

if you go to the individual mortgage company it is almost impossible to get a loan on a building or a rental on a business.

Mr. HAASE. Yes, sir, absolutely.

Mr. WINN. Thank you. That is all.

Mr. WHITENER. I observe that you say in your statement that the police did the best job they could and that the District Government did all they could under the circumstances?

Mr. HAASE. Yes, sir.

Mr. WHITENER. That was in your oral presentation, but in your prepared statement you say that had the local government performed its function and its duty to maintain law and order in the riot neighborhoods there would have been no need now to say who bears the responsibility for the damaged buildings.

Mr. HAASE. I have read in the papers and have read from the testimony here, just as the statement which was read this morning, that one organization stated the police were hamstrung in their ability to perform their function.

Mr. Murphy sat in and said that he did not give any orders. Am I quoting him correctly? I do not want to be misquoting.

Mr. WHITENER. You gave your own version of it.

Mr. HAASE. I have not heard anything contrary to it, I think. There are so many conflicting arguments about what actually happened, about what orders they were under——

Mr. WHITENER. Your organization recommends that H.R. 16948 be enacted into law to authorize or to require the District of Columbia Government to pay the cost of the removal of the damaged buildings and the debris.

COMPENSATION FOR OTHER LOSSES

What is the disposition of your organization towards payment for compensation to innocent people who were injured, those who were killed in the disturbance?

Mr. HAASE. Well, I would not wish to comment on that, because I would say something that I am not authorized to say. I would be glad to take it up with the members of the Board.

Mr. WHITENER. This is the thing that bothers me, so many having the zeal for the removal of rubble and debris. I am wondering about those people who have had hospital bills, funeral bills, the loss of earnings. There are not only those people but also the employees in some of these businesses who were innocent of any wrongdoing who have been deprived of their weekly paychecks.

Mr. HAASE. Let me say, Mr. Chairman, that these merchants pay real estate taxes. That represents the greatest single revenue that the city has, and that money from taxes on real estate goes to pay for the police force. The merchants are entitled to protection under the law.

Mr. WHITENER. Of course, other citizens pay their sales taxes and their property taxes, and the other taxes imposed by law which entitles them to be protected in their pursuits, too.

Mr. HAASE. Yes, sir.

Mr. WHITENER. We are entitled to protection for our property, too. This, to me, is the real issue before us.