

possible before 1960. We are wasting our time trying to have any influence on the policies of the local government; everything is cut and dried before it even receives publicity, through dictation from "above."

I hope that you will be able to stop the merciless embarrassing of our top police officials; I do not believe that any newcomer can learn so much in so short a time that he can overturn procedures built up over many years. The police try to do a good job, but when they are harrassed by unfounded charges of "police brutality" and when Courts turn criminals loose to commit more crimes, the police are obviously hard put to be properly effective. Their morale must be at an all time low at this time, and I am delighted to see them fighting back as they have been—when they were represented at the City Council hearing on consolidation and as they have been reported to be in newspaper articles since that date. I believe that top officials of the Police Department dare not express their own views; they feel bound to yield to what they are "expected" to say, for their own security.

Not on this subject, but equally outrageous, is the idea that "task forces" made up of outsiders can come into this city and, *in four days*, plan a complete reorganization. Obviously they were not here long enough to find out how the city operates; they had some grandiose ideas on how a city should be organized and applied them to the District. The "four days" was obtained from the newspaper on the Sunday on which the entire "Reorganization" was released.

Now legislation has been introduced in the Senate to permit 25 additional high paying, executive level super-grade jobs for the District to carry out these plans. No public hearing has been held. The legislation, bypassing the District Committees, does not specify the nature of any of the positions. It simply gives blanket authority for such hiring, bearing out what citizens said about the proposed Reorganization Plan under which the present D.C. government came into being, that we would have a much more expensive local government and it would provide for positions under political patronage. Taxes will go up and up, obviously, with all the grandiose, ridiculous ideas being put forth without any effort to obtain the views of those who have lived here for many years and will be the victims of implementation of these ideas.

If your Committee can do anything to stop this runaway program, I surely hope you will do it! Discrimination is rife everywhere—in the ignoring of the citizens in all this, in hiring on a racial, color-conscious basis rather than on the basis of who is best qualified for jobs without regard to race, with preference given to those residing in the District, in bringing in outsiders for top-level jobs instead of promoting career employees (as in Licenses and Inspections), in bringing in outsiders to supersede those previously at the top echelon (as in the Police Department), etc. All power to you!

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. EDWARD B. MORRIS, *Secretary.*

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 8, 1968.

HON. JOHN HECHINGER,
Chairman, D.C. City Council,
District Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. HECHINGER: I attended last Tuesday morning's session of your Council as a representative of the Glover Park Citizens Association which had also sent in a letter strongly opposing consolidation of police precincts, especially No. 7 with any other. I feel compelled to add this letter to your record on the subject; I hope that each member of the Council takes time to read correspondence before coming to conclusions on controversial matters.

As a teacher, I am in agreement with the D.C. Policemen's Association which avers that, with the merging of precincts, commanders would not be able to have as personal contact with their men. I know the advantage of reasonably small classes to permit personal contact with the students and a knowledge of some of their problems. Personal interest serves as a morale builder for employees whether they be in private corporations or in public office, and a breakdown in communication between a commander and his men because of sheer numbers should be a compelling reason to retain the precinct structure as it now exists.

Having for years been a resident of the area east of the Anacostia river I can speak in opposition to Mr. Murphy who alleged that more precincts were a relic of the "horse and buggy" days. Originally that entire area was covered by No. 11 precinct—this in the days of telephone and automobiles, I assure you. As the area built up in the Far Northeast and Far Southeast, it became too unwieldy for No. 11. True, there were not as many scout cars at that time, but neither was there as