

STATEMENT OF HON. JOEL T. BROYHILL, A REPRESENTATIVE IN
CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF VIRGINIA

Mr. BROYHILL. Mr. Chairman:

This legislation creates a Commissioner of Police for the Nation's Capital under direct control of the Congress. The Commissioner would assume complete jurisdiction over the Metropolitan Police, the Park Police, the White House Police, the Capitol Police, and the National Zoological Park Police—now under jurisdiction of the Commissioner and City Council, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Sergeants at Arms of the House and Senate, and the Secretary of the Smithsonian, in that order.

The bill would also create a nine-man advisory commission, five of whose members would be citizens of the District of Columbia.

The Commissioner would be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate, and would be directly responsible to the Congress. He would be charged with the creation of the necessary agency to discharge the duties of his office, and would be similar in character to the Comptroller General or the Public Printer in his role as a servant of the Congress.

Mr. Chairman, this organizational structure is patterned in part on nearly a century and a half of success experienced by a distinguished police force in another world capital. Since Sir Robert Peel created the Metropolitan Police District of London in 1829, the police force known to millions throughout the world as "Scotland Yard" has functioned under a Commissioner of Police directly responsible to Parliament's office of the Home Secretary, and not to the municipal government of London. Today it is a respected, highly effective organization of 19,000 men.

Great Britain has 148 regular police forces, all of which are controlled by local authority, with the sole exception of Scotland Yard. It also should be noted that, contrary to popular notion, Scotland Yard has no official jurisdiction outside of Greater London. To be sure, its Central Investigative Division cooperates with and assists other police forces throughout the United Kingdom and throughout the world.

I think it's fair to say that Scotland Yard has functioned with a record of efficiency which is the envy of police departments the world over, and those of us who have been in London in recent years can attest to the safety of that city and to the good relations that exist between Londoners and their police.

It is my desire to see created a force such as the Metropolitan Police of London here in the city of Washington, D.C. It is not my desire to create a national police force, or a secret police establishment to grind under foot the legitimate complaints of the citizens of the District of Columbia and its visitors.

I strongly urge that we reflect a moment on the success of the British and the advantages that are possible to achieve under such a system. There are obvious financial gains to be had. The Metropolitan Police Force will cost the city of Washington \$48,033,000 during the next fiscal year. This figure will be higher as time goes on. This is an expense that could constitutionally be borne by the Congress, and a substantial savings to the city could accrue if this legislation is enacted.