

the permit. The Chief had his men working on the permit. The parade was from 7th and T Streets at the Kennedy Playground in a peaceful way and to have a rally and then to disperse peaceably.

The question then was raised, as I see it, the only way that we address ourselves to it—not only to the orderly movement of people in a parade or otherwise, because if they fail to perform properly or break the law, they will be arrested—and what we are talking about here is——

Mr. WHITENER. You mean that we have no right as public officials to try to deter violations of the law, that the only recourse is to——

Mr. WASHINGTON. That is not what I am saying. I am saying that the deterrent here is the permit itself which we have been issuing. We have issued 85 during the past year—is all I am saying—and these have gone on in a peaceful way. We sit down with the parties. The Chief can give you the exact process. And we make certain determinations, so that we can assure for law and order. Our position is predicated on one particular point, and that is, whether the bond itself—I have heard testimony—I know that in the case of the Shriners and in the case of others—I am not sure of the Boy Scouts—that there was a certain use of government space, and that they wished to come in and make bonds or insurance, as a matter of fact, with respect to the use of government space. The question of a parade and a bond to do that raised a question in the minds of our legal people as to whether or not we could put a price tag on a parade or upon people demonstrating. This is why I think our position has been, perhaps, misunderstood. If a person has no money and wishes to parade peacefully, to demonstrate, would we deny him because he could not make the bond? And this is the only position that we would have some difference on—not on restriction, not on prevention, not on trying to assure to the fullest degree possible that we have a procedure by which we protect not only our citizens but the marchers who would be assembling for the demonstration. Upon that legal position we may disagree. It is our position only. We are going to control and we are going to maintain public safety. We just raised the question in respect to the bill.

There is another point and that is whether or not we can find any other process. As a matter of fact, I understand that the Scouts at the time they had the jamboree were permitted to insure—not to put up a bond, but to insure against it. Maybe some process such as that is possible. And I was not raising this in relation to the current march.

I thought that the legislation was expected to be broader. We were simply raising this question with respect to that aspect of it, because we did have 85 marches or demonstrations that we have had since April last. And we have applied, even with our procedures, we have applied an orderly process to them, and not one that I can recall has had any difficulty.

The question of the bond may be restrictive—it may not be. We raised that question, Mr. Chairman, only because we believe that it may put some people in the position where they could not or may not have been able to orderly demonstrate. This is our position on that.

If I might go to another——

Mr. WHITENER. Mr. Steiger.

Mr. STEIGER. Are you aware, Commissioner Washington, that the Baptists were denied a permit?