

D.C. City Council with the backing of the Washington Post which, in its editorial pages, is as hazy, uninformed, and heedless about basic constitutional provisions as Mr. Hechinger is. This Committee should take a long hard look at the D.C. Gun Control Regulations, with the Constitution in mind and particularly with Justice Harlan's opinion in the case of Haynes against the United States in mind.

Some of the things which policemen have to put up with when they go before courts in connection with cases in which they have made arrests are unbelievable. It is no bed of roses to be a policeman. The discouragements are great. The lack of support by the City Council under Mr. Hechinger and the Reverend Walter E. Fauntroy and Mrs. Polly Shackleton is growing day by day. We agree with Congressman B. F. Sisk that members of the D.C. City Council, "have not given effective, firm support and backing, I feel the members of the Police Department are entitled to." In our discussions with members of the Policeman's Association we believe that this is the overwhelming view of the members of the police department. We support Congressman Sisk in calling for a thorough questioning of the members of the City Council by the House District Committee. The former District Commissioners gave much more support to the police than the present D.C. Council. We think the D.C. City Council should be abolished and that the adoption by the Congress of the present plan for the District Government was a sad mistake which the police are paying for with their lives. The situation is getting worse day by day. John Harrington of Philadelphia, National President of the 137,000 member fraternal order of police, has called for a national two day police walkout. Police leaders across the country and in the District of Columbia have become embittered by what they consider lack of support in dealing with crime and racial violence.

Mr. Harrington's comment, that "when police are being shot like fish in a barrel, it's time we do something," certainly applies in the District of Columbia, Bruce Terris, chairman of the Democratic Central Committee has called for the dismissal of Police Chief John B. Layton. The Reverend Channing E. Phillips, D.C. Democratic National Committeeman wrote the resolution adopted by the Black United Front which declared that killing a white policeman was "justifiable homicide." We hereby request this Committee as well as the Democratic National Convention to bring Bruce Terris and the Reverend Channing E. Phillips before them, by subpoena if necessary to investigate completely the question of whether killing a white policeman is "justifiable homicide." We think the members of the Metropolitan Police Department are entitled to an answer to this question. The D.C. Police Wives Association will exert every effort to bring these matters before the Credential and Platform committees at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, because we believe the American people are entitled to know where the Democratic party stands on the question as to whether it is "justifiable homicide" to kill white policemen. We have not been able to get an answer to this question from the D.C. City Council, although we tried several times. When we objected to our husbands being killed, and when we said, we would urge our husbands to go fishing if the D.C. City Council did not condemn the view that it was "justifiable homicide" to kill white policemen, which had been adopted by the Black United Front and