

much crime. Finally, after repeated requests from citizens, No. 14 was set up for the area north of Pennsylvania Avenue, and both have seemed to have all they could handle.

Mr. Murphy also alleged that it would be better for police precincts to have "a broader base." Again I disagree! When citizens associations have merged so that one association covered the area formerly covered by two, apathy has resulted. Different neighborhoods have different problems, and those from one have little interest in the problems of one some distance from them. There are closer personal relations in organizations where interests and problems are mutual.

While merging of precincts might effect some economies, it should be possible to put more men on the streets and effect economies by using civilians for some of the routine station work, with police supervision.

As to Mr. Murphy's feeling that he should "reorganize" police precinct advisory councils, I think he has been in this city far too short a time to know his way around, to know its organization and the civic interest shown here which is far greater than that in places where residents have the vote. Mr. Murphy is not endearing himself to the citizens; whether he wants to consider their wishes or not is, of course, not yet clear, but at this time it would seem not—since he walked out of your Tuesday morning meeting when citizens were given a chance to be heard.

Mr. Murphy has probably never been anywhere that had citizens associations, civic associations, Neighbors, and other such groups representing each and every neighborhood—always one group, sometimes all three in a single area. These groups as you know, are made up of dedicated people giving their time as volunteers because of their interest in making this city the best possible place in which to live. In years past, their views have been given serious consideration by governing officials and their letters have received sympathetic attention.

Only after President Kennedy named a Special Assistant for District Affairs who began to dictate to the Commissioners from the White House did response to citizen opinion begin to be less sure. Public hearings were held but often only after minds had been made up in advance as could be ascertained by official statements. I have been here since 1936, have served as president of three citizens associations—two in Southeast and one in Northwest—and as secretary to the Federation of Citizens Associations since 1950. I am also secretary to #7 Police Precinct Advisory Council and served for seven years as a member of the Public Health Advisory Council. I have been around long enough, and active long enough, to know how relations between the citizens and their governing officials here deteriorated just during the last six years or so, due to White House dictation—which we resent.

If Mr. Murphy thinks these precinct councils are not sufficiently representative, it would be interesting to know from what groups he would like to draw other members. Picking out an individual here and there, an individual who represents no one but himself, who has no group to which he would convey information, would help neither the police nor the community. Certainly the #7 Council has endeavored to get a representative group from the community; it has members from all the citizens associations within its boundaries, service clubs such as Kiwanis and Lions, clergy, students from Gordon Junior High and Western High Schools (presidents of their Student Councils, etc.), Georgetown University students and faculty, the D.C. Recreation Department, the Frank R. Jelleff Boys Club, etc.

I hope that, before your Council makes any firm decisions, it will hold a well advertised public hearing on the matter of precinct consolidation. The hearing on Tuesday had far too short notice.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. EDWARD B. MORRIS.

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 9, 1968.

Representative JOHN L. McMILLAN,
Chairman, House District Committee,
House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE McMILLAN: How is it possible for the Mayor, the City Council, the Police Department, and others to pat themselves on the back for doing a good job in connection with the violence in our city the past few days?

As a member of this community, and a very proud one, I cannot, for the life of me, see how any of us can take pride in the way we handle violence of this nature without feeling a great sense of guilt for not being able to use the same organization and togetherness of our city officials, community leaders, and resources in constructive ways toward preventing such violence.