

affairs, and it seems to me if there is any failure to operate, there is some Executive authority already in the Government which could bring somebody to task if they did not cooperate.

Mr. FLETCHER. That is very true, sir. I do not understand what you would gain by providing or what you would be solving.

Mr. WHITENER. Your statement is that it would create confusion and conflict, which I take it you are saying would cause insoluble conflict and confusion unless the Commissioner of the District could bring them together.

Mr. FLETCHER. I did not say insoluble, sir. I said it would add to or cause conflict or confusion. I think it would.

Mr. WHITENER. I still do not understand how you can make that statement unless you are implying that there is no greater authority in Government than the Commissioner of the District of Columbia.

Mr. FLETCHER. Sir, I am not implying that at all. I am implying when you have two separate agencies reporting to two separate authorities, handling the work in the same area where you have to have coordination, it is obviously in my opinion better to have it under one control rather than under separate control. I am not convinced that you would have better traffic control or better welfare and all these other things if you combined the metropolitan police with the park police, for example, and so on.

Mr. WHITENER. How do you contemplate it would cause conflict and confusion in the function of education?

Mr. FLETCHER. On the basis that we have a strong relationship with the school system, involving training, involving in-service training, working with children, and so on, where the agencies work together under the budget that is presented to Congress, which comes from the Commissioner, involving education as well as police. We look to the solution of these problems on a joint basis at the time we put the budget together. There are many joint relationships.

Mr. WHITENER. The budget also goes through the Congress.

Mr. FLETCHER. Yes, sir.

Mr. WHITENER. It does not seem to me that the Congress would tolerate conflict and confusion any more than a Commissioner would. I do not follow your statement that it would create such conflict and confusion in the education program.

Mr. FLETCHER. I think it would, sir.

Mr. WHITENER. You say it would cause conflict and confusion in corrections?

Mr. FLETCHER. There is a very close relationship between the function of correction and the function of law enforcement. The prime purpose of correction should be to reduce, for example, recidivism, to return people who have been incarcerated back to a useful life. It requires good and substantial coordination and cooperation between the function of correction and the function of law enforcement. We want to be able to quickly resolve any differences. We want to be able to control the decision-making process that relates to the Department of Corrections and the Police Department.

Mr. WHITENER. We have had extensive hearings here about crime, and recidivism. As I remember the testimony from Mr. Murphy,