

over indicating that was the highest priority he had and it is still the highest priority, to eliminate the crime in this District and reduce the crime rate in the District. I believe some of the figures that are coming out indicate we are beginning to move in that direction even though the crime rate is higher this year than last year.

I think the Chief can indicate there is beginning to be some reduction month to month in that escalation of crime. It will be requiring massive effort on our part.

We have asked Congress for additional policemen which we hope we can bet to work directly toward crime prevention and increased protection for the citizens as well as the visitors of the District.

Mr. SISK. I appreciate your comments. After all, law enforcement at any level and at any place in the world is primarily for the prevention of crime. I well recognize that. As I said, though, I still think we are not quite talking about the same subject matter. I would hope we do not get in a position where we have to have a law enforcement or a police force or military force, if necessary, just to protect the Government in its proper function to the American people.

I still do not think you commented directly on the responsibility of the Metropolitan Police force as far as the seat of Government is concerned, and its relationship to it. They are separate and apart from protecting the citizens from crime. We all recognize, just as in my hometown, the police force is there to fight and reduce crime and protect the people. But its function is somewhat different, it seems to me, than the function of a law-enforcement agency within this Federal city, the District of Columbia. Maybe it is not. Maybe I am wrong about that.

Mr. FLETCHER. No, I believe you are right. Let me speak to that specifically. One of the reasons we now have in the District of Columbia one of the highest rates of policemen per population and with the additional thousand police we are asking for we will have the highest rate, is specifically in relation to the fact that this is the home of the Federal Government, recognizing the additional requirement to provide safety to the Federal Government, which requires a substantial increase in the protection that we would normally have to give in a normal city. We recognize that in the number of police we now have and the number of requests for additional policemen, specifically because of the fact this is the seat of the Federal Government.

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Mr. SISK. I for one certainly support a stronger police force and strongly support the things that the police force needs, such as higher salaries. I think the figures indicate that you are being much more successful now in recruiting new policemen than you have been in the past.

I do not know to what extent the recent increase in starting pay was effective and I am not saying that the policemen only do their job just for money. I doubt seriously that unless they were dedicated to the idea of law enforcement they would take it even at the figure we now have for the starting policemen, although that has been helpful along with other things.