

Curran said that he felt the ultimate solution for court backlogs in the District would be to set up a new Superior Court of Criminal Jurisdiction to try felony cases.

He said it should be served by a chief judge and 10 associate judges appointed for 15-year terms.

"As Washington moves ever close to home rule," Curran said, "it is only logical that a truly local court system be established."

He said the new court would handle crimes now prosecuted in his federal court. They are the so-called common-law crimes, such as murder, rape, robbery, burglary, abortion and assault with a dangerous weapon.

In other jurisdictions, the chief judge pointed out, these common-law crimes are not federal offenses. They are tried in state, county or city courts. "Local crimes should be tried in a local court as they are everywhere else," he said.

[From the Washington Post, June 1, 1968]

#### SHARP DROP IN TOURISM NOTED HERE

(By Elsie Carper)

The Washington Convention and Visitors Bureau yesterday reported a "severe" decrease in the number of tourists coming to Washington in the wake of the April rioting.

Twenty-five per cent of room reservations were canceled in April and 22 per cent in May, the Bureau said.

One medium-sized hotel has told the Bureau that a single tour company had canceled reservations for 2300 visitors this summer.

Another hotel, catering to conventions and tourists, says it has 125 fewer employees than it would normally use during this period, a payroll reduction of \$45,000 a month. The hotel has estimated that it will pay the city \$12,000 less in taxes in May than it ordinarily would.

A third hotel reports it has 116 fewer employees, with a payroll loss of \$30,000 and a tax loss of \$10,000, and a smaller tourist hotel, which normally operates with 80 employees, has cut back to 60.

The report of what has happened to tourism, the city's largest single source of private money, was presented to the Senate District Appropriations subcommittee by Clarence A. Arata, executive director of the Bureau, and Victor O. Schinnerer, the immediate past chairman.

The Bureau has asked Congress to appropriate \$200,000 in the fiscal year beginning July 1 to recapture the tourist and convention trade.

Business firms have been asked to subscribe to a special emergency fund, Schinnerer told the subcommittee, "to launch a massive campaign to tell America and the world that Washington is again free from disturbances and unrest and that visitors can again feel safe in the Nation's Capital."

In addition, he said, the businessmen expect to raise \$350,000 to expand the operation of the Bureau, which now operates on a more limited budget.

Arata said that if the present trend continues, there will be substantial tax losses to the city. Last year, direct revenues from tourists brought in \$21.6 million. In April and May alone, revenues were approximately \$1.5 million less than normally would have been anticipated.

"We find that cancellations of tour groups is continuing into the months ahead—all because of the widespread unfavorable publicity which the city has received and is receiving currently," Schinnerer told the subcommittee.

Two major conventions scheduled to come to Washington next year "are skittish" about meeting here, Arata said.

"We thought we had a convention of 9000 people tied down for 1973 but the decision of whether to meet in Washington or move to another city has been postponed until October," he said. "We are extremely hopeful that crime and unrest in Washington will soon pass. If we could see the terminal point we could go out and fight. We have a tremendous problem in promotion."

Travel agents are being shown where the riots took place and where tourists stay and visit to point out that there is no close relationship, Arata told the subcommittee.

He said that the rioting and the Poor People's Campaign have replaced crime here as the major deterrent, although crime is still a factor in keeping tourists away.