

COMMISSIONER OF POLICE

MONDAY, JULY 29, 1968

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Washington, D.C.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:00 a.m., in Room 1310, Longworth House Office Building, the Honorable John L. McMillan, chairman of the committee, presiding.

Present: Representatives McMillan (presiding), Dowdy, Whitener, Sisk, Fuqua, Adams, Jacobs, Walker, Broyhill (Virginia), Winn, Gude, and Zwach.

Also present: James T. Clark, Clerk; Hayden S. Garber, Counsel; Sara Watson, Assistant Counsel; Donald Tubridy, Minority Clerk; Leonard O. Hilder, Investigator.

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will come to order. The Commissioner is not here this morning, I don't believe.

Mr. Fletcher, would you care to make a statement on this bill?

STATEMENT OF THOMAS W. FLETCHER, ASSISTANT, FOR THE COMMISSIONER OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mr. FLETCHER. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. We will be happy to hear any statement you would care to make.

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Chairman, I would like to make the following statement on behalf of Commissioner Walter E. Washington.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I appreciate this opportunity to present the views of the District of Columbia Government on the legislation before you, which deals with the crucial problem of crime in the Nation's Capital.

The purpose of this legislation (H.R. 14430 and H.R. 14448), as explained by one of its sponsors, Congressman Broyhill, is to consolidate the five separate police forces now operating in the District of Columbia; the Metropolitan Police, United States Park Police, Capitol Police, White House Police, and National Zoological Park Police.

These forces would all be placed under the jurisdiction of a Commission of Police. This Police Commissioner would be appointed for a four-year term by the Speaker of the House and the President pro tempore of the Senate. A nine-member advisory commission would also be appointed by the Speaker and President pro tempore.

The District of Columbia Government is strongly opposed to the removal of the Metropolitan Police Department from the municipal government.