

As of March of 1968, which was before the riots, of course, the results showed: Of those answering this questionnaire, 1642 favored the bill, 334 opposed it.

I might say that we have the cards. Many of them have comments on them. A great many of them do not.

Mr. WHITENER. May I ask how many you sent out?

Mr. MARGOLIUS. We sent out 4600 to the entire membership. I do not know what the membership was at that time. It may have been 4500, but in the neighborhood of 4500.

I do not want to be personal about this to any member of this committee, but some of the cards stated that opposition to the bill was based upon the fact that it was introduced by Congressman Broyhill. This was the substance of such opposition.

I have picked out at random, in the short time I have had, to read to you, if I have your permission—

Mr. BROYHILL. If you had mentioned the other sponsors, you might have had more opposition.

Mr. MARGOLIUS. That might be.

I would like to read, if I may, some of the comments made by these men on cards that I picked out at random. These are all votes "Yes." Incidentally, some of the opposition to this proposal was an objection to bringing the Zoo Police into the same category as the Metropolitan Police. There was some opposition, also, from some of the Park Police officers, who felt that they may be losing some of their individuality. There was some fear, because of a misunderstanding of the bill, that men could be transferred from one department to another, but of course the bill is very clear that a man cannot be moved from one section to another.

I would like to read this, if I may. I think these speak beautifully of what is going through the minds of some of our policemen. I would like to say personally, not on behalf of the Association, if this vote were taken today, it would be overwhelmingly more in favor than it was in March.

One comment: "I am with the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department, and I know that the morale of many of our men is adversely affected by the almost continuous harassment of our men by the civil rights organizations and militants. I believe that if our top officials were responsible primarily to Capitol Hill, they would be more resistant to those who harass us and would have a tendency to back their men more. I have several reasons for favoring this change, but this is the major one.

"There also seems to be a concerted effort to demoralize our men and dominate our Department. We have become the local whipping boy."

Another comment: "I feel that this will do much toward attaining the state of professionalism so long sought after by police officers."

Another comment: "A Police Commissioner would tend to establish responsibility, prevent foot-dragging, develop efficiency, coordination and professional attitudes and improved morale."

Another comment: "I feel it is about time the police efforts in D.C. were coordinated."

Another one: "I feel this would help professionalize police work in the District of Columbia."