

Mr. Murphy during his tenure has made various statements which are indeed questionable. Obviously he is lacking in knowledge of the structure and administration of the Metropolitan Police Department. A department head vested with leadership responsibilities would rarely conduct himself as he has. It takes ability and leadership coupled with years of progressively responsible experience to administer our Police Department with all of the special and peculiar problems that exist here in the Nation's Capital.

On February 8th the Washington Evening Star carried an editorial "Police Trouble Ahead?" and the Washington Daily News "Mr. Murphy and Chief Layton" each of which express concerns about the Public Safety Director. Should these concerns materialize then only this community as such, and Washington as the Nation's Capital, will be the loser.

Chief Layton and the officers of the Metropolitan Police stand as a blue line of protection. They must stand firm and tall, and must do so in the knowledge that there is Departmental support as well as public understanding and appreciation of their difficult role and mission of service. We simply cannot afford the luxury of dispensing with the services of Chief Layton as surely as some of our "leaders" seem so anxious to cause.

I am certain that you, the Committee and many Members of the Congress are aware of the fine police service we have in Washington. We must all—citizens, community organizations and the Congress—do what we can to maintain and improve the leadership, morale and opportunities for our police. To do less will certainly sow the seeds of disaster—something the Nation's Capital cannot afford.

I call to your attention that Chief Layton is a police officer who throughout an exemplary career has earned the respect of the concerned citizenry as well as the men under his command. His attainments and record speak highly of his leadership, tact and diplomacy, and this should not be marred.

These are times when it is popular and sophisticated to demean those who are engaged in public protection. There has been all too much of this, especially by people who know better.

As a citizen who has resided in Washington many years and with many years of civic enterprise activity which have brought me in contact with the Police in service to the community. I wish to commend to you the accomplishments of Chief Layton for he has by his leadership brought public credit to the Metropolitan Police Department. This must continue—let's keep Chief Layton in full command of our police.

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM H. WATERS, JR.

FEDERATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATIONS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 20, 1968.

Hon. JOHN L. McMILLAN,
Chairman, District Committee, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. McMILLAN: It has been reported that some of our Police Department officials are to appear before you tomorrow, February 21.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter that I wrote on February 8 to the chairman of the D.C. City Council, the Honorable John Hechinger, which expresses my views on the matter of consolidation of police precincts.

The Glover Park Citizens Association, of which I am immediate past president, strongly opposed any consolidation, as did the Federation of Citizens Associations of which I have been secretary since 1950. Likewise, the #7 Precinct Advisory Council opposed consolidation, especially #7 with any other.

It would seem, however, that despite citizen opposition, the powers-that-be—Mr. Murphy in particular—plan to go right ahead and do as they please. Hearings are held nowadays to give lip service to the idea that citizens are taken into account in decision making; before Mr. Kennedy became president, hearings were held to ascertain citizen views and decisions clearly reflected those views. I know—I participated in many hearings in those days as representative of the citizens associations of which I was at times president (two in Southeast, at various times), and the Commissioners did not in those days express an opinion and then hold a hearing where the outcome was a foregone conclusion.

After all these years in the District—since 1936—and after active participation in civic work for most of that time, I am thoroughly discouraged and willing to move out if we can find a suitable house. I have, in fact, been looking, and feel that I can move without regrets although I should never have thought that