

I caught a man one time coming out of the garage with our trap box—we carry money in our boxes—I ran down the street and caught this man, brought him back to the garage and called the police. They came to find out he had two trap boxes. He had hid one outside and was coming back for another one. All right.

The police came, they took him down. I went home. I got off that night, my car was torn up. This guy had been released before I got off duty, and I was turning in then. It was just the simple fact that they make us believe that they will fire us, which they can't, they will make the guys believe they will fire them if they go down and go down to the courts and appear and be a witness and say, "Yes, this is the guy who robbed me."

Mr. DOWDY. It seems to me that is inviting more trouble. Prosecutions and punishment will deter criminals. Remove that fear, and the problem becomes worse.

Mr. RICHMOND. I say, Mr. Chairman, it is not inviting, it is breeding crime.

Mr. DOWDY. Well, that is true.

I was a prosecutor for eight years before I came to Congress, and every once in a while there would be some complaining witness who would be afraid to testify or would not want to prosecute because of the fear of the consequences; I was always able to persuade them of the error of their ways, that the only way you can stop crime is to have prosecutions and give criminals adequate punishment for what they have done, punish them the amount that they deserve.

I just cannot conceive, it is really unbelievable or almost unbelievable, that an employer or company would refuse to prosecute, and certainly they should encourage an employee to testify against anyone who was depreddating on the company's business or property.

Mr. RICHMOND. This is unheard of. I think what the company is afraid of, Mr. Chairman, is the fact that so many times people here tend to jump on D.C. Transit about anything that they do, and they are afraid to have a write-up in the paper, "D.C. Transit gives a 16-year-old boy or 18-year-old kid or 19-year-old kid," which they really are, big as I am, 19-year-old kid, "three years for assaulting a driver." They have to have this written up in the paper.

Mr. DOWDY. It is a ridiculous situation, calling an 18, 19, 20-year-old thug a child because they are not children.

Mr. RICHMOND. Yes.

Mr. DOWDY. All the papers are guilty of that, and it is pretty bad.

Mr. MACHEN. Mr. Chairman, I might add that these are the key spokesmen. They are representing a representative group of 40 or 50 of them I met with right here in this room, and one of the reasons why I requested you all to permit, to have additional hearings, is what this gentleman has just stated and the impression I got from all the bus drivers, that the company has a policy of frowning on their participation in attempting to arrest these people or attempting to have anything done to them, if they cause trouble on the buses.

If they do it they have to go to court, they do it on their own time. I mean it is not on company time, even though it is company property that is involved, and it was just startling to me this permissive attitude on the other side of the fence, so to speak.