

BEN BROWN IS DEAD

IS LAW ENFORCEMENT ALSO DEAD?

Mr. Brown was shot while defending his property.

Should anarchy prevail because a small segment of the population takes the law into its own hands? Should bands of hoodlums be allowed to continue preying on law-abiding citizens, Negro and white?

When hoodlums—regardless of age, sex or color—are undeterred by the prospect of effective law-enforcement, no one is safe. If criminals can loot, burn and kill in the Inner City without fear of consequences, it is only a question of time before you, your family and your business can feel the effect. It makes no difference where you live, work or play: When law enforcement ceases, disrespect for the law is encouraged.

When you walk or drive through many areas of Washington, do you feel safe—or scared? Do you encourage your friends and relatives to visit the Nation's Capital at this time?

Is the battle over? Not for the citizens whose lives are threatened. Not for the businessmen who cannot rebuild because they cannot get insurance. Not for the few who have surmounted the obstacles of arson and looting, and have reopened only to face new threats of extortion and worse. Not for the people who are out of jobs. Not for the people who were burned out of their homes.

Who is at fault? Certainly not the majority of citizens, white or Negro. Certainly not the majority of the poor, Negro or white. Certainly not the policeman on the beat, who must obey orders.

This is no revolt of youth against older generations. This is no revolt of the poor against the wealthy. This is no part of the Civil Rights movement whose real leaders know that Utopia doesn't have to be built on ashes.

It is an open attack by a few criminals against a community that lacks firm leadership and the courage to demand that its leaders exercise their authority—or resign.

We believe that law enforcement suffers when the police are handcuffed instead of the criminals. We believe that citizens are entitled to protection and safety.

Where is the safety Mr. Murphy? Where is the protection, Mr. Murphy? Where will tragedy strike next? Today, the Inner City. Tomorrow, the residential areas, the suburbs.

Today, Ben Brown. Tomorrow???

Published because some of us have lost our lives, many of us have lost our property, and all of us want to preserve law and order for all residents of the Washington area and for the United States we love.

WASHINGTON, D.C. RETAIL LIQUOR DEALERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON BOARD OF TRADE,
Washington, D.C., May 13, 1968.

HON. JOHN L. McMILLAN,
Chairman, Committee on the District of Columbia,
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is to advise you that the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Board of Trade has carefully considered and recommended that buildings destroyed or damaged so as to be unsafe during the civil disorders on and after April 4, 1968 be removed at the expense of the District of Columbia.

We therefore recommend passage of H.R. 16948 with the exception of the language of (a) (2) "remove any other building (or part thereof) so damaged if the owner requests to have it removed," which we feel needs further study.

Cordially,

WILLIAM H. PRESS,
Executive Vice-President.