

best approach to this problem, but we certainly recognize that the Police Department is not receiving the backing and the support which it needs to enforce the law effectively in the District of Columbia.

So I am quite confident that this Committee will take some action in that direction, to assure the members of the Police Department more backing from the people to whom they are to be responsible.

I think it is a disgrace, and as a member of Congress, I am ashamed, that it was necessary to have a group of people such as yours, loyal employees of our government, come before a Committee of the Congress in order to ask for protection of your lives and limbs in order to render an essential service to your Congress.

I think this is a political situation. As Mr. Machen pointed out, this is not a partisan matter, but it is political nonetheless and I agree with you that the American people are going to be called upon to express their feelings this fall. We all know that there are many politicians and people in high places who are pussyfooting on this issue. They are claiming that we need to spend more money in the ghettos, and to pacify and pamper these lawbreakers or law violators.

The odds are about 20 or 30 to 1, Mr. Chairman, that if you commit an act of violence in the District of Columbia you will go off scot-free; so anyone who doesn't want to have respect for his neighbors in a free society has a pretty good chance of getting by with inflicting himself upon the freedom and welfare of other people.

So I think the American people should require their elected officials to stand up and be counted on this subject this fall, regardless of whether he is a Republican or Democrat, because it is naive not to recognize that there are those in high places who are appealing to various organized minority pressure groups for their votes, and who are fearful of saying firmly, "By golly, you ought to be punished and punished severely whenever you violate the laws of this land."

I agree with you that we don't need more laws on the books. We just need some guts and some backbone in the enforcement of the laws we now have.

I thank the Chairman for calling these hearings. There is a lot of work to be done here in the District of Columbia, and this group has certainly brought before us a lot of valuable information.

Mr. Chairman, I have a letter from the Attorney General. I am not going to take the time of the Committee to read it, but I am going to discuss it on the Floor of the House today. At least I intend to do so, and to put it in the record.

I had written to the Attorney General about a month or perhaps two months ago. There were several reports of threats and intimidation against many merchants here in the District of Columbia, and demands that various sections of the District were going to have to be all black communities, with all the merchants required to be Negroes, and the white merchants being forced to get out of the community.

Merchants also were threatened if they did not put certain placards and posters in their windows declaring a holiday for the birthday of Malcolm X, and several other events they felt should be of national importance. I received a reply from the Attorney General, and there is just one sentence here that might be of interest to this committee. I would like to insert the whole letter in the record: