

protect ourselves and our property. Nor have we insisted strongly enough that the officials in charge of our government, whose responsibility it is to provide safety for ourselves and our families and to protect our properties, carry out those responsibilities effectively and promptly.

Troops should have been brought into Washington Thursday night to forestall the immense damage inflicted on this city during Friday and Saturday.

It is difficult to phrase a written letter in such a way as to carry the precise meaning intended. This letter is intended to be more sympathetic than antagonistic. At the same time, I too have a claim on the forces of law and order. I expect equal consideration by the law. I expect the officials of my city government to discharge their responsibilities to all citizens promptly and effectively, to prevent any recurrence of the disgraceful acts of last Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Many like me are disturbed and concerned that this situation was ever permitted to get out of hand in the city where so much has been done for the colored population. Admittedly, there is still much discrimination, and this probably will continue for some time. But, there has been discrimination against many peoples in America, the Irish, the Italians, the Jews, the Orientals, and others. As these people demonstrated their willingness to study, to work, to accept responsibility, and to become respected members of the community, discrimination has faded out. Now it is up to the Negro segment to make its own place. Those who would proceed in a lawless manner must be made to understand both their opportunities and their responsibilities. Above all, it is up to you and your staff to make it clear that lawlessness will not be tolerated, from any racial segment.

Yours respectfully,

LEONARD SMITH.

[Telegram]

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 24, 1968.

Representative JOHN McMILLAN,
Chairman, House District Committee,
House Buildings, Washington, D.C.:

Urge you to use your influence to see that curfew on teenagers be reimposed and also that permanent ban on sale of gasoline and ammunition in the District of Columbia be imposed by executive order or act of Congress.

A. J. HACKL.

FEDERATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATIONS OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

BILL OF PARTICULARS RELATIVE TO THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RIOTS OF APRIL 1968

A tense racial situation was in existence in the District of Columbia on April 4, 1968.

The murder of Dr. King indicated the need for immediate action to preserve order and avoid potential violence.

The Federal and District officials were criminally slow to act in providing armed assistance for a numerically inadequate police force.

Events and developments thereafter were as follows, resulting in the Washington insurrection:

9 p.m. Thursday, April 4. Rioting and looting started.

9 a.m. Friday, April 5. Arson and looting started up again. Only the regular 8 a.m. shift of police was on duty—500 out of 2,800 men. Police officials had not expected trouble.

12 noon Friday, April 5. Police began to radio for help. Mayor Washington considered but rejected a call for Army troops. National guard were called for drill. Police were being overrun and retreating.

3 p.m. Friday, April 5. Police retreated as mobs became overwhelming.

4 p.m. Friday, April 5. Mayor Washington telephoned President Johnson for Federal troops. Army and Air National Guard units were mobilized.

6 p.m. Friday, April 5. Regular Army troops began to arrive, 21 hours after the first mobs formed.

7:40 p.m. Friday, April 5. Regular Army troops fanned through the streets. Their orders were to ignore looters.

Unreasonable curbs and restraints were placed on soldiers and police which not only failed to curb but encouraged looting and arson.

A regular Washington policeman said, "I think we could have stopped this thing if they hadn't put us under wraps so. Looters would break a window, then stand