

several years, and are directly attributed to the Police Department under Chief Layton. Chief Layton and Safety Director Patrick V. Murphy have stepped up these new procedures and they, together with the force, are responsible for the adequate handling of the April riots, a fact Mr. Terris is reluctant to admit.

Mr. Terris, by innuendo, charges police misconduct, but nowhere is he specific in his allegations. This Association decries the notion that neighborhood control of the police is a proper course of action. Indeed, it is a license for confusion and inefficiency. The examples cited by Mr. Terris are not valid, since none of the examples involved a quasimilitary organization which a police department is. To advocate a similar type of control over a military establishment would be unheard of, even by Mr. Terris.

[From the Evening Star, Washington, D.C., July 30, 1968]

TERRIS URGES LAYTON OUSTER—DEMOCRAT WANTS BLACK POLICE HEAD

(By Paul Delaney, Star Staff Writer)

The chairman of the District's Democratic Central Committee called yesterday for the ouster of Police Chief John B. Layton and criticized the City Council for failing to try experiments with neighborhood control over police.

The chairman, Bruce Terris, told the public safety committee of the City Council that he was speaking for the entire Central Committee.

Terris said that Chief Layton does not understand the Negro community in Washington. "Every effort should be made to find a black police officer in this or another city who is capable of assuming this important position," he told the committee.

He said that the Black United Front's proposal for community control over police should be tried in two of the city's fourteen police precincts.

Terris said that the Rev. Channing E. Phillips, recently elected Democratic National Committeeman for the District who is a leader of the Front, had approved the Central Committee Statements.

The public safety committee currently is seeking recommendations from the community to be made to the full council on Aug. 6 on police-community relations. Terris spent two hours with the committee.

After yesterday's meeting, councilmen refused to comment on the Democratic proposal. At one point, committee chairman William S. Thompson even refused to acknowledge that Terris had appear before his group.

Thompson promised to make a ruling by tomorrow on whether the press would be admitted to future committee meetings. Everything that has been presented to the committee so far has later been made available to the press.

COUNCIL CRITICIZED

Terris criticized the City Council for failing to institute changes in the police department, which the council is empowered to do.

"First, we must immediately start experiments with neighborhood control over the police," Terris told the committee.

"This is an untried and new idea. It might not work. It might produce far more citizen cooperation with the police and far better control of crimes or it might result in confusion and inefficiency."

"If law enforcement in this city were effective, it could be argued let's not try such bold new ideas, let's not take a chance. But we all know the present methods have been failing miserably for decades, here and all over the country. It is imperative that promising new ideas be tried."

Terris said after the meeting that black control of police in their community might prevent another Cleveland situation, where white policemen were ambushed last week. Three officers died.

"People regard the police as the enemy," he commented.

WANTS A BLACK CHIEF

Regarding Layton, Terris said not only has the chief failed to understand the Negro community, "he has failed in other areas, like how to get a better and more efficient police department and in modern police practices." Terris recommended that a black chief be named to replace Layton, but added that "there are many white officers, even within the department, who would be better than Layton."