

Published because some of us have lost our lives, many of us have lost our property, and all of us want to preserve law and order for all residents of the Washington area and for the United States we love.

WASHINGTON, D.C., RETAIL LIQUOR DEALERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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WASHINGTON'S "REIGN OF TERROR"

(By David Lawrence)

A reign of terror prevails in the capital of the United States. Drivers of buses are afraid to work at night because one of their number was killed a few days ago by robbers. Attempts to steal the money collected from passenger fares have produced 234 incidents thus far this year.

The police force is inadequate. Businessmen are dismayed. Tourists are reluctant to come to the national capital. Residents of the city are scared to go out on the streets at night. Theaters and movies have smaller audiences. Owners of parking lots are particularly apprehensive. Two hundred members of "the park and shop" organization unanimously signed a letter to the President and Congress which was published in a page advertisement in the newspapers Friday. It said in part:

"This nation has borne the allegedly spontaneous rape of its cities with restraint and patience beyond ordinary understanding, but the eyes of the whole country are now on Washington, and with a clear understanding that the approaching events will not be spontaneous. An aura of uncertainty and personal insecurity, a growing smog of fear hangs over this, the national capital. It is not just another city. It belongs to all Americans, and all Americans are watching.

"Will the government of the District of Columbia and the nation provide an overwhelming deterrent to violence? Will they provide visible police and troops sufficient to discourage the criminal few from acts which unfortunately and unjustly are often blamed on the innocent majority of one segment of our whole people? . . .

"We ask for a deterrent to destruction, not only a promise of control after it has started. . . .

"If sufficient police are patrolling this city, are seen in large enough concentrations and numbers, and are known to be authorized to enforce the law with all means necessary, serious rioting, arson and looting will never have the chance to begin. If sufficient police are unavailable, there are in the area of Washington and at the disposal of the commander-in-chief more than sufficient troops to provide the necessary show of force. It would seem preferable to show force before, rather than to have to use it afterwards."

The police in Washington are so busy watching the encampments where 3,000 "demonstrators" are to spend 30 days that there are not enough patrolmen to protect people on the streets and prevent the wave of looting and arson which has been going on.

Although the population of this city is more than 800,000, the police number only 3,000. Troops can help temporarily, but a larger force is really necessary. It cost the federal government \$5,375,400 to deploy troops across the nation after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. brought on "demonstrations" which gave criminals a chance to start fires and rob stores. Property losses in Washington alone were \$13 million and amounted to much more across the country.

When bus drivers are fearful about operating at night, and the transit company has to require passengers to carry the exact change so that the cash box can be kept locked, it certainly indicates that the governing authorities are lax and that not enough policemen have been utilized to deter acts of crime.

During such periods of disorder, "demonstrations" of any kind should not be permitted. There are enough halls and auditoriums for free speech to be exercised fully.

"Demonstrations" and mass gatherings could be forbidden by city ordinances everywhere until such time as an adequate force of troops has been provided to afford protection. It's an expensive way to assure respect for law and order, but it would cost far less in lives and property damage than bringing in soldiers after the riots and vandalism have occurred.

Disorder, meanwhile, is sweeping the nation. Members of college faculties and students who should know better are joining in the deliberate creation of condi-