

aside to watch our reaction. When we did nothing, the mob would move in and ransack the place. We just had to stand there."

A French newspaperman remarked: "What you need here are a couple of squads of Parisian gendarmes. They move in, swinging their lead-weighted capes, and wielding their clubs. They go right after the ringleaders and smash the hell out of them. And I'll tell you this: That discourages a mob very fast."

One reported watched looters trying to load a 5-foot recordplayer console into a small foreign car. The job was impossible, but they worked at it for many minutes before giving up. Finally the police, who had been watching the whole performance, arrested them.

15,000 regular troops and National Guardsmen were told to keep their rifles unloaded. Often, in the early hours, outnumbered police simply stood by—under orders—watched the arson and pillage.

Tying the hands of our armed forces and law enforcement officials was an invitation to crime, created disrespect for law enforcement and lent encouragement to the philosophy that riot and destruction is the most certain method of enforcing demands.

As reported in the news media District Court officials are considering imposing mild, if any, penalties on looters, curfew violators and arsonists.

Government Departments, except those three required by law to take no-pay action, are "giving consideration" to what action to take against their employees convicted of major riot offenses.

The Department of Justice, through its Attorney General, is dilly, dally, and delaying and "making studies" of statements inciting to riot and threatening destruction of our city and our government on the part of a certain radical, militant leader instead of taking positive action authorized under existing law.

The claim by certain civil rights advocates that this country is stingy in aiding the poor is not borne out by the facts. Public relief now exceeds nine billion dollars annually to 9.7 million persons, 90% of them Negroes.

With ample advance evidence of the potentialities for disorder and violence in our city, is it unreasonable to have expected, when the tragedy occurred, that more prompt and effective action would have been taken to protect the lives and property of the citizens of the District of Columbia?

At the regular meeting of the Federation of Citizens Associations the following resolution was adopted:

Whereas the news media gives altogether too much publicity to statements of politicians, which while purporting to sympathize with the poor and uneducated; with references to expected riots in the streets, bloodshed in the streets, long hot summers, etc., only encourages the law-breakers, arsonists, looters, etc. to disregard the laws of this land under the guise of "permitted civil disobedience".

Whereas too much publicity is given to the statements and actions of such militants as Stokely Carmichael, Rap Brown, etc., thereby building such persons up in the minds of the easily influenced.

Whereas actions and statements of responsible civic leaders of both the Negro and white race are either totally disregarded, minimized or misquoted.

Whereas too little emphasis is placed on what has been done and is being done to improve relationships between the races; what is being done to improve education for all; housing for all; welfare for the needy, medical care for aged and needy, etc.: Now therefore, be it

*Resolved* By the Federation of Citizens Association in meeting assembled April 25th 1968, that the press, radio and television be requested to discontinue their present policy of sensationalism, which undermines the efforts of law-abiding citizens, and rather put emphasis on what the Government, both Federal and local; what Churches, Foundations and Organizations are doing to promote the welfare of all citizens.

FEDERATION OF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATIONS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, APRIL 25, 1968

*Resolved*: By the Federation of Citizens' Association in meeting assembled April 25, 1968 that it support and recommend passage of H.R. 16512. This bill would provide that "An individual may not accept or hold a position in the Government of the United States or the government of the District of Columbia if convicted in a court of competent jurisdiction of murder, homicide, felonious assault, rioting, inciting to riot, looting, robbery, or arson during a period of emergency declared by competent authority due to civil disorder. An individual so convicted shall not be eligible for appointment to, or reinstatement in, any civilian