

I have met with drivers from the D.C. Transit Company and their wives. I have had numerous calls and letters from employees of the Government Printing Office and I have had numerous conversations with City businessmen. I will not take the subcommittee's time by explaining in detail what occurred at these meetings. However, I would like to emphasize some conclusions I have drawn from them.

First, they feel that the policemen's hands are tied. They feel that if the policeman is a little too aggressive in performing his function of protecting the public he will be chastized by trial boards and other administrative actions.

Secondly they are critical of the court system here where a large backlog exists, allowing arrested persons out on personal bond or bail for long periods of time before trial, many continuances, and subsequent probation which allows them once again to strike at the public.

Recently I have become increasingly disturbed by the association of high ranking D.C. officials with such extremist groups at the Black United Front. While irresponsible statements by this group calling the murder of a policeman "justifiable homicide" might be protected by the constitutional guarantee of free speech, I do not believe D.C. government officials connected with such groups can be impartial and fair in carrying on city business as long as they belong to both groups. Such officials should either resign from the government or cease promoting the aims of such organizations.

When the present D.C. Government was appointed, I was hopeful that after a short time they would begin to take prompt and affirmative action towards solving the city's problems. Some advances have been made but they have failed miserably to maintain law and order. I realize that to solve some problems we need sociological solutions. However, I also know that law and order must come first. This must be the cornerstone on which we can build a better society for all the people of the District of Columbia.

I am also disturbed that the City Government has not openly opposed proposals which have been made to let private citizens take over the Police Department. The Police Department must not be run by a plebiscite of the citizens. It must be operated by dedicated individuals whose job it is to enforce the law quickly, decisively and fairly. Police morale is now very, very low. I believe the inaction on the part of the D.C. Government will erode it even further if prompt action is not taken to quash proposals for neighborhood control of the police. I believe the police have got to regain the feeling that they will be backed up by all echelons of government in their effective enforcement of the law.

In conclusion, I want to indicate that I hope as a result of these hearings the Committee will consider whether additional legislation may be needed to combat the rising crime rate in the District. I also hope that D.C. Government is now on notice that neither we in the Congress nor the residents of the City condone the lack of law and order we see evidenced in the District. Prompt and effective law enforcement must be the first priority. Once this has been achieved then the city can move ahead to solve such other problems as stabilizing business and encouraging people to remain in the District rather than join the exodus to the suburbs. Only with prompt and effective law en-