

Terris accused Layton of resisting reform recommended by crime studies. He went on:

"He has seriously interfered with imposing strict discipline to prevent police misconduct . . . This city needs a police chief who understands the community, including the black citizens who constitute a majority of its population. It needs a chief who is fully committed to citizen involvement in decisions relating to law enforcement and to maintaining discipline over police officers mistreating the public.

"For these reasons it is essential that Chief Layton be replaced. Every effort should be made to find a black police officer in this or another city who is capable of assuming this important position."

ATTACKS COUNCIL RESTRAINT

Terris said the council's role does not end with the holding of public hearings. He said bold steps are needed in the area of the police.

"For too long the council has failed to exercise leadership in this vital field. Police misconduct goes on and the council has done nothing. Reforms are interfered with and the council has done nothing."

Terris said community control over police would be similar to community control in other areas. He cited community control over the Morgan Elementary School as one example.

The Democrats accepted several other BUF proposals, including a plan to have a citizen-elected board exercise control over police. Terris said such citizen boards would choose the precinct captain from a list submitted by the Civil Service Commission.

The board would also choose patrolmen from those in the department or from civilians meeting department standards; order from the precinct officers guilty of misconduct (the front's plan calls for firing of such officers), and would establish all policies for law enforcement in the neighborhoods, subject only to a vote by the mayor or City Council.

PARTY HAS GREATER DETAIL

The Democratic proposal went into far greater detail than the front's proposal, thus representing an expansion of the militants' idea.

The Democrats urged replacing the present system of police trial boards, where police judge their own, with an independent civilian hearing examiner named by the mayor; using the internal investigations unit aggressively to discover police misconduct against private citizens just as it now works to find other kinds of police misconduct; revitalizing the Police Complaint Review Board; publicizing activities of the board, and changing the coroner's inquest to provide a fair procedure for all parties, such as allowing an attorney for the victim's family to present and cross-examine witnesses.

Further, the Democrats recommended that black officers be promoted as soon as possible to deputy chief; black civilians should be brought into the department at high levels; the police-community relations unit should be given real responsibilities instead of being "window-dressing in an effort to pacify the black community"; all future police recruits should be required to live within the District; gun regulations should be written to clearly forbid the use of weapons by police except when his life or that of another citizen is immediately threatened or when a suspect has committed a felony and is armed and there is a substantial risk he will cause bodily harm if apprehension is delayed, and use of tear gas should be forbidden during disturbances, except when absolutely necessary.

BLACKS OPPOSE POLICE

Terris cited several statistics to show that police-community relations are deteriorating. He said the District Crime Commission survey two years ago showed that over 80 percent of the Negroes in the city believed over half the police department would have to be replaced to get a good department.

Also, over half thought that District police enjoyed giving people a hard time; 60 percent of the black men believed that police discriminated and half of those believed this included rudeness and brutality; and the National Crime Commission found that 46 percent of the white officers were prejudiced against Negroes.