

cases, particularly for a crime of violence. We originally had in that bill other mandatory minimum sentences, and yet there was a big argument, all the way from the halls of the House and the Senate to the White House, that there was something evil about mandatory sentences. And the President vetoed my earlier bill (H.R. 5688 of the 89th Congress), and in his message this is one of the points that he raised as justification for vetoing it.

I do not follow that philosophy myself, but having been a man who has had experience in commanding ships, I assume, and in naval activities, do you feel that there is anything improper about a person knowing at anytime that if he commits a certain crime of violence, he is going to have to serve at least a certain period of time?

Admiral NAQUIN. Like a mandatory sentence?

Mr. WHITENER. Yes, and if convicted a second time of burglary, for example, that the judge will not have the authority to suspend the sentence and place him on probation?

Admiral NAQUIN. If we are going to control it, it seems that mandatory sentences are mandatory, as I see it.

Mr. WHITENER. Thank you very much, Admiral Naquin. We appreciate your being with us.

Our next witness is Mr. Raymond Ruppert.

We will be glad to hear you now.

**STATEMENT OF RAYMOND R. RUPPERT, REALTOR, 1017 7TH STREET, NORTHWEST, WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Mr. RUPPERT. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen.

I am a resident of the District of Columbia, a D.C. Real Estate Broker, and am a member of the Washington Board of Realtors, Inc. Our firm is a member of the Midtown Business Association. Our family business has been located in the 1000 block of 7th Street, N.W., since 1890.

We owned and managed three buildings located at 1000-04 7th Street, 703 Mt. Vernon Place and 1143 7th Street, Northwest, which, until April 5th of this year produced a monthly income of over \$700. On the night of April 5th these buildings which consisted of four stores, two apartments and one large rooming house were looted and burned. By Monday, April 8th, they had been razed by the D.C. Government to piles of rubble.

On the afternoon of April 5th, I witnessed, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., youths and young adults aged approximately 10 to 30, ranging up and down the 1000 block of 7th Street, Northwest, breaking show windows and looting at will. There was one helmeted policeman present, directing traffic at 7th and New York Avenue, Northwest, at 2:30 p.m. that afternoon. There is nothing derogatory against the policemen on the street in that statement. I think they did a wonderful job.

Approximately one week later, on April 11, 1968, we received notification from the D.C. Government to proceed within 24 hours to demolish and remove the debris from the above-mentioned burned-out premises. This order came from the Department of Licenses and Inspections under the authority of the law pertaining to the removal of unsafe buildings which would normally come under the control of