

Now, insofar as like the policemen work six days a week, we work six days a week, also. We are about 140 men short. That is 140 buses. They carry 51 people. Nobody wants the job.

The guys who once worked at it or retired are quitting with 13 and 14 years seniority. They cannot afford to stay on the job for fear of their lives or losing a limb or going blind, and so forth.

Now, it has got to the point where some of the fellows are actually carrying guns. I do not carry a gun. I would not want to shoot nobody, yet still I do not know—I do not want nobody to shoot me.

What I did do one time, I would always carry myself a R-C cola bottle. If anybody was attacking me I was going to try to wear that coke bottle out on him. And what I could tell the law was that I found this coke bottle rolling around on the floor, and they could not get me for concealed weapon. Why should I have to go around like this? It is not necessary.

Half the drivers at one time at night were carrying guns, scared to death. We had one man who was jumped on out in Northeast, beaten on the ground, and beaten, he begged the people to leave him alone. He pulled his gun out and shot one of them to keep them from killing him.

They fired him because he saved his life. They had to take him to the hospital, and before he was fired he had to stay in the hospital I do not know for how long, and when he came back they dismissed him because he had this gun, but he saved his life.

Mr. DOWDY. They ought to have given him a medal.

Mr. RICHMOND. I say more power to a man like this.

But what we are trying to say simply, anything that goes on in the District of Columbia we are part of it. I do not care what it is, civil disturbance, civil disobedience, riots, anything, we have to be a part of it because it is our job.

If you need extra policemen to go out in these areas, we are the ones who have the buses to take these people there. We take them there. Anything that happens, happy times, sad times, sorrow, we are there. This is our type job and we do it.

But we do not see why we should have to work and take so much harassment and so much beating and even danger to our lives as well as people who ride the bus also.

So we are just simply asking that something be done. We do not have a solution, but the main thing that we are actually asking for is prosecution.

We have men who have been robbed. They get on the bus every day, like I say, these guys, maybe I work a line today and I work a different line tomorrow, all right. I might see the guy who robbed me. Well, I cannot do anything. I mean, if I catch the guy and hold him, and I am going, supposed to go to court, the next day, somebody from my company will tell me he will make me believe that I will be in grave danger if I go down and prosecute him. This may sound very untrue.

Mr. DOWDY. Your employer won't permit you to prosecute?

Mr. RICHMOND. I am not saying he won't permit you, but I will say he will inflict fear in your heart that he will do something if you go down and prosecute the man who has robbed you.