

respect for the law. We are not sure just how this can be corrected but it certainly will not be done without giving great and continuing emphasis to the fundamental principle of respect for the law. The problem is compounded by recent statements by certain otherwise responsible civil rights leaders that "law and order" are racist words. How can this possibly be accepted? Much is written that the policeman is considered the "enemy" by a segment of the population. How can we overcome this attitude? Perhaps the police are not perfect but their efforts are for the good of the community. Please note that the U.S. Post Office Department has recently joined the fight against crime by issuing a commemorative stamp entitled "Law and Order."

In summary on this point we believe that the City Government should (1) emphasize that the majority of its citizens are law abiding and think that the police are doing a good job; (2) give full support to the police from the top of the Government down; (3) give short shrift to those who attempt to downgrade the police to satisfy their own political aims; (4) give high priority to devising and initiating educational programs to promote respect for the law in those segments of our citizenry who do not now have it; and (5) encourage cooperation with the police. If these actions are successful we will not need one thousand more policemen and elaborate police community relations programs.

Further, we recommend strongly that the Council not accept the Committee's view that "at this point in time the city Government must act on the principle that changes in police attitudes will result in reciprocal attitudes on the part of the public." Rather we believe that active educational programs as just suggested are of at least equal importance and should be conducted in parallel.

3. Because of the extensive publicity given to the proposals of the Black United Front and the Chairman of the Democratic Central Committee we have the responsibility to comment directly on them:

(a) We believe that these proposals spring from a false premise, namely that "the people regard the police as their enemy." This kind of preachment renders a disservice to the cause of better police-community relations.

(b) We believe that policies and actions of the police must be uniform throughout the city. If such vital functions as hiring, firing, promoting, and transferring are placed in the hands of the people in each precinct we can foresee only chaos.

(c) We denounce as extreme racism the suggestion that the Chief of Police be replaced by a Negro. We consider this a grandstand play to gain political capital when in fact it is an act of political irresponsibility. Those who make this suggestion would be the first to uphold the civil service job rights of their political constituents while stripping Chief Layton of his.

(d) The proposals that in certain areas of the city only police of the same color as the majority of the citizens be on patrol are unsound for many reasons, two of which are: first, this would require that boundaries of such areas be defined which would be almost impossible to do and would be unfair to minority groups and; second, such a pattern would promote a new type of segregation which runs counter to all that this country has been trying to accomplish in recent years.

4. We believe that the police recruiting program should proceed on the basis of candidates without regard to race. We do not believe a black-white quota should be set as has been suggested. Equally logical arguments can be made that since this is the Nation's Capital, the black-white ratio should be based on that of the country as a whole rather than on that in the District of Columbia. We would further point out an important reason for hewing to the line in maintaining the highest possible quality of recruits: if the standards are lowered, many of a group which enters with lowered standards will be unable to advance as rapidly as those that do meet the standards. Then, after a few years charges will undoubtedly be heard that this group has been discriminated against in promotions to top jobs. Therefore, we consider it vital that all recruits meet the same established standards.

5. We support the Police Cadet Program and are pleased to see that it is currently targeted to a level of 350 cadets.

6. We endorse the proposal for a study of the citizen advisory mechanism and the development of specific guidelines for citizen involvement. We recommend that these clearly limit the role of the advisory group and not interfere with the authority of the Police Department. We are pleased that the Committee recommends a public hearing on the proposals coming out of this study and we request that the Council give adequate notice of the hearing in order that interested groups will have time to prepare responsive comments.

7. We are aware of pending legislation in the Congress (H.R. 14430 and 14448) which propose to establish "an independent office in the Government of the Dis-