

I believe the Congress could afford and would approve the necessary funds to staff and equip a department equal to the police needs of the city. It could also afford and I believe would approve funds necessary to bridge the gap between the people of the District of Columbia and the police officer. Such an effort would call for educated, highly talented personnel, and coordinated efforts to project the police officer in the role of guardian as well as enforcer of the law, and would have to be prosecuted vigorously. None of these things can be done as effectively under the present system as they could be done under this proposal.

FAILURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

I submit, Mr. Chairman, that the present District of Columbia Government, as created by the President's Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1967, has demonstrated that it is utterly incapable of administering an effective police force, and of maintaining law and order in the nation's Capital. The D.C. Commissioner, the members of the City Council, and the Commissioner of Public Safety, are harassed and obviously intimidated by the rising chorus of voices from the city's lunatic fringe, voices that bay continuously at the rights of decent citizens and at constitutional authority.

During the past year, under this government, the signs of this intimidation have been numerous. The riots of last April brought destruction, looting, and death to innocent citizens of this city. And despite the denials of government officials, there is much evidence that the policemen on the streets during this holocaust were given to understand, from some source, that they were to "go easy" on the rioters. And just recently, the D.C. police officers have been instructed to ignore obscene and abusive language directed at them, and thus to use even more "restraint" in their efforts to avoid arresting lawbreakers.

I point also to the rising success of the Black United Front, an organization of radicals whose membership includes the Vice Chairman of the D.C. City Council, and whose goal apparently is to bring about a complete state of anarchy in the District of Columbia. This is the organization whose members scream "police brutality" whenever a white police officer dares to apprehend a Negro lawbreaker, and who unanimously declare the slaying of a white policeman trying to make such an arrest to be "justifiable homicide." And as these words are spoken, a crackpot proposal by this same Black United Front—that neighborhood control over the city's police precincts be established—is actually being dignified by a public hearing before the D.C. City Council.

The fact that an irresponsible and dangerous pressure group like this can so influence those who are supposed to rule this city is incontrovertible evidence that no longer is the District of Columbia Government capable of providing adequate police protection for the lives and property of its decent, law-abiding citizens and of the millions of visitors to the city each year.

This is the reason, Mr. Chairman, why the morale of the D.C. police officer and his family is at an all-time low. Crime in the nation's Capital is rising at a rate of 35 percent per year, and it is my contention that the situation will continue to grow worse unless and until the