

It has been suggested from time to time—I believe in England they enacted into law some statute which took care of compensating victims of crime. I was just wondering, if we enacted this legislation, if we ought to put a premium on rubble and lower it on life and limb.

Mr. HAASE. I see your point.

Mr. WHITENER. Do you have any personal comment? I know that you cannot speak for your association.

Mr. HAASE. No. I would agree with you; let me say that. I think what you say has merit.

Mr. WHITENER. I read an account in the press this morning about a Negro woman who was an occupant in an apartment above one of these buildings that the hoodlums set on fire. She was taken out, as I understand it, from the apartment to the undertaking establishment. I do not know her; all I know is what I read in the paper. But, in addition to the loss of her life, we know that somebody had to pay for her funeral and the like, and yet no one is saying that we ought to look at that. I wonder if we should not consider that, too, and give some thought to that as well. Do you have any further questions?

Mr. WINN. Do you know whether the Washington Board of Realtors have made any study of what percentage of the owners might open again?

Mr. HAASE. No, we have not.

Mr. WINN. If the District pays for cleaning up the rubble out there, you do not have any idea as to that yet?

Mr. HAASE. Not yet, sir, but I will bring that up and furnish the Committee with a statement on that.

Mr. HAASE. I think it would be most interesting to have. Thank you very much.

Mr. WHITENER. Thank you.

Our next witness is Mr. Abe Liss, President, Midtown Business Association.

Before Mr. Liss testifies, we will make the statement of Mr. Hilliard Schulberg, Executive Director, Retail Liquor Dealers Association, Washington, D.C., a part of the record at this point.

(The statement of Hilliard Schulberg referred to follows:)

STATEMENT OF HILLIARD SCHULBERG, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WASHINGTON, D.C.,
RETAIL LIQUOR DEALERS ASSOCIATION, ON H.R. 16948, MAY 17, 1968

My name is Hilliard Schulberg. I am the Executive Director of the Washington, D.C. Retail Liquor Dealers Association, an organization comprised of those retail licensees who sell alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption. We appreciate the opportunity afforded us to express our views concerning the rebuilding of the areas devastated by the recent civil disturbance in the District of Columbia.

Like many other small businessmen, our people were hard hit and suffered grievous losses. Reports indicate that approximately 35 stores were totally destroyed and 150 others damaged and looted. From information available as of April 23, 1968, the projected losses sustained by liquor dealers, covering damages to real property, inventory and fixtures, totals \$7,780,000 with an uninsured loss of \$2,300,000. The uncontrolled destruction, burning and looting that took place certainly was not of our making; we became the innocent victims of a deliberate policy of forbearance by the authorities which permitted an unjust enrichment of law violators at the expense of small neighborhood merchants. The protection that should have been available was noticeably absent.

There is now no point in quarrelling with a decision of the authorities which determined that law enforcement would be suspended, that rioters and burners