

I remember the statement made by the Chairman of this subcommittee, and there is no more able lawyer in this Congress than he—the statement made by him before the Public Works Committee. And you said, “Gentlemen, we are virtually facing up to a simple proposition, one of two alternatives—it is not a matter of law and order at this time, although that is the principal concern.” He said, “We are coming up to the point”—and I believe that I am paraphrasing him correctly—“you are coming up to where you will have to choose between tyranny and anarchy and we do not want either. But I am sure of one thing, the American people are not going to permit even if this Congress does not act to protect them, they are not going to permit anarchy to exist in this Nation.”

So, as a consequence, we might have to become a little hard in order to bring things back in perspective. This Nation is going down the drain when people can say, “I obey those laws with which I agree, and I disobey those laws with which I disagree.”

Why are we surprised that youngsters are causing trouble around here today when we have adults proclaiming from every quarter of this Nation such an alien philosophy as that? We have a real responsibility.

I do not know whether the action that you will take on this bill, Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee—whether it will do the job. I am hopeful that it may. At least, it is a step in the right direction.

I think that the American people are demanding that we face up to our responsibility as hard as they might be, as disastrous as the political consequences might be—and I know the political consequences in taking a position such as this and that which a number of others have taken, but I believe that it is our responsibility as Representatives of the American people to be willing to suffer that political consequence in order to try to maintain law and order here in the Nation’s Capital.

Then may I say that everybody has a right to come here without fear of intimidation or harassment—everyone has a right to use the public facilities and the parks around here. And just as certainly as this is permitted today as apparently it has been, the permit has been granted, you will never be able to deny any group or any individual the right to come here and camp wherever they desire in the Nation’s Capital.

So, again, Mr. Chairman, let me say that I strongly support this bill of Mr. Friedel. I think it is only equitable. I think it is only fair, because, certainly, none of these businessmen who suffered these losses were responsible for them. There is a serious question as to whether or not the police—and they have no stronger supporter than I—and the military, too—but there is a serious question in the minds of a lot of the people as to whether or not the administration can handcuff the police and virtually hold them back from trying to control this particular mob in the occasion just a month or so ago. If we grant this permit, in my judgment, if violence occurs and, certainly, you know they are announcing that they will disrupt and dislocate this government—they are announcing that as their intention and they have further said, Mr. Abernathy has said, they intend to turn this city upside-down. Well, if he meant that, then we as responsible legislators should know that he is telling us that he is going to cause violence. And if he did not mean it, certainly, we should not permit a