

Because of such occurrences that I have just described, property owners in many, many cases are unable to reduce rents and make necessary repairs. The responsibility, in most cases, should rest with the tenants. This is a problem of both black and white property owners. If philosophies such as "*It is not where you live, but how you live*" were emphasized, people might have more interest in defending the appearance of where they live and would not destroy or mar property regardless of who the property owners are.

I would say that I am a slum landlord with new construction at 1325-1327 Emerson Street, N. W.; 4625-4627 13th Street, N. W.; 4715-4721 Texas Avenue, S. E., which were sold; also 100-110 58th Street, S. E., which I still own. Through numerous causes, such as vandalism, high cost of material, taxes which were raised three times since 1963, and loss of rent revenues, when the total losses were summed up there was \$100,000 loss over a three-year period. In all cases, I personally constructed these properties from the ground up, working with Negro subcontractors and tradesmen. I found my relationship with them to be compatible 90 per cent of the time.

As I see it, the present laws within this community, through the Housing, Licenses and Inspection, Corporation Counsel's Office, and the Courts are inadequate. If something is not done to remedy this situation immediately, many property owners, both black and white, will be forced to abandon their property, and others will be forced into bankruptcy.

I know and I believe that in many cases the District of Columbia Government has in its employ numerous persons that have been hired under its kind of hiring practice and political practice, who are definitely not qualified and who do not have practical knowledge or intelligence to assess the situation and to make clear recommendations.

With this testimony, Mr. Chairman, I do not profess to know all the remedies but as an interested citizen and for the best interest of a better community, I feel that my recommendations should be given utmost attention. They are as follows:

Establishment of proper planning in all aspects, free of prejudice.

Blacks should establish their own leadership where frank discussions can arise, without fear of retaliation.

Since money is the basic topic, there should not be any curtailment of funds when programs are established for the public good.

The expansion of the city economy, eliminating political aspects.

Mr. Chairman, my testimony has been given in good faith and I hope that it will be accepted by you, your colleagues, and the dedicated public attending this meeting.

1111 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

"THE CITY OF NO WINDOWS"

(Written by: George Kalavritinos—May 11, 1968)

As a result of the Supreme Court decisions and through the Liberals and certain politicians of our great nation we are now faced with our police forces around our nation both local and state being now totally neutralized. We, as a nation from July 4th, 1776 when the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Continental Congress have never been faced with a more critical situation as we are confronted with today—and that is a complete breakdown of LAW and ORDER.

Now, how did this situation come about, why did we let it happen, is it too late to do something about it? What is the solution? Money, Education, Bloodshed, Military Dictatorship, Communication!—What?? What has happened to this nation, where are our leaders, where can we find a Voice to tell those hoodlums, animals and punks, both white and black militants who have no regard for our country and its laws—where? What leaders can be found—political or private citizens who will speak up and say Law and Order is not going to retreat anymore, enough is enough? I, as a D.C. Businessman and citizen of these United States have had it. I am now damn mad. I want to help do something—anything to awaken this city and this nation to the fact that by tomorrow it might be too late. Now let's take a look at our Bill of Rights as citizens of these United States of America and Citizens and Businessmen of Washington, D.C. Let us go back