

Mr. Dowdy. We will include in the record at this point numerous letters from the local citizens to Chairman McMillan and others, on the crime situation.

(The documents referred to follow:)

MARYLAND WINE & LIQUOR STORE, INC.
Washington, D.C., April 29, 1968.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN McMILLAN: We are respected business people in the retail liquor trade for the past thirty-five years in northeast Washington. On April 5, 1968, our business was broken into and looted as violence broke out on the streets of Washington. This has forced us out of business for two months or more and has caused severe financial hardship not only to us, but to the seven people we employ.

Fortunately, we have insurance that will cover a portion of our losses, but we are deeply concerned and disturbed—while repairing the damage to our interior and business equipment—that in the event of a similar outbreak as the one on April 5, we will not be able to go back into business.

We respectfully demand proper police protection so that we need not work in constant fear that there could be more looting and arson or bodily harm. We do not feel that asking for assurance of protection and prompt financial assistance from the Small Business Administration is unreasonable.

We do not yet know whether our insurance henceforth will be of an exorbitant price, or whether it will be renewed at all. If this is the case and rioting should occur, it will be impossible for us to re-open our doors. It is not easy for men who have been in a particular field of business most of their working lives to have to consider another means of livelihood.

We deplore a society that has brought men, women, and children, by the hundreds, to burn, loot, and otherwise wantonly destroy in a spirit of gaiety. We are heartsick that our own neighbors and customers were involved in tearing down our business while our police force, National Guard, and troops looked on.

We trust that our letter will be taken under serious consideration and that we may be favored with a reply. We want to be able to conduct our business, in peace, in the District of Columbia, our birthplace.

Sincerely,

RUTH BURDETT ROSEN, *President.*

WASHINGTON, D.C.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN McMILLAN: Why was our Capital allowed to be burnt and looted recently?

Who issued and is responsible for the orders that withdrew the local police and failed to provide adequate protection for our citizens and property?

What is your committee doing to stop this and similar events that will be attempted again, soon?

Is this to be the new policy of our administration, promote anarchy?

We are concerned over this growing threat of no law and order, are you?

Sincerely,

IVAN KUESTER, BERTHA KUESTER.

3023 14th St., N.W., Apt. 815.
Washington, D.C. 20009, 1 May 1968.

HON. JOHN L. McMILLAN,
Chairman, District Committee, House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: Is it out of order to remember that Government officials who let Washington burn are under oath to "provide for the common defense"?

Should we forget that Robert F. Kennedy held a massive rally at 14th Street and Park Road the night before Dr. King was shot, and that the area was so hopped up all that night that a lot of us had no sleep, expecting a riot to break out then?

It is good form to suggest that appeasement has never been notably successful in appeasing terrorists, that 14th Street in Washington is apparently another Sudetenland to those entrusted with public safety?

Are we heartless brutes to remind those in authority who failed us and left us to burn, that we are not all "voteless Washingtonians," that our numbers