

the hearing today will prove through the FBI that that policeman never shot his gun. Yet, there are 6 or 7 eye-witnesses who swear to God under oath that that policeman shot this man point blank.

This is what the police in the city of Washington are worried about. I have said in the past, because I represent a great many policemen in retirement cases and other cases—I have said and will continue to say what the man who wants to be a policeman in the District of Columbia ought to be given a medal. Any man who will walk up the back streets of Washington at 2:00 o'clock in the morning should be given a pat on the back and some encouragement, and not be shot at every time he goes on the street. This is the toughest job in the world. You could not give a normal citizen this job for \$50,000 a year, and yet you expect these men, young kids, 21 years of age, still wet behind the ears, to come out there and walk the streets of Washington and, on the spur of the moment, as we have heard many times, be a law enforcement officer, be a judge, be a prosecutor, make decisions which we as lawyers cannot make unless we go to the books, and these men are called upon on the spot to make decisions. The consequence of making a wrong decision is a complaint and possible action before a civilian complaint review board and trial board, with the disgrace that comes to the family that accompanies those actions.

This is what these men are up against.

Gentlemen, I would like to tell you I have a young man—maybe I am talking too long—

Mr. JACOBS. Go right ahead. I have another question.

Mr. MARGOLIUS. I have a young man in my office who is up for retirement. He has been on the force a short time, maybe a year and a half. He was struck by an automobile. He has not worked for 20 months. As a result, his left leg is more than an inch shorter than his right leg. He has a plate in his hip. The clinic wanted to retire him with full benefits, giving him 66 percent of his salary for the rest of his life, tax free.

I said to this young fellow, "Why didn't you take it?"

He said, "I want to be a policeman." He said, "I thought if I waited long enough, I would be all right and I could go back on the street."

Here is a boy 22 or 23 years old now, who has not worked in 20 months, and he has given up the ship. He now realizes he cannot be a policeman.

These are the fellows who are on the street enforcing the law. These are good men. I do not make a distinction between white and colored; 99 percent of them are excellent men, regardless of their color. I do not think it would make any difference whether they were white or black or yellow. These men work hard. They are underpaid. They ought to be given a medal for what they are doing. That is all.

Mr. JACOBS. I recognize the problems you have described perhaps as well as any member of this committee. I am a former police officer myself. My question is: How do those problems change when you transfer the administrative authority to a legislative body, namely, the Congress? How does that improve the problems?

Mr. MARGOLIUS. Not having gone into this in the detail I perhaps should, I can see one thing. You keep saying, Congressman, turn these over to Congress. I do not look on this as turning it over to Congress. I look on it as turning it over to a Commissioner.

Mr. JACOBS. The bill says it turns it over to Congress.

Mr. MARGOLIUS. The President *pro tem* and the Speaker of the