

that this can be accomplished with the "citizen control and pressured influence" under which the departments are now being operated.

We sincerely urge the members of the House District Committee to lend their support to the passage of this bill. It is of extreme importance to us and to every law-abiding citizen, not only in the District of Columbia, but all over the United States.

Sincerely,

POLICE WIVES UNITED.

POLICE WIVES UNITED, BOX 122, LANHAM, MARYLAND

The undersigned petitioners hereby request the passage of HR 14430, a proposal sponsored by Representative Joel T. Broyhill, regarding the establishment of a Commissioner of Police for the District of Columbia and the consolidation of all District of Columbia Police Departments under this Commissioner.

NAME

ADDRESS

Mrs. Evelyn Brennan
And others.

P.O. Box 122, Lanham, Md.

Mr. Dowdy. The next witness is Mr. Nash Castro, Regional Director of the National Capital Region, National Park Service.

STATEMENT OF NASH CASTRO, REGIONAL DIRECTOR, NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, ACCOMPANIED BY CHIEF GRANT WRIGHT, PARK POLICE

Mr. CASTRO. Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. Before I proceed I would like to present my associate, Chief Grant Wright of the Park Police.

Mr. Chairman, and members of the Committee, I am Nash Castro, Regional Director of the National Capital Region, National Park Service. I am appearing today on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior, in opposition to H.R. 14430 and H.R. 14448. As Regional Director, I am charged with the responsibility for administration of the park system of the District of Columbia, and outside the District of Columbia, areas such as the George Washington Memorial Parkway, Suitland Parkway, Baltimore-Washington Parkway, the C & O Canal, Prince William Forest Park, Fort Washington, Piscataway Park, Greenbelt and others. There are 1,590 permanent personnel in my Region, including the Park Police, which has an authorized force of 363. Fifty-five of the 363 police positions represent new positions authorized in the current fiscal year. However, because of current employment restrictions we are not able to fill them.

The management duty vested in the National Park Service would be difficult, if not impossible, of attainment with Park Police responsive to a Commissioner who may inevitably address himself substantially to problems of crime and law enforcement, who may have objectives different from park management. For this reason, the Department opposes enactment of H.R. 14430 and H.R. 14448.

From its inception in 1791, at the time when "watchmen" were authorized for the purpose of protecting public grounds in the District of Columbia, the Park Police have become a force having responsibilities both within and outside of the District of Columbia, and under certain conditions, to the enforcement of regulations for areas administered by other Federal agencies. No other unit mentioned in the two bills before you had similar duties or authority.