

I am not altogether sure that we are in total agreement yet as to priorities. Let me discuss one other thing and then I will yield back because I do not want to take too much time. I happen to be one of those who advocated and did support the reorganization of the D.C. Government. I hoped that we could bring about more participation by local people in their Government, and to move in that direction. However, I still believe very frankly that the Congress has a responsibility and that responsibility must continue in perpetuity; its is something that we cannot relinquish.

So I think we should shoulder our responsibility and do that which is necessary to make this the ideal capital that we would all like to have.

Let me ask you about the morale, because you mentioned in your statement about the improving morale in the Police Department. I do not believe it was in your written statement but in your extemporaneous remarks.

I am not questioning or challenging your statement, other than to say that there are still continuing statements made, and I know from my personal conversations from time to time with people, officers and others in the Police Department, and I am not altogether sure how much confidence our police officers have in the backing they will have as they enforce the law. This does cause me real concern. You were here the other day and heard the statement of the gentleman who preceded you, Mr. Margolius. I think there is real concern on the part of the policeman today when he goes out and does his job to the best of his ability as a dedicated policeman in the enforcement of law who catches a criminal, and then he is immediately charged with police brutality or is immediately brought before a court of some kind and prosecuted, or he is in the newspapers for what he has done. Do you feel this situation is really improving or not at the present time, that is, over what it was three or six months ago. I am not sure that it is. I would appreciate your comments on that.

Mr. FLETCHER. There are two elements to that. One, there can be no question that policemen in this city and in the cities throughout the country obviously must have continuing concern and deeper concern about what is going on in this country as far as the attitudes of the people are concerned on the Police Department. I think the police service today is one of the most difficult services the Government provides in terms of what is happening.

As far as the District Government is concerned, we have evidenced continuously and will always evidence complete support of our Department in the enforcement of law and order. We will support our men, and where there is need for disciplinary action, which will happen in any Department from time to time, it should be done expeditiously and fairly to all concerned. I think that is what we are displaying. We are all concerned about what is happening in the attitude to the police. It is a difficult service. It is one that we all ought to be cognizant of and correct. There should be no doubt in my mind or anybody's mind of the District Government's attitude on the support of our men. We have one of the finest police departments in the country and we will support them and do whatever we can to improve—

Mr. SISK. I agree with you one hundred percent, and have great re-