

The last of the eight to appear before Burka was Sylvester Burrows, 47, of the 1200 block of 5th Street NW, who was charged with attempted burglary and rioting.

He previously entered a guilty plea to the charges, but when he came before Burka yesterday he said it was all an "accident."

Burrows claimed that on April 5 he was standing near a liquor store when a crowd surged by him and the next thing he knew he was in the store, where he was arrested. The judge set aside the guilty plea and set a trial for July 2.

[From the Washington Post, June 16, 1968]

BANKERS ASK AID FOR D.C. POLICE

NEED IMPERATIVE, ASSOCIATION SAYS IN RESOLUTION

(By S. Oliver Goodman)

HOT SPRINGS, VA., June 15—The D.C. Bankers Association today called for the immediate release of 1000 men from the military forces to augment the Washington Police Department.

In a resolution adopted at the close of their annual convention here, the bankers said: "The needs of our community are so imperative that a delay cannot be endured."

The resolution noted that President Johnson has requested Congress to authorize an increase of 1000 in the strength of the City's police force. However, the bankers feel too much time may elapse through normal civilian recruitment and training procedures.

If the release of servicemen should be judged unacceptable, the bankers requested legislative action so that "not less than 1000 federal troops may be ordered into our nation's Federal City to perform temporary and vitally needed police duties."

The request for servicemen was one of a three-part resolution passed by unanimous vote of the bankers as steps towards restoring law and order in Washington.

The action was prefaced with these remarks: "Crime is accelerating at a rate so rapid in the Capital of the Nation as to approach emergency dimensions. Those who may doubt the seriousness of our crime need only refer to recent statistics released by the Federal Bureau of Investigation showing that 'serious crime' in the District of Columbia for the period 1960-66 increased 123 per cent."

The bankers also cited figures for the first five months of 1968 showing 36 bank robberies, an increase of 177 percent over 13 in the same period last year.

In other anti-crime resolutions, the bankers—

Endorsed Judge Edward M. Curran's recommendation for the establishment of a new court to be known as the "District of Columbia Superior Court of Criminal Jurisdiction."

Endorsed the recommendation of Judge Harold H. Green that favorable action be taken on a Senate bill providing for raising salaries and increasing the number of judges for the Court of General Sessions.

Endorsed a proposal that the Juvenile Court be transferred and made a part of the Court of General Sessions.

The bankers also recommended that the Bail Reform Act be amended to provide judges with discretionary power to deny bail pending trial in certain extreme cases.

They also went on record as supporting an effective parking agency for downtown Washington, endorsing prompt Congressional action on the long-delayed freeway construction program, and calling for construction of a regional rail network to begin in October, 1968.

A speaker today was Comptroller of the Currency, William B. Camp who touched briefly on a sore spot with District banks. Camp said he is well aware "of the particularly keen frustrations that arise when initiative is shackled by what are regarded as artificial barriers to normal patterns of growth and expansion."

The Comptroller referred to the lengthy efforts of Washington banks to be allowed to branch into suburban Maryland and Virginia.

Similar, if not identical, problems exist in many other sections of the country, he pointed out.

(Whereupon, at 12:20 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned, subject to the call of the Chair.)