

Mr. FLETCHER. In terms of the riot it seems to me there should be one point of command and control. One of the lessons we learned in the April disturbance was the need for centralized authority and decision-making involving all of the forces available to us. That was done since the April riot. We have set up the mechanism necessary to provide that centralized control. One of the essential ingredients obviously is the Police Department. I believe Chief Layton can indicate to you that we provided good centralized control and decision-making involving all of the forces of the District of Columbia during times of stress.

Mr. ZWACH. Do you say that in April you were caught unprepared and were surprised?

Mr. FLETCHER. Yes, sir, we were. It had been our intention to provide a system of centralized administration authority. The plan was being developed. None of us anticipated that there would be a problem in the first part of April. We were anticipating the problem would develop in the later part of the year or the summer. It caught us unprepared in many respects. I think we did, in my opinion, a fairly good job during that period with the limitations that we had around us. Again I point out that we learned lessons at that time and I think we have corrected the problems and now can provide the kind of centralized administration this District and the people of this District need.

Mr. ZWACH. That is all.

Mr. DOWDY. If the gentleman would yield, I would like to know what limitations, and who put them on the police?

Mr. FLETCHER. Not legal limitations, Mr. Congressman, administrative limitations, lack of experience, in having a similar circumstance within the District. We did not have good communication setups, we did not have good lines of communication open. That has been corrected. So the limitation is administrative and not a legal limitation at all. We just simply were not yet ready for that situation to do the best job. I think we did a reasonably good job under the circumstances. We can do a far better job now, and I think we have demonstrated the fact we can.

Mr. DOWDY. Thank you.

Mr. ZWACH. I have no further questions, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Sisk.

Mr. SISK. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

OBJECTIVES OF POLICE IN THIS FEDERAL CITY

I appreciate very much the Deputy Mayor being with us this morning, and I appreciate your comments. I would like to talk to you for just a few minutes about this whole business of priorities. Let me say I am not taking a position for or against this particular piece of legislation, but generally want to discuss the business of police protection and what the basic objectives are of police power as it is exercised in the District. I think there is increasing concern on the part of Members of Congress as well as people all across the country about the degree of protection for our Nation's Capital as well as the people in the Nation's Capital.