

Congress recognizes its responsibility to this Federal city and enacts this legislation to assure law and order in the nation's Capital.

It is evident that by coordinating and combining the five local police forces under a single administrative head, a superior service can be created. The forces would remain autonomous in their operations, and their personnel would be protected against transfer without their consent. However, many advantages would certainly result from such an administrative consolidation.

Finally, this legislation offers an opportunity to bring a maximum degree of self-determination for the citizens of the District of Columbia a step nearer. It offers an opportunity to clarify the Federal interest and responsibility in the District. Also, it offers an opportunity to heal one of this city's greatest and most destructive ills. I urge favorable action on this bill.

FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Mr. Chairman, briefly, we know that many problems with which the Metropolitan Police Department is confronted are almost exclusively a Federal responsibility. For example, the recent demonstration of the so-called Poor People's March and Resurrection City was an attack or demonstration against the Federal Government, not against the people of the District of Columbia. Of course, it became a Federal responsibility that we protect the citizens and provide whatever police protection was necessary. It was not necessarily an expense of the District Government.

There are many other national functions which occur here not that Resurrection City should be dignified as a national function but there are ceremonies for which police protection is needed and which could be considered Federal functions rather than local.

We most certainly should consolidate the recruitment and training program of the police departments, and this would result in much more efficiency and less expense.

We hear charges about police brutality, and concern about our Metropolitan Police Force being handcuffed and having to operate under restraint. Mr. Chairman, there is no question that the Capitol Police Force is not requested to act within restraints. They know they will have the backing of the Members of Congress in enforcing the law. I have yet to hear any charge of police brutality leveled against any member of the Capitol Police Force, and they are not even a trained professional group such as the Metropolitan Police Force.

Frankly, I do not think we have any choice here, Mr. Chairman. This is the Federal city, and it is our responsibility to protect the Federal interests and the millions of tourists who come here to Washington.

To have a vociferous minority group in the District of Columbia trying to run this Police Department is somewhat similar to having the tail wagging the dog. I have nothing against any complaint that a citizen of the District of Columbia may want to bring against its government or the Police Department. They should have that right. But they are not the only people who are involved in this situation, nor the only ones who need and require police protection.