. Frequently, such a group talks about having large numbers of people and accomplishing very large objectives which they don't have the potential to accomplish.

Mr. DOWDY. Let me ask this question: Do you have enough protection that people will be safe in opening their stores if they want to on Monday?

Mr. MURPHY. Yes, sir. I believe that from all that we can foresee of what will be occurring on Monday, we now believe that we are adequately prepared.

EXTORTION THREATS TO BUSINESS

Mr. DOWDY. Now, are you aware—and I suppose you are—I know the people would be in fear of the levies that are being placed upon merchants here in the District of Columbia to support this army of people coming in here from all over the country.

Are you aware of that?

Mr. MURPHY. I am not sure that I understand your question. Levies are being placed upon people for those who are visiting the city?

Mr. DOWDY. That is right. For instance, there is a produce dealer here in town; it has been demanded that he furnish two truckloads of food each week to this group. If he doesn't, they are going to put him out of business.

Mr. MURPHY. Well, sir, we have made special efforts with the businessmen urging them to report to us any kind of threat or attempted extortion, and we have made at least some small number of arrests in these cases.

Mr. DOWDY. Has anybody reported these things?

Mr. MURPHY. We have received some reports, sir.

Mr. DOWDY. Have you made any arrests as a result of it?

Mr. MURPHY. Yes, sir, we have.

Mr. DOWDY. What kind of complaints are they?

Mr. MURPHY. I am sorry that I don't have the specific charge before me, in one case that I am aware of. We have received a warrant for threats.

Mr. DOWDY. For extortion?

Mr. MURPHY. For threats, sir. I don't have the—

Mr. DOWDY. You don't have the specific charge. Do you feel that the merchants here in town and the ones that these threats are being made against would feel safe in coming here? Do they feel that you would protect them from the violence that they are threatened with?

Mr. MURPHY. Well, sir, we have had several meetings with such groups, including a meeting in Mayor Washington's office last week, attended by Chief Layton and myself. I know that I was encouraged. I think Mayor Washington and Chief Layton were also encouraged that the businessmen indicated that they would be more responsive and that they would come forward with information.

We have explained to groups of businessmen, Mr. Chairman, that we think it would be a very dangerous course for them to permit