

Mr. Dowdy. Mr. George W. Brady, President, Federation of Citizens Associations.

STATEMENT OF GEORGE W. BRADY, PRESIDENT, FEDERATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATIONS

Mr. Brady. Mr. Chairman, I have a brief statement which will take ten to twelve minutes. Otherwise I will give you our recommendation and submit the rest of it.

Mr. Dowdy. If you will do that because the bells will be ringing in a moment.

Your statement can be made part of the record and you can brief it.

Mr. Brady. I would like to say that the Federation is very concerned with the situation of law enforcement and crime in the District of Columbia. We consider that the situation, if you want to define it in one word, is deplorable. Unfortunately we do not detect any favorable trends in spite of the best efforts of the new District Government. We want to support any action by the Congress or in the local government which will improve law enforcement and increase respect for the law.

We submitted a statement to the District Council's Public Safety Committee in August. I would like to make that part of the statement which we submit.

Mr. Dowdy. That may be done.

(The statement referred to follows:)

STATEMENT TO D.C. COUNCIL'S PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE ON ITS REPORT ON POLICE-COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The Federation welcomes this opportunity to present its views on the current law enforcement situation in the District of Columbia. Our comments are directed primarily toward the August 5, 1968 Report of the D.C. Council's Public Safety Committee on Police-Community Relations.

Before making our comments, however, we would like to observe that we were not invited to appear before the Public Safety Committee, nor, so far as I am aware, were our written comments sought. Hence, we do not believe the statement in the report that "written comments were sought from the Community" is entirely accurate. We hope that in the future this and other committees of the Council will desire to have the viewpoint of this Federation and we hereby request that you will let us know when we can be of service.

As I think you are aware this Federation is in its 59th year of service to the city. We currently represent 34 local citizens associations within the District. Our interests cover nearly all facets of city activities from city planning, budget, taxation, and education to public safety, public utilities, and transportation. The comments which I will now make were endorsed by our Executive Board on August 15, 1968.

1. We were very pleased to note the constructive tone of the report of the Council's Committee on Public Safety and in particular its rejection of the radical proposals recently advanced by certain activist groups. This Federation, like the Council, wants the Washington Metropolitan Police Force to be maintained and directed to meet the needs and objectives of our National Capital. We want to see crime reduced and mutual respect between police and the community restored in areas where it is now lacking.

2. We were disappointed that we did not find any words in the report regarding the responsibilities of the individual citizen in maintenance of law and order. Of course we need much better relations between the police and the community but community relations is a two-way street. One might almost say that the emphasis in the report on the demand for changes in police actions and attitudes would lead one to think that lawlessness is the fault of the police. We believe that one of the greatest problems in our present situation is the breakdown of