

CIVIL DISTURBANCES

Mr. ADAMS. I agree. I have just a minute. I am not going into the community relations area with you. I think we are having a real awakening in America of what is necessary. I am talking about the fundamental law enforcement problem. You mentioned specifically the situation at 12th and U and the one at 14th and U. I remember questioning Mr. Murphy specifically on this, and he reported that he had two cars with two men in each car in that area, four men, and they reported between five and six hundred people on the streets around them, many of whom were apparently armed. Some at least were brandishing weapons. Later on there were many thousands along 14th Street. I am asking you if this type of confrontation or situation in the central portion of the community is not a new type law enforcement situation from what we have had in the general day-to-day activities of the Police Department in the past.

Inspector SULLIVAN. The answer, of course, is yes. Let me give you a further example. I am now employed by a food chain, I will not mention the name, and there were other good chains in this same area. One chain lost 18 stores. We lost only the windows out of three stores, partly due maybe to our public relations. But in fact when 300 of them came in front of one of those stores, across the street from us, and 12 men stepped out with shotguns, no windows were broken.

Mr. ADAMS. In other words, you are saying in that situation at 12th and U—I think we are all trying to get to the essentials of the problems of the central city—it would have been your position that the officers at 12th and U could have confronted with force the crowd that was there and that would have improved the overall situation of what happened in the city in April.

Inspector SULLIVAN. I do not think there is any question about it. I think if they had used the weapons—and I am not talking about death weapons, Mr. Adams, I am talking about the gas and mace and so forth—it is my understanding that it was there, it is my understanding that it was not used. I said if they had used it. Let us go back to May when they did use force; it stopped very quickly and when we did not do it in April, just as the good Deputy Mayor said, we learned our lesson. We came back in May when we had the trouble and we did a better job because it was left up to proper persons to deal with it.

Mr. ADAMS. I think you have to state that in April and May the same people dealt with the same situation in the sense that the Chief of Police and the Commissioner here were running the Police Department at both times. Also, the May situation in terms of a confrontation was much different. What I am trying to get from you is your position and statement as to what changes should be made in the central city in terms of handling massive confrontations with substantial portions of the population in an area in a hostile attitude. This is not the one to one relationship ordinarily in law enforcement or one to two or three.

Inspector SULLIVAN. Passing of this legislation so that all law enforcement efforts could be coordinated—

Mr. ADAMS. This legislation won't change that situation at all in the city, Mr. Sullivan, will it?