

Some—162 members of the White House Police, 196 U.S. Park Police and the Metropolitan Police force of 2850—are authorized to carry guns on and off duty and have full powers of arrest throughout the District. Others, in almost identical uniforms, must check their weapons on leaving their posts and have no more arresting authority outside their own bailiwicks than any citizen who has witnessed a felony.

These forces include:

The 216-member Capitol Police, headed by a Metropolitan Police deputy chief, Charles J. Sullivan. Their beat is Capitol Hill; the men almost all Congressional patronage appointees, include many working their way through law school.

The 33-member Supreme Court Police, many of them trained in the Metropolitan Police rookie school.

The 37-man Zoo Police, who use Metropolitan Police ticket books for traffic violations on the Zoo grounds.

The 20-man Aqueduct Police, an agency of the Army Corps of Engineers charged with protecting the District's water supply. MacArthur blvd., from the District line to Great Falls, Md. is in their exclusive jurisdiction.

The U.S. Special Police, 1580 strong, guard those Federal buildings which lack their own forces. Their chief is John J. Agnew, a former deputy chief of Metropolitan Police.

The D.C. Government Special Police, 59 men, guard the District's offices and property, including courtrooms and condemned buildings.

Special Police, mostly guards in nongovernment buildings, include employees of uniformed detective agencies. Special Police badges, issued by Metropolitan Police, number 959.

The D.C. Police Reserve is an unarmed, unpaid, blue-uniformed volunteer force of 1032 citizens attached to Metropolitan Police precincts. Organized in World War II, they serve at parades, guard fireboxes on Halloween.

That adds up to 7144 policemen—not counting about 140 Armed Forces Police, plus Federal Bureau of Investigation and Treasury agents and postal inspectors, and many others with arms and police powers. But take a close look at the badge next time you see a man in blue.

When Representative James C. Cleveland was assaulted by a robber in his House Office Building suite one night last March, the resulting outcry prompted outraged legislators to demand "professional" police protection. This crime also helped remind Washingtonians that Capitol Hill is the exclusive preserve of the Capitol Police, one of the eight police forces other than the Metropolitan Police operating in the District of Columbia. However, when the man now charged with attacking the New Hampshire congressman was arrested in less than 24 hours, it came as no surprise that the arrest was made by the Metropolitan Police. When serious crime fighting or crime detection is required, it is usually the Metropolitan Police, rather than one of the other eight departments, who are called on to do the job.

To some, the thought of so many separate police forces standing by to help our citizens might convey the idea that Washington has plenty of police protection. But this is not necessarily so. It is more accurate to say that what police protection we do have is split various ways. What these police forces do, have, and are—and how they fit into the city's jigsaw puzzle of jurisdictions—this article will try to explain. However, *why* Washington, which President Johnson would like to see become the best-policed city in the United States, should have so many police forces is another matter. There seems to be little, except the theory of Topsy's growth, to justify our proliferation of police protection.

The District of Columbia (and certain contiguous Federal territory beyond the District line) is policed not by one but by nine uniformed forces. Six of them have exclusive jurisdiction over some bit or piece of Washington or its Federal environs, while the other three overlap in covering the rest. These nine departments do not include those of Montgomery County, Prince Georges, Arlington, Fairfax, or Alexandria, which of course do not reach into Washington. However, even some areas within these locations come under the jurisdiction of the Park Police, the Aqueduct Police, or the Airport Police.

Obviously the most important though possibly the most misnamed force in town is the Metropolitan Police. How can a force be called "metropolitan" when it stops at the District line and has half a dozen other departments in its own territory?