

Murphy also confirmed earlier statements by Assistant Chief Jerry V. Wilson that the Department has found the use of chemical sprays a humane way to subdue unruly persons.

[From the Washington Star, Apr. 26, 1968]

THREATS OF PAY-OR-BURN POSE PROBLEM TO POLICE

(By Donald Smith)

District police are worried that recent attempts to solicit money from white merchants, sometimes under threats of burning down their stores if the money is not paid, may be growing.

"I'm afraid that if this trend develops further we're liable to have a Mafia type of extortion operation," Inspector Thomas I. Herlihy, head of the police Intelligence Division, said today.

The division has had numerous complaints from businessmen who report being contacted in person and by telephone by solicitors.

STORE OWNER WAVES GUN

In cases of solicitations being backed by threats of arson, Herlihy said, "Obviously there have been some who have paid off and not reported it."

A store owner in the 1800 block of 7th Street, contacted by The Star, said he had waved a pistol at one such solicitor when the man demanded \$50. The man ran out of the store.

The owner, who asked that he not be identified, said a well-dressed Negro entered his store at about 11 a.m. Monday and said, "Give me \$50 and I'll tell them not to burn up your building." The owner then pulled out the gun and the man fled.

"I built this store myself 37 years ago," the owner said. "But I'm not going to pay somebody not to burn it down."

Numerous merchants said they had been asked by members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee to contribute smaller amounts—not, however, under threat.

"A SNCC worker came in Thursday and asked for money so they could send kids to summer camp, or something like that," said the owner of a grocery store on 7th Street NW.

"I gave him a check for \$5," he added. "I would have been crazy not to."

POSTERS BEING SOLD

Many stores throughout the city display a framed poster commemorating the death of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., whose assassination April 4 touched off widespread arson and looting.

The posters have been sold by door-to-door solicitors for \$1 each. The frame costs \$3. Also being sold are Martin Luther King buttons for \$1 each.

Inspector Herlihy pointed out that soliciting without a permit from the Department of Licenses and Inspection is illegal. There have been no arrests in connection with the posters and buttons, however, because of a lack of complaints.

He also pointed out that implied threats such as "I'll be back later" if a merchant refuses to pay extortion money are difficult to prosecute.

[From the Evening Star, Washington, D.C., Apr. 29, 1968]

D.C. LEASES 150 UNITS FOR VICTIMS OF RIOTS

(By Paul Delaney)

The District government today leased 150 units of the Envoy Towers apartments to be used as temporary housing for persons, displaced during rioting earlier this month.

The arrangements were completed this afternoon between District officials and the Federal Housing Administration. Families and individuals will be able