

There have been certain demonstrations in front of the White House, again not against the people of the District of Columbia but against the head of our Government and its policies.

Let us take the recent incident of the bombing of the Soviet Embassy. Here is a very tense situation involving a foreign power with which we are constantly walking on egg shells. Is this something that our Government should rely upon a local controlled and managed police department to take care of, or do we in the Congress have a lot at stake ourselves and should we be concerned with what type of police protection is given there as well as police diplomacy? This applies also to such things as the inaugural parade, which is a national event and not a city festival. It seems to me we are constantly faced with responsibilities for police activity here that are separate and apart from what should be your responsibilities as the local governing body. That is one of the principal reasons for my sponsorship of this legislation, to try to bring that Federal responsibility into proper focus. I have not ignored the fact that it would take away from the local government and the people living here some authority insofar as their own protection is concerned.

I think the fact that we have all these other interests involved calls for some overall coordinated approach to the problem.

Mr. FLETCHER. I believe, sir, we are providing that type of coordinated activity now. I believe what was done in the last few months indicates that coordination is there, it works effectively and efficiently.

Mr. BROYHILL. You believe that the type of protection I am talking about is primarily a local responsibility of the District Government?

Mr. FLETCHER. Back-up for police services, park police, capital police and that is what we do, the backup protection. We provide the coordinated activities required of our Department. I think we have done it in every single case that has come up in the last several months. We provided the type of coordination you talk about. It is an essential service that the District Government should provide.

Mr. BROYHILL. I am not talking about the service you provide. I am talking about whose responsibility it should be, and whether the Federal Government and the Congress do not have even a greater interest in those areas than does the City Government.

Mr. FLETCHER. I think we have equal interests, sir. I think our interest is just as strong as yours is in the protection of the Federal Government, and we provide that type of protection. We are required to, in my opinion.

Mr. BROYHILL. But insofar as our international problems are concerned. Do you think you have the same interests and responsibility there that the Federal Government would have?

Mr. FLETCHER. To provide for the protection of the people that are here either in residence or people doing business within the District, and visitors, yes, sir.

Mr. BROYHILL. That is all I have, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Fuqua.

Mr. FUQUA. Mr. Fletcher, I certainly appreciate your answering the questions. Referring to your colloquy with Mr. Broyhill and talking about the waste and inefficiency this bill might create, don't we have this existing now with the separate branches or jurisdictions of the police within the District?