

fields in Europe, who came to Washington in the 1930s for one purpose, to urge or maybe demand that the Congress enact into law bonus legislation which would give to the veterans of World War I certain monetary benefits. History tells us that these men who had fought courageously for their country were trampled under the feet of horses, many of them killed and forced off of the public grounds of the Nation's Capital. I wonder if our constitutional principles had been exerted in their support, whether that tragic thing would have come about.

Mr. WATSON. It was very sad. I think you understand that we are now in an era where patriotism and the protection of all rights and the love of flag and the love of country is rather an old fuddy-duddy thing. We are in newer sociological concepts where we warp the Constitution to suit our own purpose, rather than letting it apply equally to all citizens, regardless of race or color.

Mr. WHITENER. I wonder if you would agree with this statement, a decision in the Supreme Court where it says this:

The privilege of a citizen of the United States to use the streets and parks for communication, et cetera, views of national questions, may be regulated in the interests of all. It is not absolute, but relative. It must be exercised in subordination to the general comfort and convenience and in consonance with the peace and good order.

Mr. WATSON. I agree wholeheartedly. That was the case where these people brought in an earlier occasion just a short time ago a so-called poor people's campaign, but of a much smaller nature.

Mr. WHITENER. This case involved a city ordinance requiring permits for public assembly on public streets, highways and parks and public buildings, to authorize the director of public safety, for the purpose of preventing riots, disturbances, or order, to refuse to issue a permit when after investigation of all of the facts and circumstances pertinent to the application he believed it would be proper to refuse to issue a permit.

Mr. WATSON. I agree wholeheartedly. I would like for the committee to look into it. I will try to get a citation I have in mind. Some judge was very critical of a leader here recently who tried to bring the poor people in here. I will get the citation of the case. The judge was critical of the situation and castigated him for playing upon the plight of the poor people, rather than urging them to prepare themselves for education and otherwise to go out and fill some of the jobs we have. There are thousands of jobs that are going unfilled right now. I will try to get this situation for you.

Mr. WHITENER. The First Amendment to the Constitution does not say that government officials have no authority whatever to infringe upon the rights of a citizen or a group of citizens in the use of the public parks and the streets for their own convenience without regard to the convenience of the general public.

Mr. WATSON. I agree wholeheartedly with you. I am inclined to believe that it is part of the genius of those who framed the Constitution, and the great Declaration of Independence—I am sure that they never intended for it to be so torn up and disregarded.

Mr. WHITENER. Thank you very much, Mr. Watson.

Mr. WATSON. Thank you.