

Mr. FLETCHER. In my opinion, yes, because the Commissioner would not have control of the Police Department necessary to provide adequate and proper cooperation of all of the efforts of the District Government to fight these problems.

The CHAIRMAN. Does the Police Chief have this authority now, or does the Council?

Mr. FLETCHER. I beg your pardon?

The CHAIRMAN. Does the Council have the power now, or the Commissioner, or the Chief of Police?

Mr. FLETCHER. The Commissioner has the authority to control the Police Department, yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. What is all this I read about that certain people want to handle the Police Department, fire and hire and harass the police more than they are at the present time?

Mr. FLETCHER. Sir, that is not our proposal. That is a proposal from a group of citizens within the District, but it is not the proposal of the District Government.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Whitener.

EFFECT OF BILL

Mr. WHITENER. Mr. Fletcher, taking your statement for the Commissioner, I think the statement fails to do any more than generalize. Your first point on page 2 is that it would cause conflict and confusion. How would that happen if you bring all the law enforcement organizations under one umbrella? How do you contemplate that would bring confusion and conflict, for instance, in traffic control?

Mr. FLETCHER. It would be on the basis that we have other agencies of the District of Columbia that are directly related to traffic control. The Police Department and the Department of Highways and Traffic working together very closely under the Commissioner for coordinated efforts in terms of traffic control.

Mr. WHITENER. And you take the view that if this bill were enacted into law immediately the Highway Department would start looking at the police as if they were a foreign government.

Mr. FLETCHER. No, sir, but it would require additional coordination and additional activity.

Mr. WHITENER. What additional coordination?

Mr. FLETCHER. On the basis you would have two different agencies to work together whereas now you have one now, the Commissioner, who is responsible for the coordinated activity under the one control, which is the purpose of the Reorganization Act. The Commissioner makes the joint decisions relative to it.

Mr. WHITENER. You think that unless you had someone like the Commissioner that there could not be any coordination or cooperation?

Mr. FLETCHER. Obviously if it were put together we would have to work with it. What I am saying is that it would add to conflict and confusion by having to go through two separate agencies to provide that work.

Mr. WHITENER. I cannot follow you on that because you have two separate agencies now. You have the President of the United States, who is supposed to be the top dog in the running of all governmental