

I certainly recognize that there is importance in community-police relationships in any city. I think this is probably more important here than anywhere in view of recent experience. However, getting back to what I wanted to talk to you about, the matter of priority. That goes to the point that has been raised either directly or indirectly here this morning. Since this is the seat of central Government in America, and referring to some of the early experiences of our Government where the Congress and the Government were almost literally driven out of certain major cities which we had attempted to use as the seat of Government, that is why this so-called 12 square miles of the District of Columbia was created for the purpose solely of being the central seat of Government.

It seems to me that some of the things that are being done and some of the concerns are losing sight of the priorities or the central or basic objective of the protection of the Nation's Capital per se. I am not necessarily advocating just the protection of Members of Congress per se. I might say I am somewhat disturbed by some almost advocacy by some of our local press. I note one of the morning newspapers editorially almost advocating the assassination of a member of Congress or two in some of their editorials. I am sure they would not agree they were actually advocating that. They simply indicated by reference that maybe it would have some influence or effect. I do not know exactly what they had in mind. But bringing this out and adding it to what I have already said, I think you can understand some of the concern of the members of the Congress, as well as of the American people generally across the country as to whether or not we are getting to the point where we are going to have to move the Government somewhere else in order to be able to function satisfactorily and safely, and at the same time be a safe area in which the constituents from my state and your state of California, because you are from California, can come here and visit. Where in this priority do you place the responsibility for the Metropolitan Police force, because that is basically your concern. We have the other police forces here that we are talking about uniting, and I do not know whether that is good or bad and I do not take any position on it.

Would you comment briefly what you consider to be the priorities in one-two-three order of the Metropolitan Police force in Washington, D.C.?

MR. FLETCHER. Yes, sir.

I think the highest possible priority that can be given is crime prevention, which is really what we are striving to do. Protection is a part of that. To prevent crime from being committed in the first place should be the very highest priority, which again points out the need for coordinated action as far as crime prevention is concerned.

One of the deep concerns to not only the District but every major urban area of this country is youth. Unfortunately a very high percentage of crime is being committed by the young, a disproportionate share. I think we have to bring every authority we have and every law and effort we can think of to prevent juvenile delinquency and solve the problem of crime not only in the District of Columbia but all the major urban cities. It has the highest priority we can think of. There was a statement made by the Commissioner in November when he took