

supported by the D.C. Democratic Central Committee, Mr. Hechinger denounced us as being as "incendiary" as the Black United Front.

The Sunday Star in its letters column of July 28, 1968, performed a great public service in printing three letters on the Black United Front and the control of the police, which it is demanding. One of the letters pointed out that the policy of the control of the police was first unveiled on October 22, 1967, by the Communist Party, U.S.A., in a position paper which declared:

We believe that under all circumstances black people not only have the right but the responsibility to defend their persons, their homes and their community. And in line with this position we support the view that black people police their own community . . . There can be no question of the right of black people in the United States to use violence to achieve change.

The letter in the Star went on to say:

It is not surprising to find this line being echoed by the BUF, which has Stokeley Carmichael as one of its leading members, or by Arthur Waskow, who only last year attracted attention for his role in the ill-fated National Conference for New Politics convention in Chicago. That meeting was so dominated by the Communists and Black Power Extremists that its more naive and innocent participants were nauseated.

The D. C. Democratic Central Committee is zeroing in on Chief of Police, John B. Layton, and has called for his dismissal, as the first step in carrying out the policy announced by the Communist Party last October. We are very grateful indeed that the Senate of the United States, in adopting on Tuesday of this week, July 30, 1968, the \$548.2 million District Budget for the current fiscal year, gave its support to the report of the Senate Appropriations Committee which raised questions about the constitutionality of a citizen "take-over" of the police department. The Senate report noted that the Constitution gives Congress "exclusive jurisdiction over the district" and that the Congress has conferred its powers over the police on the Mayor. The Senate report said these powers cannot legally be delegated to "private groups or individuals." It added that it "would view with much concern any action on the part of any governmental officer or an employee encouraging or assisting any such group or person" to obtain control.

The Subcommittee will certainly want to give all the support it can to this view which has been so ably expressed in so timely a fashion by the Senate of the United States.

We wish to commend all those individuals and groups who have rallied to the support of Police Chief John B. Layton. Among these are D. C. Republican National Committeeman Carl L. Shipley who attacked as "reverse racism and demagoguery" the demand that Chief Layton be dismissed which was voiced by Bruce Terris, "is a violation of the Federal Civil Rights Laws." Shipley pointed out that the demand for Chief Layton's dismissal disregards questions of merit and competence.

Shipley added "it is regrettable that the Democratic chairman would exploit racial tensions and appeal to any of our citizens on the basis of race at a time when our business community is suffering serious losses as a result of the April riots and the Resurrection City episode in June."

We agree with Mr. Shipley and we feel confident that the fine citizens of the District of Columbia, who elected the members of the D. C. Democratic Central Committee on May 7, this year, did not vote