

that there was a tremendous problem; and this can be brought down on your head because you all did not function properly; and then after the disorders following Senator Kennedy's death the thing was handled very well and, well, you all are not responsible, it was because of the Police Force that was established a number of years ago. So, you know, you can play this thing on both sides of the street.

Thank you. I certainly appreciate your coming here and appearing before us.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Adams?

SCOPE OF BILL

MR. ADAMS. I have some questions involving how this might work. Mr. Fletcher, I know you have been in other governments in urban areas. This bill indicates that an independent office within the District of Columbia would be established. In your opinion, would that mean, then, for example, that the appropriation would come under the Legislative budget, or would it come under the District of Columbia budget as an independent office within that government?

MR. FLETCHER. My understanding, sir, is that it would be a separate budget. I don't think the legislation speaks as to the way in which that would be handled.

MR. ADAMS. In other words, we would have another Appropriation Bill to present and be brought up and passed on by both sides, and so on, that would deal with salaries, retirement, everything else, just as with the Post Office Department?

MR. FLETCHER. I assume so. The testimony was made on Friday before this committee by one of the Congressmen, indicating there would be a saving by eliminating this from the budget of the District of Columbia, which assumes then it would be an independent budget.

MR. ADAMS. I see. Now, who would prepare this budget and present it and go through the hearings, and so on? The Police Commissioner?

MR. FLETCHER. I assume so, sir. Again, the bill is silent as to that fact, but I assume it would be the new Commissioner.

MR. ADAMS. He would need a Budget Director and staff?

MR. FLETCHER. I don't know.

MR. ADAMS. All right. I have indicated that you have been with other urban jurisdictions, and I would now draw on your experience from around the country. Do you know of any place in the country where the relationship of the State governments to the local governments is such that you have the States now coming in and taking over on local law enforcement from the State level?

MR. FLETCHER. Not in terms of the administration of the department. Of course, many States do preempt police fields in the way in which the law can be enforced, in the way in which laws may be adopted. Many States do, in fact, pass legislation which controls the law, but the enforcement of it would still remain the responsibility of the local jurisdiction.

MR. ADAMS. Now, the next thing: As I understand it, if this bill were to pass, the Park Police, the Zoological Police, the White House Police, the Capitol Police, would all then be under a unit that would be within the District Government; is that correct?

MR. FLETCHER. No. It would be under Congress, sir, in my understanding.