

Mr. FLETCHER. I don't believe so, sir. The waste and inefficiency I am talking about here—of course, the Metropolitan Police is by far the largest, 3,100 authorized strength plus all the civilian employees, and so on—the type of waste and inefficiency I am talking about is we have systems of centralized purchasing, personnel, budget, various other services which the department should expect from a centralized government, rather than creating their own. You would have to create a separate system of services if you create an independent agency which would have to have its own personnel services, procurement services, budget system, and so on. We can provide that now through the central services now provided by the District Government.

Mr. FUQUA. Couldn't that be coordinated through the office of Police Commissioner that would be established under this legislation.

Mr. FLETCHER. They would have to provide some services; yes, sir. It is our opinion that we can provide it better under the existing systems and the improved systems which we are developing.

Mr. FUQUA. It may be he would want to adopt the system that the Metropolitan Police Department is using and have it available for all the others.

Mr. FLETCHER. The only way I know that that could be would be on a contract service. That is something that could be done, sir.

SUPPORT OF THE POLICE

Mr. FUQUA. I am concerned, as has been expressed here, about the support of the Police Department in the District of Columbia. I think certainly this is a matter that is of very great concern to all of us and to the man who is out on the firing line, so to speak, doing his job. It is important for him to feel that he does have the support of the residents of the District of Columbia and, for that matter, of the District Government. I have been appalled lately at some of the statements made by certain people in high places in our City Government regarding their feelings about the Police Department.

I would hope that we could have here the support for the Police Department and the man on the beat so that he would be aware that he did have this support. I think it has been generally supported in Congress through anti-crime legislation and pay raises, which I think are very, very good and adequate, and they must have our continued support and interest in the Police Department. I certainly hope that the police do feel that Congress has been supporting them and I hope that we can in the coming months rely on this. I want to say that I think the action that was taken recently, the affirmative action in closing Resurrection City, proved what could be done when you meet these situations with dispatch and firmness. I want to commend those in authority.

Is there any coordination now between all the services that are mentioned, the White House Police, Secret Service, Park Police, and Metropolitan Police? Who is the overall chief?

Mr. FLETCHER. There is no overall chief as far as the various law enforcement agencies are concerned. However, there is effective coordination any time it is required.

Mr. FUQUA. Only through coordination?