

We recommend that the bill not be enacted.

The bill establishes the office of "Commissioner of Police in the District of Columbia" as an independent office in the District of Columbia Government. The Police Commissioner would be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate. The bill also establishes a 9-member Police Commissioner Advisory Commission which would be appointed by the Chairmen of the House and Senate Committees on the District of Columbia.

The bill transfers to the Police Commissioner certain functions, powers, and duties, including those of the Secretary of the Interior with respect to the United States Park Police in the District of Columbia. Notwithstanding disclaimers regarding continuation of police duties, as presently defined, contained in section 2(5) (d), the bill would transfer to the Police Commissioner certain functions, powers, and duties, including those of the Secretary of the Interior with respect to the United States Park Police in the District of Columbia. In this respect, we believe that the provisions of the bill are not adequate since there is no clear recognition that the function of the Park Police is an extension of the function of the National Park Service.

The jurisdiction of the United States Park Police in the District of Columbia includes the enforcement of Federal regulations applicable to Federal park areas and the monuments and memorials of transcendent national significance that are administered by the Federal Government as part of the National Park System. In addition, the jurisdiction of the United States Park Police with respect to law enforcement extends beyond the boundaries of the District of Columbia to Federal park areas and, under certain conditions, to areas administered by other Federal agencies.

The United States Park Police must be primarily available for and responsive to the demands imposed upon the National Park Service by virtue of administration and interpretation of areas for the visitor to the Nation's Capital. Those responsibilities stem from specific duties given the Secretary by the Congress.

Park Police responsibility in this regard, therefore, transcends law enforcement. Park Police are expected to have knowledge of the National Capital Park System which will permit them to convey interpretive information, as well as such knowledge of the mission of the National Park Service that their actions assist the National Park Service in meeting its obligations to visitors and residents alike. Thus, the added dimension of the Park Police, as part of, and responsive to, the agency administering this important focal point of visitation in the National Park System should be patent.

For these reasons we believe it would be inappropriate to place the United States Park Police under the District of Columbia Government.

We also note that section 2(c) of the bill requires the Police Commissioner to make recommendations directly to the Congress for legislation to make the police forces under his jurisdiction subject to the same provisions for appointments, promotions, dismissals, compensation, retirement, and similar matters. Inasmuch as the compensation and promotion of United States Park Police are governed by the District of Columbia Police and Firemen's Salary Act of 1958 (72 Stat. 480), as amended, (D.C. Code, sec. 4-523 *et seq.*), we believe no great disparity exists between the police forces in such matters.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there is no objection to the presentation of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely yours,

CLARENCE F. PANTZKI,
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

Mr. Dowdy. I have often wondered who made the decision to turn the park over to this Resurrection City crowd that came in here, when was it?

Mr. CASTRO. In May and June.

POLICING RESURRECTION CITY

Mr. Dowdy. In May, but that is past now. I am curious about one thing, though, who in the world was it that agreed that the police