

ington and Mr. Hechinger, the Chairman of the City Council, expressed displeasure with that statement, because I think it would be demoralizing to the policemen on the beat. On the other hand, the Vice Chairman of the City Council, Mr. Fauntroy, is a member of this Black United Front and he indicates he wants to associate himself with this statement. Could this be a damaging factor to the morale of the policemen?

Mr. MURPHY. I think, Mr. Gude, it is a factor. I would like to point out that I promptly issued a public statement regarding the position taken by the Black United Front. I was very much disturbed by that position, not only because I think it has a serious effect on the morale of our police officers, but I think it is a dangerous thing for anyone of any authority to imply that a tragic thing such as the killing and serious injury of police officers is justifiable. I think that is an extremely dangerous thing. I know the police officers have a very strong feeling about that, and it is understandable. I am confident, on the other hand, our police officers feel they are being strongly supported by their sergeants and commanding chiefs. I know I am strongly supporting them by having my assistant appear at the Corporation Counsel's Office, go to the court, and we have attempted to support the policemen in every way. I think, however, when any public official is in doubt about supporting our police officers it is a serious matter.

Mr. GUDE. Unquestionably, it has a demoralizing effect on the police. With your backing and the backing of Commissioner Washington and the Chairman of the City Council I hope the statement by the Black United Front will not affect the morale of the police. I am unalterably opposed to any extreme movement, be it the Ku Klux Klan or any other type of extreme organization. Therefore I think the member of the Council who is a member of the Black United Front should remove himself from his office on the Council or from the organization.

Mr. WHITENER. I doubt that any police officer could be too surprised at that sort of thing coming from that group or from the Vice Chairman of the Council. I hope that won't bother them because when the Vice Chairman was appointed that is what many of us thought we would have to expect. I am not condemning anybody for appointing the wrong people to the wrong job, that is not our function in the Legislative Branch, but that will not be the last time that fellow will be associated with some nutty proposition. I hope the police officers will not feel that reflects the feeling of the community, because the Board of Trade people and the church people in the community don't agree with a fool statement made by 150 people who met on a Sunday to say again what they have been saying all along to stir up this community. We have that type of people, unfortunately, in many areas of the country. I notice one fellow has been spouting off on television. He is from North Carolina. We are not proud of him. And I don't think the people here are proud of this fellow.

Mr. GUDE. I realize this Black United Front represents a very small minority. I think there is certainly a revulsion and a rejection by the Negro people of Washington of that statement.

Mr. WHITENER. You wouldn't have these fine men who give about 2300 hours of their time if they felt that way. Men like that wouldn't think of putting anything on that might make them look like they