

your Commissioner of Public Safety, and others, they have not found any suitable way to get with the courts on the question of punishment and the separation of powers.

It might well be that a Commissioner who has a closer affiliation with the Congress may be able to get a little closer to some of these judges whose salaries are fixed by the Congress. I do not follow your argument there.

Mr. FLETCHER. I would think, sir, that Congress' actions on that would be the same whether you had the Police Department under the Commissioner or you had it under a separate Commissioner. The Congress' actions relative to courts would be the same.

Mr. WHITENER. I think if you stay around here a while you might change your mind about that. How would it cause confusion and conflict in the Welfare Program?

Mr. FLETCHER. Here again, sir, we feel that the fighting of crime is a product of many activities in many agencies. Some of the base causes of crime are in fact unemployment, deprivation, and so on. We feel a coordinated effort to give people a decent income and a decent home and so on is one of the best ways to fight crime. We feel this is again a coordinative effort that should be under one control rather than separate controls.

Mr. WHITENER. Your second objection, that it would result in a major reversal in the trend of citizens' participation and involvement in District Government and affairs: You mean it might cause a reversal of an organization which had among its membership the Vice Chairman of the Council, passing resolutions that it is justifiable homicide to shoot a police officer in cold blood; is that what it will reverse?

Mr. FLETCHER. No, sir. I think whether either action is taken, it would have an effect on that. I do believe, however, that the Commissioner of the District of Columbia is directly involved with citizen participation. It is one of the reasons, I think, for the reorganization, to provide a more direct channel of communication with the citizens of the District and the Government of the District of Columbia. We are constantly working on citizen participation. Many of those contacts deal with police problems, as well as housing, welfare and other problems. It would seem to us it would be better to have a citizen participation under one control rather than a split control.

Mr. WHITENER. You think it might reverse the trend of certain elements in certain sections of the city demanding that they make the decision as to which police officers will be assigned to their precincts. Is that the sort of thing you apprehend it might reverse?

Mr. FLETCHER. I think it would provide, which is what the Commissioner is striving for, better police-community relations. It is also something that Chief Layton is striving for. We need good community relations as well as community relations in all other facets of the District Government. We much work closely with the people of the District. The manner in which it is done is one we have to resolve with the district and the people of the District.

Mr. WHITENER. Mr. Chairman, I do not want to take too much time. Maybe later I can ask other questions.

The CHAIRMAN. On that subject, don't you think these people ought to be taught to work with the Congress a little and not just with the