

Mr. MURPHY. Yes, Mr. Chairman. I think you have identified some very important value of the reserve officers. I think it is a fact, Lieutenant, that most of the reserve officers reside in the precincts where they donate their time to the Department and I am sure that has a very salutary influence on residents of the precinct.

Mr. WHITENER. How about recruitment? We hear a lot about that with regard to the regular policemen.

Do you have any difficulty in recruiting the right type of man to join with you in your reserve group?

Lt. FLETCHER. We don't have too much problem. My experience is that sometimes we do not know what we have recruited until after we have them.

Mr. WHITENER. Some presidential appointments are like that.

Mr. ABERNETHY. Especially in the City Council.

Mr. WHITENER. This may not be true in the future, but if you wanted to fill a few slots within your organization what sort of preliminary inquiries do you make before you give a man status as a reservist?

Lt. FLETCHER. Preliminary inquiry?

Mr. WHITENER. Yes. You have to get approval of the Police Department. How do you go about that?

Chief LAYTON. That is done pretty much through the precinct coordinator, Mr. Chairman, and the Headquarters office.

Obviously we check the record of arrests to see whether or not there is any record. If there is—

Mr. WHITENER. You can still do that here?

Chief LAYTON. Yes, sir, we can. We can do this for selection of police officers and reserve corps officers. We do check records of arrest. We make some inquiry of their employment in the neighborhood.

Where they are known in the neighborhood we depend on reserve corps officials as well to give us some indication of whether the individual is stable and one we feel would be a proper person to be appointed to the reserve corps.

Mr. WHITENER. If we are going to bring these people under the Compensation Act I would hope that you will have some way of at least giving a medical examination. In my State a man with a physical condition which he aggravates because of some previous activity, and law enforcement may result in his being a charge on the taxpayer—

Chief LAYTON. We currently give them physical examinations. Naturally we would continue to do that to determine whether or not there was any ailment.

Mr. WHITENER. What about age qualifications?

Chief LAYTON. We go to 65 as the qualifying age now. They must be a citizen and must reside in the Metropolitan area of the District of Columbia, between 21 and 65 years, at least five feet six inches in height, good mental and physical health, and character investigation is done.

Mr. WHITENER. Lieutenant, you will have a good opportunity in this question. Have you ever found the police organization to be uncooperative with you, either at the precinct or headquarters level?

Lt. FLETCHER. I can say with honesty and without hesitation that I have received the greatest cooperation from the Chief right on down. Fortunately enough I met Mr. Murphy just before he became Director of Public Safety so when he came here he wasn't a stranger to me.