

man to go around making such irrational statements to conduct a demonstration and to camp in and so forth in the Nation's Capital.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. WHITENER. Thank you, Mr. Watson.

Mr. McMillan?

Mr. McMILLAN. Thank you, Mr. Watson, for a very forthright statement. Mr. Watson is an outstanding attorney and enjoys a wonderful practice in my State. We are very much disturbed over this matter so it could easily get out of hand in these confused times.

Mr. WHITENER. Mr. Winn?

DENIAL OF OTHER REQUESTS TO CAMP OR PARADE

Mr. WINN. Mr. Watson, you remarked about the numbers of high school seniors who usually come in the spring to see the city and visit the many beautiful memorials are being denied that privilege. Are you aware or do you know of any circumstances where students have been allowed to camp on any of the grounds around here?

Mr. WATSON. Mr. Winn, I certainly know of none whatsoever. Frankly, they have never requested such a permit so far as I know. But if they had, in the absence of specific legislation, I do not believe that they would have been granted such a permit.

Mr. WINN. It is my understanding that down through the years some groups, not knowing the rules and the regulations, have inquired whether they could camp in the Mall area. They were told, no, this was against the regulations.

Mr. WATSON. I am sure that is a correct statement. We might bear in mind that we are dealing with a most unusual situation. Really, the people who care a little bit about what the law is, act differently. We had a camp-in of a very short duration in Lafayette Park. And I understand that the officials were complaining up and down, "You cannot do it. You cannot do it." But they did it. And that was further encouragement to just what is happening here today.

I am sure that these officers can testify to this fact that if you allow a man to break the law one time without redress and adequate punishment it is further encouragement and that you, the official, are actually responsible for further violations.

Mr. WINN. You mentioned the Baptists having a celebration here in October. You mentioned the name of the man who turned them down. I do not know if he will come before this committee or not. I hope that we would have a chance to visit with this man. Do you know how many requests for similar types of meetings have come into the District per year along the same line as the Boy Scouts or the Shriners or the American Legion?

Mr. WATSON. I certainly do not. There was an article which appeared in the Baptist Courier of the State of South Carolina. So far as I am concerned I take no position one way or the other as to the issuance of the permit. This was not a camp-in. This was simply a matter of having a parade in the Nation's Capital and having a rally around the Washington Monument. The reply received was that in view of the tense situation that they were not granting any permits. Bear in mind that this was only to occur October 10 to 13, this event.