

"Section 241 of Title 18 of the United States Code prohibits conspiracies which threaten or intimidate persons in the exercise of rights guaranteed them by the Constitution or laws of the United States. The courts have uniformly held that the right to operate a business is not in and of itself a right secured by the Constitution, and there are no federal statutory provisions securing the right to operate or maintain a business."

And yet we have people coming to Washington and threatening to disrupt the operation of our government if we do not provide them with subsidies, welfare, and handouts at the expense of the taxpayers, as if that were a right provided them by the Constitution.

Business people in our Nation's Capital cannot appeal to the Attorney General of the United States for protection so that they can stay in business, even, if they have the courage to continue to operate, here in the District of Columbia.

I say that these are things that the American people are concerned about, and that there is something that all of us politicians do not have to be subtle or naive about. I think the American people should know about your problem, and that candidates for all public offices should be required to stand up and be counted, and to tell the American people what they intend to do to bring about better enforcement of law and order in the Nation's Capital, and everywhere else in this country.

I commend you again and thank you for coming here and letting us have your suggestions and advice.

(The documents referred to follow :)

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, April 30, 1968.

HON. RAMSEY CLARK,
Attorney General of the United States, Department of Justice,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. ATTORNEY GENERAL : I should like to formally request that you initiate an investigation to determine if there exists in the District of Columbia a conspiracy by so-called Black Power groups to deprive a minority group, in this case a white minority, of its Constitutional and civil rights.

The enclosed newspaper clippings describe in some detail anti-white, and especially anti-semitic actions by representatives of Black Power groups. I am sure you will agree that if Negro merchants were harassed, looted, their enterprises burned by fire bombs, and open incitements and threats made against them solely on the basis of the color of their skin, the Department of Justice could and would find adequate legal grounds, civil rights or otherwise, to protect them. I feel that the white minority in the District of Columbia are entitled to the same protection from your Department, and I therefore urge that you initiate the necessary steps to afford them protection.

Your early attention to this critical situation will be appreciated.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

JOEL T. BROYHILL,
Member of Congress.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
Washington, July 22, 1968.

HON. JOEL T. BROYHILL,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN BROYHILL : This is in reply to your letter to the Attorney General of April 30, 1968, and the enclosed newspaper clippings concerning the alleged harassment of white businessmen in the District of Columbia by Negroes.

We have reviewed carefully your correspondence and the enclosed clippings and have concluded that there is no statute administered by this Department covering the specific type of activity described in the clippings.