

Congressionally appointed Commissioner will bring the Department above the influence of the pressure groups and the criminal element that is asserting itself in our Nation's Capital. They feel that a Commissioner will help to alleviate many of the previously stated conditions that are causing discouragement and poor morale.

We know of no other city where there is a similar division of the Police Forces into major segments such as exists in the District of Columbia. No other city would tolerate such a fragmented Police Force. The experience with Resurrection City is illuminating in this regard. The Park Police and the Metropolitan Police could not enter Resurrection City to enforce the law. The result was a reign of lawlessness unparalleled in our history. Among the reasons was jurisdictional conflict. It was not until the Congress demanded that the reign of lawlessness at Resurrection City be ended that steps were taken to brush aside any jurisdictional line and the Park and Metropolitan Police worked smoothly and efficiently together to end the terror. A Police Commissioner, head of all the forces in the city, could act decisively and immediately in crises.

Unification of the Police Forces in Washington is just as essential as unification of the military forces of the Nation was, which led Congress to establish the Department of Defense.

A strong Commissioner would bring about uniform policy, uniform training, and a closer working relationship among all the District forces. Washington is a Federal city and should have uniform policies for all its police forces. It is saddening and disheartening to Americans for their Nation's Capital to rank 19th in serious crime among cities in our country. Not a very good example to be sure.

Uniformity would bring about greater professionalization of all Metropolitan forces of the District, better morale and greater respect for the men.

We feel that under a Commissioner, Congress would see that sufficient funds would be appropriated to fill the Department's needs for uniforms, equipment, and men and insure that the Department is one of the most up-to-date and efficient in the country. It would also make the Police budget separate and distinct from that of the city and insure pay raises for the men in line with the current cost index.

Because it seems to reflect the thoughts and feelings of many officers I would like to read a letter of resignation to the Department from a veteran officer of 11½ years. It was printed in the August issue of the Policemen's Association News.

Shall I read this letter, sir?

Mr. DOWDY. We will include it in the record at this point.

Mrs. NEWMAN. All right.

(The letter follows:)

JULY 15, 1968.

To: Commanding Officer, Special Operations Division.
Subject: Resignation.

After much serious soul searching I have reached a decision to tender my resignation at the earliest date convenient to the Department. I have made this decision due to the recent turn of events in this city. I feel that the so-called "Leadership" of this city with the inflammatory statements made recently by several pressure groups directed individually and collectively at members of this Department, with the tacit approval of the Vice Chairman of the City Council, and the defense of Mr. Fauntroy by Mr. Hechinger.