

1 U. S. CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

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4 D. C. ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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7 FORUM ON POLICE-COMMUNITY RELATIONS IN D. C.

8 Monday, May 19, 1980  
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12 The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 7:00  
13 o'clock p.m., in the Auditorium, National City Christian  
14 Church, Thomas Circle, Washington, D. C., Reverend Ernest  
15 Gibson, Chairperson, presiding.

16 PRESENT:

17 Howard Glickstein, Member

18 ALSO PRESENT:

19 Courtland Cox, Representing  
20 Mayor Marion Barry  
21  
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23 CCR  
24 3  
25 Meet.  
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HELEN L. KAPLAN REPORTING ASSOCIATES  
232-6600

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(7:00 p.m.)

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3 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: We did want all members of  
4 the advisory committee to be present, but we'll just have  
5 to start without them. I think we need to get this show on  
6 the road.

7 Good evening and welcome. I'm Ernest Gibson,  
8 the Chairman of the D. C. Advisory Committee to the U. S.  
9 Civil Rights Commission and, before we begin tonight's  
10 program on Police-community relations in our city, I want  
11 to explain a little bit about our committee and about the  
12 Commission on Civil Rights.

13 The U. S. Commission on Civil Rights is an  
14 independent Federal agency that studies civil rights  
15 issues concerning discrimination based on race, color,  
16 natural origin, religion, sex, age or handicap.

17 Based on such studies, the Commission makes  
18 recommendations to the President and Congress, usually  
19 in the form of Crimp Reports.

20 The D. C. Advisory Committee is one of the  
21 51 state committees that advise the Commission on local  
22 civil rights problems.

23 I want to introduce now the other members of  
24 the Committee who are here tonight and who have helped  
25 organize this event. I ask that you would stand, please,

1 as I call your names.

2           Howard Glickstein, Professor of Law, Howard  
3 University Law School and Chairman of the Committee Task  
4 Force on the Administration of Justice.

5           Ruth Jordan, Writer and consultant.

6           Dr. Paul Phillips Cooke, Past-president of the  
7 District of Columbia Teachers' College and currently active  
8 in many other aspects of D. C. affairs.

9           Yetta Galiber, Executive Director of the  
10 Information Center for the Handicapped Individuals, In-  
11 corporated. Mrs. Galiber wears many other hats as well.

12           And Mrs. Helen Hays, Director of the Chinese  
13 Cultural Center.

14           We have organized this forum to serve two  
15 purposes. First, we want to add issues of current concern  
16 regarding Police-Community Relations.

17           Secondly, we wish to convey the information,  
18 comments and suggestions made here to the U. S. Commission  
19 on Civil Rights, which is currently engaged in writing a  
20 report on police practices.

21           We hope our experience will aid the Commission  
22 in formulating its findings and recommendations for the  
23 President and Congress.

24           We are going to ask that Mr. Howard Glickstein  
25 will give us some insight into the thinking of the Committee's

1 Task Force on the Administration of Justice as they set  
2 up this forum.

3 Mr. Glickstein.

4 MR. GLICKSTEIN: Thank you, Reverend Gibson.

5 The D. C. Advisory Committee of the U. S.  
6 Commission on Civil Rights conceived of having this  
7 forum tonight because of the feeling of many members --  
8 particularly in the last few months in the District of  
9 Columbia: there appears to be a strain in the police-  
10 community relations.

11 The problem of police-community relations and  
12 citizen-police relations has been a problem that has  
13 been with us for a long time. It's a problem that's  
14 studied over and over again. It is a problem that has  
15 received particular attention in the last 15 years.

16 You probably all have heard and seen the various  
17 reports over the years and have discussed this problem --  
18 the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders and  
19 so forth -- the Kerner Commission that was appointed by  
20 President Johnson over 15 years ago -- the National Advisory  
21 Commission on Criminal Justice and Standards, the D. C.  
22 President's Commission on Crime -- one commission after  
23 another continuously returning to the same problem --  
24 the problem that we never seem to be able to solve. For  
25 some reason, we have been able to figure out how to get to

1 the moon in a year. We have been able to figure out how  
2 to cure polio, but we have not been able to come up with  
3 any way of insuring that the interaction between the  
4 police and the community involves a minimum amount of  
5 friction.

6 Many persons -- many of the commissions I have  
7 just identified and other organization citizen groups have,  
8 over the years, identified solutions to some of these  
9 problems; identified approaches that should be taken to  
10 solve some of these problems and many of these recommenda-  
11 tions have been adopted.

12 I think, if you look back at the reports that I  
13 have just mentioned -- and, in the materials you were given,  
14 there is a summary of those reports, you will find that a  
15 lot of these recommendations that people thought at one  
16 time were the cure; would solve those problems have been  
17 adopted, particularly, by the District of Columbia  
18 Police Department.

19 Despite the fact that these recommendations  
20 that once seemed to everybody to be the cure have been  
21 adopted, we still seem to be having problems. Now, why  
22 aren't these various remedies that have been proposed and  
23 have been adopted -- why aren't they proving to be effec-  
24 tive?

25 What else needs to be done?



1           The type of complaints you hear from the  
2 police and from citizens and from citizen groups seems to  
3 sound somewhat familiar -- if not very familiar -- to what  
4 was heard years ago. The police complained that they are  
5 not given adequate cooperation, that they are treated as  
6 enemies, with hostility, instead of as allies.

7           The ~~sex~~ segment of the public complains about  
8 police tactics, about police rudeness, about the excessive  
9 use of force by the police.

10           There are segments of the public that complain  
11 that crime is not being adequately handled; that there is  
12 inadequate police protection; that there are not enough  
13 police on the streets.

14           Other segments of the community claim that  
15 there are excessive policemen; that there are too many  
16 police on the streets; that the police act like an occupa-  
17 tion force.

18           Some people claim that the fear of crime makes  
19 them prisoners in their own homes. They are being denied  
20 one element of freedom and security by the failure of the  
21 community to adequately deal with crime.

22           They also suggest that there might also be a  
23 bit less due process; that it might be desirable for there  
24 to be a little bit less dur process if that is going to  
25 result in greater security.



1           On the other hand, there are people that com-  
2 plain that the police are insensitive and the courts are  
3 insensitive to some due process issues and that we need  
4 more due processes; that what is needed are greater curbs  
5 on police powers and greater limits on what the police  
6 can do.

7           These seem to be perennial issues. They seem  
8 to be issues that groups twenty years ago have discussed.  
9 I am reminded of the time that Dr. Kenneth Clark, the noted  
10 psychologist, appears before the Kerner Commission to testi-  
11 fy about some of the riots that were incurred in that  
12 period, and he said it all seemed like Alice-in-Wonderland  
13 to him; that it was the same problem that this Kerner  
14 Commission was considering in 1965; that the Commission  
15 that had studied the riots in Chicago in 1919 had con-  
16 sidered.

17           And Dr. Clark said: it's a revolving door --  
18 the same problems, the same discussion, the same proposals  
19 and nothing seems to happen. And that, perhaps, is part  
20 of the problem in this area. And, for that reason, our  
21 committee thought it would be very desirable to conduct  
22 this forum tonight to hear from representatives of the  
23 community and the community groups and of the government  
24 to talk about these issues and to see, as Reverend Gibson  
25 mention, if we can evolve from all of this some recommendations

1 that might be passed on to the Congress and to the  
2 Government of the District of Columbia, so I hope that our  
3 group tonight will benefit from some of the remarks of the  
4 people we have in the audience and perhaps this Alice-in-  
5 Wonderland situation that we are always talking about --  
6 same issues and never seeming to solve them -- perhaps we  
7 can move down the road towards some solutions.

8 Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Thank you, Mr. Glickstein.

10 Now, I want to introduce to you Mr. Courtland  
11 Cox, Director of the City's Minority Business Opportunity  
12 Commission. Mr. Cox is here representing the Mayor of the  
13 City, who is unable to be with us.

14 One reason we invited Mayor Barry is, besides  
15 from the obvious being one of the high offices of the City --  
16 is his history of activism in the Sixties which we thought  
17 would give him a unique perspective on this subject of  
18 police-community relations.

19 Courtland Cox has a similar life history as an  
20 earlier member of the student non-violent coordinating  
21 committee. We look forward to hearing from him.

22 Mr. Cox.

23 MR. COX: I think that I would like to start  
24 my remarks at the point that Reverend Gibson left off  
25 because I think both the Mayor, Marion Barry, and myself

1 have seen the question of police-community relationships  
2 from both sides of the fence; that, for over fifty -- I  
3 guess some close to twenty years, we were involved in  
4 trying to deal with the questions of injustice in the  
5 United States.

6 And, after some -- I guess about two years or  
7 I guess 18 months now, we have been involved in the ques-  
8 tion of running a city which includes the question of  
9 running a police department.

10 I think the title of tonight's forum, "Police-  
11 Community Relations", is very revealing because, if we  
12 look at it, the question that most comes to my mind is:  
13 which community?

14 Because we are not talking about police in  
15 isolation versus "the" community in totality but, I think,  
16 when we examine the discussion, we are looking at police  
17 relations versus segments of the community.

18 And I think it's clear that, to be honest, the  
19 police persons -- they are not only police "men"; there are  
20 police "women" these days -- have a most difficult role in  
21 any society because they are not acting as individuals, but  
22 they are acting as the front line of the law and the atti-  
23 tudes of the overall community.

24 So, therefore, when they act, they are mirroring  
25 those things that the dominant community wants to see

1 enforced. And, while they are the most visible and the  
2 focal point of the discussion, I think, for us to understand  
3 the whole question of relationships between the police and  
4 segments of the community, we have to examine the overall  
5 attitudes of the community itself.

6 Now, what do I mean by that? In 1960, when I  
7 first came here to Washington, D. C., "the" overall com-  
8 munity had laws which the Mayor, myself, along with hundreds  
9 and thousands of others, thought were unjust. But the  
10 police had to uphold those laws.

11 For example, I could not go on 14th Street up  
12 on Park Row to that drugstore and sit down at a lunch  
13 counter because, if I did, the police would take me out.  
14 I could not move into Clifton Terrace in 1960 because it  
15 was reserved for Whites. If I did, the police would take  
16 me out.

17 I remember: even Black policemen couldn't ride  
18 in police cars in 1960 so that what you had in that situation  
19 was "the" police defending the attitudes and views of "the"  
20 community against a segment of the community. And that  
21 continued and continued until we have in Miami today, and  
22 over the past two days, hit across the nation.

23 So that what you have is the police being the  
24 "shock troops", the most obvious segment reflecting the  
25 views and attitudes of "the" society -- "the" community

1     against a segment of the community.

2             Now, that problem was eliminated, not because  
3     the police were taught to act better toward that segment  
4     of the community; it was the problem between the Black  
5     community and the police. It was not eliminated because  
6     we had some community relations courses but the problem  
7     was eliminated in the final analysis because the Black  
8     community was allowed into "the" community and became "a"  
9     group -- part of "the" group that made the laws -- part  
10    of the group that was involved in the construction of the  
11    community as opposed to the distruction of the community,  
12    so I think that, when you look at what happened over the  
13    past 20 years, at least on the question of the racial  
14    side, I think that we see acts, incidents -- the lessening  
15    of incidents between the police in the Black community,  
16    not because the police and the cojmunty had come to some  
17    accommodation but because that segment of society -- the  
18    Black community and the total segment, the total community,  
19    had come into some greater harmony so that the police who,  
20    in the final analysis, have to reflect the attitudes and  
21    the laws of the power structure did not have that responsi-  
22    bility to carry out any more.

23             Then, you say: well, why are having at this  
24    particular time, at this historical moment, a recurrence  
25    of police-community kinds of problems?

1           And, if we begin to look at what we begin to  
2 talk about, we are not having the police-community problems  
3 with the same segment of the society as we used to; and  
4 that we are having the problems more in particular sections  
5 of the community, such as 14th Street, or with particular  
6 sectors of the community, such as the Black Youth. And,  
7 again, there are underlying reasons within the society  
8 that have to look at.

9           And I think, when we begin to look at it, we  
10 have to begin to look at the economic situations and the  
11 economic pressures that exist in the society that the  
12 police then have to begin to deal with.

13           And we have to begin to look at the community  
14 as a whole and begin to look at the laws and the attitudes  
15 that we ask them to uphold and reflect.

16           I think that police-community relations are  
17 only a part of the discussion. Because the police are  
18 the people who meet that section of the community first  
19 and, therefore, their attitudes in the community can make  
20 a great deal of difference in terms of the way -- whether  
21 they view themselves as being beseiged or view themselves  
22 as an occupying army or they view themselves as protecting  
23 the community.

24           That can make a significant difference. The  
25 attitudes of the policemen with the young people they are

1  
2 serving, as an example, or serving as oppressive force  
3 could make a tremendous difference.

4 But I think that is only 10% of the problem --  
5 maybe 20% of the problem. I think, in the final analysis  
6 if this city and this administration and all the administra-  
7 tions across the country are not able to include economically  
8 the young people and those who are underemployed and un-  
9 employed within the community and within the society -- that  
10 I think the police have a frightening job because, in the  
11 final analysis, those who don't have those things that they  
12 see others have will try to get them.

13 And the attitude of the society is -- will be  
14 to prevent those who don't have from getting it. And I  
15 think that, in discussion of police-community relations,  
16 while we have to look at the attitude of the police as one  
17 factor, I think we also have to bring into the equation  
18 those kinds of things that are going on in society --  
19 economic and otherwise, that make the job of the police  
20 person difficult because there are a number of other  
21 social and economic and political pressures that are  
22 working in the community that crease hostility between  
23 the police and segments of the community.

24 I'll leave it there, and thank you very much.

25 (Applause.)



1 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Thank you very much, Mr. Cox.

2 We will now turn to our panel and get their  
3 perspectives on police-community relations. Our committee  
4 felt that we needed the benefit of several different  
5 perspectives to get an accurate picture of the police-  
6 community situation today.

7 Our first speaker will be Mr. Robert King.

8 Mr. King is the community relations director  
9 of the 14th Street PAC, the 14th Street Project Area  
10 Committee. He will give us a few views from the neigh-  
11 borhood.

12 MR. KING: Thank you, Mr. Gibson.

13 I think the best way to describe the youth of  
14 the 14th Street Project is to indicate it's an extremely  
15 hostile, extremely tense -- and there is an epidemic of  
16 drugs in the 14th Street Project and fear is the common  
17 thread that links everyone together.

18 I say: fear is the common thread that links  
19 everyone together. The police department is in a state  
20 of fear for their lives; there are some good citizens who  
21 are afraid to go out and some who are afraid to come in.

22 I say the epidemic of drugs is a very serious  
23 problem in the 14th Street Project. In 1978, there were  
24 eight cases of overdosing reported in the City; since  
25 January of this year, there has been 44.

1           So not only has drugs found its way into the  
2 City but obviously in the 14th Street Harlem. Shortly  
3 after the Mayor announced its War on Crime, the 14th  
4 Street Project Area Committee saw fit to establish an anti-  
5 crime coalition which consists of community organizations,  
6 blocs and churches and concerned citizens.

7           Of course, the area which we have established  
8 our prime efforts is on South Beech Street, North of Spring  
9 Road, East of 11th and West of 16th Street. Of course,  
10 the Northern end of our Harlem has the highest home ownership.  
11 In the southern end, we have the most deteriorated housing.  
12 The population is approximately 30,000.

13           The average income is about \$8,000. Thirty-one  
14 per cent of the households receive some form of public  
15 assistance, and it's probably the most diverse community  
16 or area in the city in terms of its ethnic mix.

17           Of course, the initial thrust of the anti-crime  
18 coordinating committee was to request from the police depart-  
19 ment more foot patrol. Of course, we met with the third  
20 and fourth district because those are the two police dis-  
21 tricts that have jurisdiction over that area.

22           I can honestly say: today, we have met with  
23 some success from both Deputy Chiefs of the Third District and  
24 of the Fourth District in terms of expanding our foot-  
25 patrol beat.

1           Of course, this has not come as a result of  
2 the first beck and call. We were trying to make a clear  
3 distinction between the patrolman, and the scout.

4           It is our position that we realize the most  
5 important man on the beat is the foot patrolman. None of  
6 us can hardly think that someone would make a drug transac-  
7 tion in the presence of an officer who is walking the  
8 beat.

9           So we have had some success with both the Third  
10 and Fourth District in dealing with that situation. We  
11 have convened a meeting with members of the Criminal Justice  
12 group, including Chief Judge Paul <sup>Moukrie</sup> ~~Maurix~~ (phonetic).

13           We got a commitment from him and that order has  
14 been circulated among the judges and has sort of been  
15 stringing along. Those individuals who are repeaters in  
16 certain blocks will be asked by the court to refrain from  
17 returning to their blocks until such time as their cases  
18 have been disposed of.

19           The commitment on the part of the anti-crime  
20 coalition to the U. S. Attorney to the courts -- are we  
21 prepared to go down, once we've seen the names of repeaters  
22 that have been arrested in the 14th Street Harlem, to tes-  
23 tify in the courts and hope that that would have some added  
24 impact on the sentences that the judge would hand down?

25           In the past three or four weeks, we have been

1 equally disturbed about certain situations in the 14th  
2 Street Harlem.

3 We have been moving about, trying to identify  
4 some target area, namely -- 14th Street was, by the grace  
5 of God, was that you moved through last summer in terms of  
6 not moving on the situation that was already established  
7 by the young people right there on the main strip of the  
8 14th -- at 14th and Irving where approximately five- to  
9 ten thousand (10,000) youth were gathered and they gather  
10 there every Friday, Saturday and Sunday, playing music  
11 until 4:00 or 5:00 o'clock in the morning.

12 Of course, the citizens wanted the police depart-  
13 ment to move in last year. We decided that we didn't  
14 think that would be healthy. We saw it as a potential  
15 powder keg and very dangerous and quite explosive.

16 They sat down in a series of meetings with the  
17 police department, looking for some alternatives for the  
18 young folks to express some of their anxieties. We have  
19 been extremely fortunate to come up with a site, come up  
20 with the support of the recreation department who helped  
21 supervise the activities near the -- in the 14th Street  
22 Harlem.

23 We are moving down towards the W Street area,  
24 utilizing the support of the leaders, trying to be of  
25 assistance in identifying other problem areas.

1           It has been our position that, in the past,  
2 we respond to situations after they explode. We are try-  
3 ing to deal with some preventive things this summer. We  
4 had had substantial numbers of youth come into the office  
5 saying what they are going to be doing this summer.

6           We truly believe that, if somebody is going to  
7 do something, they would not come in and telegraph their  
8 move. We think it's an honest plea for help.

9           We have not estimated that concern with the  
10 "gun" to move and sit down with the young folks in trying  
11 to identify, as I said earlier, some other alternatives  
12 so we can begin to move with our young people in the 14th  
13 Street Harlem.

14           I need not mention to you, according to the  
15 Urban League: they estimate that the unemployment rate  
16 among young folks was about 60%; summer jobs are down  
17 about 33% which means approximately 20,000 youths may not  
18 be available for summer employment.

19           According to statistics of 1979, crime was up  
20 about 11%. Half of the crimes that are committed in the  
21 District of Columbia are committed by young folks between  
22 the ages of 15 to 24 and the unemployment rate is mostly  
23 here again with that age group.

24           In terms of moving forward in trying to identify  
25 some other positive steps, we had begun to touch bases with

1 the churches. We have circulated flyers into the  
2 community. One of things that we discovered is that  
3 the police department is very limited in terms of what  
4 they can do in terms of making arrests. We found that a  
5 lot of our citizens got caught up in spitting on the side-  
6 walk and jaywalking.

7           It seems, at this particular time, that is the  
8 only thing they are going to lock somebody up for, other  
9 than probable cause. That means, if somebody throws trash  
10 on the sidewalk, spits or jaywalks.

11           You know the difficulty establishing probable  
12 cause when there is a drug transaction. Of course, the  
13 community was up-in-arms about that, so we began to circu-  
14 late flyers to inform the community to walk into the churches  
15 -- to take a few minutes to walk in on Sunday to see the  
16 tools in which the police have to operate in terms of what's  
17 on the books and if there are some laws that are on the  
18 books that are not being enforced at this particular time,  
19 but we are trying desperately to educate the community; we  
20 are trying to wake up the "silent majority".

21           One of the things we find in our community:  
22 we've got a lot of folks in there and, when you see articles  
23 in the paper where people are condoning situations in the  
24 14th Street Harlem -- as a matter of fact, in the City:  
25 they do not represent the majority of the folks who live

1 here.

2 I think it's incumbent upon all of us to  
3 begin to move with our neighbors to be the eyes and ears  
4 and watchdogs of our community and to come out and take a  
5 stand.

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Thank you, Mr. King.

9 (Remarks off the record concerning car parked  
10 illegally.)

11 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Deputy Chief Houston M.  
12 Bigelow of the Metropolitan Police Department is our next  
13 speaker. Deputy Chief Bigelow is in charge of the  
14 Community Relations Division and has been asked to address  
15 the Police Perspective, on behalf of Chief Bertram Jeffer-  
16 son.

17 CHIEF BIGELOW: Thank you, Chairman Gibson and  
18 good evening, everyone.

19 As you have heard the prior speakers talk about  
20 the different jobs the police department have, I couldn't  
21 agree any more. As you see, we are the only agency in the  
22 City that is open 24 hours a day. I can't think of anything,  
23 in the absence of the proper agency that we do not do. We  
24 are call on to do everything.

25 We are the most visible agency in the City.



1 Sometimes, we are called on to do things that, as Mr. Cox  
2 said, that goes against the grain of the young public or,  
3 when there's a law involved, we have to enforce it.

4 As I move about the City, I often get this  
5 question: what is the state of police and community  
6 relations?

7 Whatever answer, if I would give you -- what-  
8 ever answer I should give you, rather, would not satisfy  
9 all of you. And, if I were to listen to each one of your  
10 complaints, you would all probably have a different one,  
11 but what I can tell you about the state of the police and  
12 community relations: overall, it is good.

13 We still have some isolated cases that we are  
14 dealing with. Our complaints are no longer physical in  
15 nature. They are now somewhat of verbal abuse, isolated  
16 cases, and we do have those.

17 I will not say we are saying to you: we are  
18 perfect; we are not, but the mere fact we are out here is  
19 that we still want to learn and improve ourselves. Most  
20 people that I talk to and most people that attend meetings  
21 like we are here for tonight are really not the people that  
22 we ought to be talking to.

23 We only can communicate sometimes -- I say  
24 "oftentimes" -- with those people that need the communica-  
25 tions under somewhat adverse conditions and, needless to say,

1 those are not the ideal types of confrontations that you  
2 want, but citizens I talked to are talking about: from  
3 the early Sixties, we had a lot of problems; they are  
4 talking about the demonstrations of the early Seventies --  
5 confrontations with the various groups and those are the  
6 things that they remember most and the community involve-  
7 ment.

8 But we are having difficulty here with trying  
9 to let the public know that these types of dialogues taking  
10 place like what we are doing here tonight -- if you ask  
11 us: what are we doing now?, we are more engaged in  
12 educational type of exchange.

13 People got very crime conscious after the days  
14 of the demonstrations and confrontations in the street and  
15 the community relations, for the most part, visited all of  
16 the organized groups in the City.

17 We talked about involvement with the community  
18 -- how the community can work with the police department  
19 and maybe be better. Periodically, we are drawn back to  
20 some of those days that we don't like to get back to  
21 through isolated acts of police officers and I can only --  
22 the most recent one that we had some disturbance -- as well  
23 as Mr. King knows -- during the recent killing of Officer  
24 Snyder on 14th Street, of course.

25 Subsequently, the shooting of Mr. Griffin. Now,

1 those types of cases -- we don't have that very often.  
2 The community did not understand everything that happened  
3 there.

4 In some cases, I was told -- I have no reason  
5 to doubt it -- that police officers over-reacted. It was  
6 a very emotional kind of thing, but, aside from that, we  
7 have no met with any physical force of any great gravity  
8 that I can recall.

9 As I said, it's more or less verbal abuse and  
10 isolated cases.

11 As I said, again, the people that we would like  
12 to talk to usually don't come to these meetings and this  
13 is where I believe we can work together in that  
14 particular light.

15 During the Seventies, when there was a lot of  
16 funding around , like LEAA and, of course, the National  
17 Conference on Christians and Jews, we were able to work  
18 with the socalled "grass roots" organizations in the  
19 neighborhood but, as time changes, we are not experiencing  
20 a different kind of clientele in the City.

21 People are moving out; other people are moving  
22 in and, just to be very truthful with you, the police  
23 department has responded to, more or less, the demand of  
24 the community.

25 I don't know of any way that that can be changed

1 and, through responding to the demands of the community,  
2 I'm sure that some of the people at the bottom rung of the  
3 ladder sometimes get the shorter end of the attention of  
4 the police department.

5           Some of them feel like they are being "policed"  
6 too much. Other people feel that we do not respond to  
7 certain neighborhoods as readily as we do other neighbor-  
8 hoods.

9           Tonight, maybe before we leave here, we can  
10 resolve some of these complaints like that, and I would  
11 really like to hear from the general public out there. We  
12 are open to the question for anyone that wants to come in  
13 and review our records.

14           We have clear-cut outlines on investigating  
15 our complaints. Our system for filing complaints is open  
16 to the public. You can walk in any of our police facilities  
17 and ask for the form. You can write it down in your own  
18 words and own handwriting as to what happened and, of  
19 course, we'll investigate it and keep you informed of  
20 the disposition of it.

21           Then, of course, if you are not satisfied with  
22 the disposition of it, we'll try to resolve that also. I  
23 guess what I'm saying to you is: again, I'll restate what  
24 I said at the beginning. Those of you who go back a few  
25 years will probably have to agree with me that the overall

1 \*police-community relations here is good and those of you  
2 that still lives here in the City and work with us will  
3 also agree that we are not without some problems. Still  
4 have some.

5 And, then, finally, I think you'll agree with  
6 me that this department is open for working out our prob-  
7 lems. I don't know of any reason that we would not be  
8 open to any questions.

9 I work with various groups around the city.  
10 We had advisories to the different commanders throughout  
11 the Southern District. They have ongoing meetings with  
12 the representatives of the community on a monthly basis.  
13 If need be, they are open for call for emergency meetings.  
14 The Chief of Police is open for a monthly meeting for his  
15 advisory group.

16 We have, on that advisory group, membership  
17 from every segment of the community. There are no,  
18 really, "qualifications" for getting on that other than  
19 just wanting to be involved in police-community relations  
20 and the advisory to the Chief.

21 So, again, I am pleased to be here and I will  
22 try to answer any questions that are directed to me tonight.  
23 Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 CHAIRMAN BIGSON: Thank you, Mr. Bigelow.

1                   Now, our next speaker was to have been Mr.  
2 John Carr but, unfortunately, he fractured his knee and  
3 is unable to be with us tonight, so we have asked that  
4 Mr. Howard Glickstein take a few minutes and address the  
5 subject of protecting civil rights while enforcing the  
6 law.

7                   Mr. Glickstein.

8                   MR. BLICKSTEIN: I was asked to do this about  
9 an hour ago and I almost feel a little insulted. I almost  
10 feel that I was asked to do this because I'm a teacher  
11 and everybody thinks that a teacher can just get up without  
12 any preparation and perform.

13                   But those of you who are teachers know that  
14 that's not the case and it generally involves an enormous  
15 amount of time, so I hope you will bear with me that I am  
16 relying very heavily on my recollection of some of these  
17 points and on some of the consultations I've had with  
18 members of the Civil Rights Commission's general counsel  
19 staff that is here tonight.

20                   The topic is a rather complicated topic that  
21 Mr. Karr was supposed to talk about tonight where the  
22 various remedies that citizens have -- if police engage  
23 in misconduct and violate their civil rights.

24                   Now, the trouble with remedies of that sort --  
25 the trouble with any sort of legal remedy is that you have

1 it after something has happened to you. It's something  
2 that occurs after the fact and it has a limited impact  
3 on changing the conditions that you'd like to see changed  
4 except that it is supposed to act as a deterrent. Most of  
5 the remedies that we have today are not all that effective.  
6 There are three general areas in which action can be taken  
7 to proceed against police misconduct.

8           There are remedies on state level. There are  
9 proceedings that you can bring in state courts and under  
10 -- I believe under the District of Columbia statutes.

11           There are federal statutes that we have --  
12 statutes that go back to the post-Civil War era. And,  
13 in both of these two instances I just talked about, these  
14 are criminal prosecutions.

15           In addition to that, any deprivation of civil  
16 rights could also result in a civil suit where the individ-  
17 ual brings a law suit against the person who has deprived  
18 him of his civil rights, seeking damages.

19           And the criminal prosecution, as you know: it's  
20 the government that brings the proceeding against the  
21 person.

22           A state prosecution, we have just experienced  
23 a few days ago in Florida. That was a prosecution under  
24 the Florida laws against, I believe, four or five policemen  
25 who were accused of beating up and killing a black citizen



1 of Dade County.

2           They were prosecuted under Florida laws dealing  
3 with -- it probably was a manslaughter charge, I suspect,  
4 against them.     Also possibilities of assault charges  
5 and murder charges.

6           One problem you have in state prosecutions, as  
7 you would in federal prosecutions is that, in a criminal  
8 case, there is a jury. And, in many, many instances, juries  
9 are very sympathetic to the police. They are very sympa-  
10 thetic for a variety of reasons.

11           In some instances, the victim is not a  
12 particularly reputable person and the juries tend to  
13 sympathize with the policeman under those circumstances.

14           In some instances, juries don't like to believe  
15 that policemen would engage in misconduct. In some  
16 instances, it's a very close call and people don't like  
17 to be Monday-morning quarterbacks and try to guess what  
18 they would have done under those circumstances so it is  
19 often very, very difficult to get a conviction before a  
20 jury.

21           During the early 1960's and during the height  
22 of the Civil Rights movement, there were many offenses  
23 committed -- in the South, particularly, by Southern  
24 sheriffs and other law enforcement officials -- that could  
25 have been prosecuted under the federal laws.

1           But the Justice Department, in those days,  
2 felt that the likelihood of convicting anybody before  
3 a Southern jury was so small that it did not pay to waste  
4 the resources of the Justice Department bringing criminal  
5 prosecutions when they could bring a civil suit to ensure  
6 that people voted, and that might have a greater impact  
7 than a criminal case they might lose.

8           In addition, some of the state statutes under  
9 which some of these suits can be brought are rather tech-  
10 nical and the problems of proof are rather great.

11           Now, as I said, there are also federal statutes  
12 but, as you know, in our complicated system of federal-  
13 state relations, most criminal acts are state offenses and  
14 not federal offenses.

15           There is not such a crime -- a federal crime  
16 as "murder". It has to be in connection with kidnapping,  
17 for example. If you take somebody from one state to  
18 another.

19           The distinction between federal crimes and state  
20 crimes is very much related to the federal-state system of  
21 government we have but, on the federal level, there are  
22 a couple of post-Civil War statutes -- criminal statutes --  
23 that penalize people for depriving others of their civil  
24 rights -- not a murder statute. It's a deprivation of  
25 civil rights.

1           One statute punishes a conspiracy to violate  
2 civil rights and, very often, it's difficult to prove there  
3 has been a conspiracy. The penalty is not all that severe;  
4 it's ten years and a \$10,000 fine.

5           If you remember: in the mid-Sixties, three  
6 young people were killed by police and private citizens  
7 in Philadelphia, Mississippi, and they were prosecuted  
8 under this federal statute.

9           The maximum penalty was ten years in prison  
10 or a \$10,000 fine. In fact, I think, at that time, it  
11 was even lower. I think it has been raised since that  
12 prosecution.

13           So it's very difficult to use that statute  
14 and it hasn't been used that often. Another federal  
15 criminal statute makes it a crime for a person acting under  
16 color of law -- which are generally policemen or public  
17 officials -- to deprive persons of their civil rights.

18           Again, the Supreme Court, over the years, has  
19 made it very difficult to enforce that statute. When a  
20 policeman, for example, is prosecuted for depriving some-  
21 one under the statutes of their civil rights, one question  
22 that has to be put to the jury is: did the policeman  
23 realize that he or she was depriving someone of their civil  
24 rights under federal law or did he just think he was beating  
25 him up?

1 I mean that's the sort of question you have to  
2 ask the jury. Was it the intent of the policeman or police-  
3 woman to deprive this person of a constitutional right and,  
4 again, it makes it very, very difficult to prosecute under  
5 this statute.

6 Also, the penalty is rather small. In this  
7 case, it's a misdemeanor. The penalty is even smaller.  
8 As you might have heard on the radio tonight, the Attorney  
9 General is in Florida right now trying to decide whether  
10 the three policemen that were found "not guilty" the other  
11 day should be prosecuted under federal law.

12 Prior to the present administration, it has  
13 generally been the policy of the Justice Department that,  
14 if individuals who deprive persons of civil rights were  
15 prosecuted under state law and were found "not guilty",  
16 the federal government would not prosecute them.

17 That has been changed. And it might well be --  
18 I suspect what will happen in Florida is: in a very short  
19 time, the individuals that were found "not guilty" the  
20 other day will be indicted under federal law and will be  
21 prosecuted under the statute that I've mentioned to you  
22 and you will be able to follow, in the newspapers, how  
23 difficult it is to win a case like that, even if you have  
24 a sympathetic jury.

25 One other remedy that you have is the civil

1 remedy. You don't have to worry about -- you do have  
2 a jury in a civil case. That's true, too. You do have a  
3 jury but sometimes juries in civil cases tend to be some-  
4 what more generous because they are not putting somebody  
5 in jail but you generally have a jury in a civil case.  
6

7 Again, the law here has not been terribly  
8 favorable. Back in the early Sixties, the Supreme Court  
9 held that, if a policeman was sued under this civil statute,  
10 you could not hold the policeman's employer, the city,  
11 responsible. It was just the policeman himself that you  
12 could sue.

13 So, if you got a million-dollar damage against  
14 a policeman -- I'm not up-to-date on what policemen get  
15 paid today, but I doubt very much that a policeman could  
16 write out a check for a million dollars.

17 In most instances, most citizens are not able  
18 to respond to damages of that sort. If you are suing a  
19 government official, your best source of recovery is if  
20 you can hold the government responsible and collect from  
21 the Treasury.

22 But, as I said, back in the early 1960's, the  
23 Supreme Court held that, under the federal statute that  
24 we have, you could not sue the municipality. You could  
25 only sue the individual. Fortunately, about two years ago,  
the Supreme Court reversed that decision and said that you

1 now can sue a municipality as well as the individual  
2 official that deprived someone of his civil rights.

3 A case two years ago came to certain require-  
4 ments that would make that difficult. A few weeks ago,  
5 the Supreme Court, in another decision, seemed to come  
6 down with a ruling that would make it somewhat easier now  
7 to sue a municipality.

8 So, at least in terms of collecting civil  
9 damages, there seems to be a remedy. In any event, whether  
10 or not you have these remedies -- and they are important,  
11 they do serve as a deterrent, and I think that they should  
12 be utilized.

13 They are of limited effectiveness. As I said  
14 at the beginning, they are after-the-fact situations.  
15 Right now, for example, we could take an analogy. We  
16 could probably sue the Hooker Chemical Company that  
17 polluted the Love Canal and recover lots of money in  
18 damages from them but, in the meantime, many, many people  
19 have been infected with cancer as a result of what that  
20 company did.

21 And we would be better off if we had some  
22 system that prevented those things from happening rather  
23 than going in afterwards and trying to do something about  
24 the damage that has been done. And that's really the  
25 challenge here tonight.

1           We have criminal laws. They should be improved.  
2 They should be stronger. They should be utilized. But  
3 the goal is to come up with remedies and solutions to  
4 ensure that our public servants are sufficiently sensitive  
5 to civil rights and that it's as much a part of their job  
6 to protect civil rights as to carry out other of their  
7 functions that we don't have to invoke these criminal or  
8 civil penalties.

9           Thank you.

10          CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Thank you, Mr. Glickstein.

11          Our next speakers will address the special  
12 needs of language -- minority groups, hispanic and Chinese  
13 -- and the needs of the elderly and handicapped.

14          First, Mr. Roland Roebuck from the Mayor's  
15 Office of Latino Affairs and, then, Miss Evelyn Blackwell,  
16 who is a Victim Assistance Counsellor at the National  
17 Center for the Black Aged.

18          Mr. Roebuck and, then, Miss Blackwell.

19          MR. ROEBUCK: Thank you for this opportunity.

20          A significant portion of our citizens have  
21 special needs which, unless there is a special accommoda-  
22 tion with the police, create problems for both the citizen  
23 and the police.

24          The special needs are those of citizens with lan-  
25 guage barriers -- Hispanics, Chinese, and certain types of



1   handicapped citizens -- the deaf, the mentally retarded,  
2   and the elderly.

3           I will share with you issues of particular con-  
4   cern to Hispanics, Chinese, and the Handicapped. In the  
5   interest of time, I have been asked to share the issues of  
6   the handicapped citizens and Chinese as they have been  
7   reported to me.

8           During the workshops and at the final general  
9   session, a person from each of these special groups will  
10   answer questions. I will be followed by Mrs. Evelyn Black-  
11   well (indicating) who will share with you issues concern-  
12   ing the elderly.

13           There are two issues which underly relations be-  
14   tween all of the citizens with special needs and the  
15   police. The first is the perception which the police have  
16   of an individual when contact is made.

17           For example, if there is a few citizens --  
18   let's call them straight citizens -- and the police finds  
19   out that they are either gay or lesbian, there are certain  
20   perceptions and mechanisms that change the attitude of the  
21   police, thus affecting the treatment of the person. Not  
22   all of our special needs are immediately obvious on sight.  
23   How does a police officer know when a person is deaf?

24           How does an officer know if a citizen can speak  
25   English? Perception of the police towards the citizens is

1 very, very important.

2 The second basic underlying issue is communica-  
3 tion. This theme is common to all these special needs --  
4 hearing impairment, a language which the police do not un-  
5 derstand and mental retardation all require other than the  
6 standard English for communication.

7 I will now address the various community seg-  
8 ments: The Deaf.

9 The most obvious issue concerning relations be-  
10 tween police and deaf people is that a hearing impairment  
11 is not obvious. When a police officer speaks to a deaf per-  
12 son without any signal or sign indicating hearing impair-  
13 ment, the police officer may indeed misconstrue lack of  
14 response, confusing it with a negative response.

15 The citizen's lack of ability to respond in in-  
16 telligible means to an officer prevents the citizen from  
17 even sharing the fact of his or her impairment. The lack  
18 of skills on the part of the police to communicate with deaf  
19 people, when they even know a citizen is deaf, compounds  
20 the problem further.

21 Unless adequate training is provided for police  
22 to deal with deaf people, the officer is most likely to be  
23 insensitive to the citizen. Lack of ability to communicate,  
24 combined with the lack of sensitivity, results in awkward,  
25 often unjust treatment of deaf citizens by police, however  
good the officer's intentions may be.

1           Specifically, a deaf person -- this is an example:  
2 a deaf person stopped in his car by the police was reach-  
3 ing for his identification card. The policeman miscon-  
4 strued this as reaching for a weapon and the deaf person  
5 was shot.

6           There is a teletype machine in only one district  
7 office, which makes it impossible for a deaf person to make  
8 his or her allowed phone call from any of the other police  
9 districts.

10           Handcuffs prohibit a deaf arrestee from using  
11 signs or from writing messages in order to communicate. A  
12 police station or court room without interpreters for the  
13 deaf made it impossible for a deaf person to know what is  
14 happening to his life, even when represented by an attorney.  
15 Police need significant training to develop communications  
16 skills, to develop sensitivity, and to provide facilities  
17 by which deaf people can communicate.

18           The Mentally Retarded. Police do not see retarded  
19 citizens as a major problem. They are not to the police.  
20 But, to the retarded person, the police can be a major  
21 problem.

22           If you are the one who cannot communicate and tell  
23 where your home is, why you are lost, why you couldn't read  
24 the "senoritas" sign that looked like the men's room, who  
25 it was who just hurt or threatened you --- you, then,

1 become the problem.

2           It is a bigger one if your inability to talk, walk  
3 or look like an average citizen makes the police assume you  
4 are drunk, on drugs, dangerous, or just too inadequate to be  
5 on the street alone and, therefore, must be jailed, if only  
6 for your own good, until they find a friend or relative.

7           Police perception of a citizen is crucial.

8 Understanding the citizen may be -- no -- understanding the  
9 citizen they are contacting is crucial; sensitivity to the  
10 needs of the mentally retarded citizen is a must, if the citi-  
11 zens are to receive the proper treatment and attention the  
12 police intend to provide.

13           Mentally retarded are generally capable of far more  
14 normalized existence than is usually accredited to them.

15 Law enforcement officials need to understand this, and means  
16 to identify retarded people must be provided in order for  
17 police to recognize the mentally retarded in their public  
18 environment.

19           Another category of persons deserves mention to  
20 avoid confusion is the developmentally disabled. These  
21 persons are victims of physical disabilities such as  
22 cerebral palsy.

23           Their physical behavior is often misunderstood  
24 by the police and they can be treated as drunk or incompetent  
25 by untrained police, although they are mentally competent

1 in every aspect.

2 The Chinese. The Chinese in our community have  
3 a severe language difficulty, and there exists among these  
4 citizens some cultural barriers as well.

5 The Chinese, culturally do not trust any official  
6 in uniform. A uniform leads them to believe that the official  
7 will perform services well only if the official gets paid,  
8 something on the side. Uniformed officials are believed to  
9 serve only the Mandarins, or the upper class and not the  
10 commoner.

11 Beyond this cultural barrier is the language  
12 barrier. Many Chinese in the District feel "why call a cop  
13 when you can't talk to him?"

14 There are no open hostilities reported in the  
15 Chinese community toward the police, but a feeling is reported  
16 that there is a serious lack of responsive service by the  
17 police to the problems in Chinatown, and that the police  
18 presence is far too small in that neighborhood.

19 There are reported instances of young people  
20 being harassed by other young people from other communi-  
21 ties and races, and of old people having purses and shopping  
22 bags snatched or stolen from them on the street. It is  
23 felt that greater police presence would reduce these prob-  
24 lems.

25 The Latino community and the Police. The Latino

1 community in Washington sees the police figure as one of  
2 oppression and abuse. Many Latinos judge the police by  
3 their own cultural interpretation which means that a police  
4 officer is an extension of a repressive government.

5 The Latino community seldom complains because of  
6 the language barrier; because of a lack of appropriate and  
7 expeditious response from the police and because many  
8 Latinos lack proper resident status, thus avoiding  
9 exposure.

10 Understanding the fear that many Latinos have  
11 towards the police, we can further state that setting up  
12 of bilingual community posts are not sufficient. The  
13 services targeted toward the community are not enough. You  
14 need to further recruit bilingual-bicultural police who  
15 can overcome the language and perception barriers.

16 You can call the police department right now and  
17 find that a bilingual dispatcher is not on duty, thus  
18 frustrating the desperate caller.

19 Monolingual policemen -- those who speak one language,  
20 need to learn another language for the purpose of shattering  
21 the negative perception wall. I am not saying the bilingual  
22 police will not abuse the citizen, but lack of communication  
23 will lead to frustration on both parts.

24 There is not much accountability for cases re-  
25 ported to the police. The experience of many Latinos is that

1 they cannot find their case reports when they ask.

2 A large majority of Latinos are here due to politi-  
3 cal. Those in the World Bank, embassies and other established  
4 institutions, do not suffer the same problems; they are insu-  
5 lated based on diplomatic immunity and the fact that they  
6 speak English and live in affluent neighborhoods.

7 Learning the language and becoming familiar with  
8 the Latino community will solve many problems, thus reducing  
9 the levels of excessive violence and over-reaction.

10 Latinos are here for a dream which is daily shattered  
11 due to an insensitivity -- due to an insensitive attitude  
12 toward them.

13 At this time, I would like to introduce Miss  
14 Blackwell.

15 (Applause:)

16 MS. BLACKWELL: Good evening, everyone. My  
17 name is Evelyn Blackwell. I am a Victim Assistance  
18 Counsellor. And what I do: I counsel senior citizens  
19 who have been victimized.

20 My topic is called Anti-victimization for the  
21 Elderly. Now, working with the police department -- and  
22 I'm going to give credit where credit is due -- the Third  
23 District police department and the Fifth District Police  
24 Department have cooperated with us fully.

25 When I go for the police department reports, I

1 don't have any trouble; when I call, you always have a  
2 few rotten apples in every barrel; we have a few who don't  
3 cooperate.

4 I have problems with the Seventh District. I  
5 have problems with all the other districts as far as helping  
6 our senior citizens and listening to their complaints. They  
7 have a tendency to fear because "we are old and we don't  
8 know what we are talking about" when we say we were robbed  
9 of this, or whatever.

10 I had a case where the lady is 91 years old. She  
11 called the police department. This was Southeast. She had  
12 been robbed once before; he was very rude; he told her she  
13 was a nuisance and he didn't believe her.

14 Now, a 91-year-old person -- it doesn't mean that  
15 she doesn't know what she is talking about. What needs to  
16 be done, I think, is -- we need all over the Western World  
17 -- more respect for senior citizens.

18 People need to remember: If you don't die young,  
19 you're going to die old.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. BLACKWELL: And I'd like to tell you some of  
22 the things we do in the Elderly Anti-victimization Program.  
23 We have what we call Escort Service. We have Transportation  
24 Service. We have Lock-installation Service; Educational  
25 seminars.



1           Those are relative measures and they are measures  
2 which would come in after the fact. And all I'm asking is  
3 that, when the police department -- and civilians as well  
4 -- talk to all of us, the Senior Citizens, they do give us  
5 the respect that we so fully deserve.

6           I thank you.

7           (Applause.)

8           CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Thank you so much.

9           Miss Blackwell and Brother Roebuck, thank you so  
10 very much.

11           Our next speaker was to be Mr. Roach Brown, but  
12 he could not be with us and, so, Mr. Benny Van Huss has  
13 been asked to speak. He is a senior resident of this area  
14 and the President of RAP, Incorporated.

15           MR. VAN HUSS: No -- "resident".

16           CHAIRMAN GIBSON: "Resident", all right.

17           Mr. Van Huss.

18           MR. VAN HUSS: Good evening.

19           I think that needs to be corrected. I'm not the  
20 President of RAP, Incorporated. I'm just one of the residents  
21 there.

22           I entered RAP, Incorporated approximately two years  
23 ago and, at that time, I was addicted to both methodon and  
24 heroin and RAP just served as a vehicle to help me redirect  
25 my energies and my life at this point.

1           RAP, Incorporated, for those who don't know, is  
2 a 24-hour residential treatment program here in Adams-  
3 Morgan area. It's located at 1731 Bullock Street, North-  
4 west.

5           The approximate time, or length of time, that  
6 it takes to complete the program is approximately two years.  
7 In fact, this July, we will be celebrating our tenth  
8 anniversary.

9           Presently, at RAP, we have approximately 78  
10 residents. Of those 78 residents, 55% of those residents  
11 are stipulated, which means that, as a condition of their  
12 probation, they are asked to enter and complete the pro-  
13 gram so, naturally, quite a few of our residents have had  
14 contact with the police in Washington.

15           There have been numerous examples that I have  
16 heard from our residents of both police harrassment, undue  
17 process and so forth.

18           The recent 14th Street Corridor crack-down was  
19 one recent example of harrassment where numerous persons  
20 were stopped for not having identification or for jaywalking  
21 across the street.

22           But what does this really do? Nothing. As long  
23 as there are drugs in the street, drug traffic would just  
24 gravitate to another area. Drugs is not a problem of loca-  
25 tion but of availability and social conditions that would

1 make a numbing stupor more satisfying than the realities  
2 of day-to-day life.

3           During the late Sixties, drugs were actually  
4 used as a weapon to quiet the rising tide of the masses  
5 of people here in this country. I grew up in a quiet  
6 Northeast area of Washington, D. C. and, throughout my  
7 neighborhood, drugs was never really a problem but, in  
8 1968 and '69, there was a mass influx of heroin that reached  
9 every segment of our communities and many of the persons  
10 that are addicted to drugs -- at least, here in Washington  
11 who never recovered from that influx ten or twelve years  
12 ago.

13           I graduated from Highschool at Coolidge High,  
14 1968, one of the so-called "better" schools in one of the  
15 so-called "better" neighborhoods here in Washington, and  
16 yet, today, my graduating class has far more of its members  
17 who are addicted to drugs and in prison than working in any  
18 of the professional fields of which they had the potential  
19 to be in.

20           So the question, as far as I see it, is: whose  
21 interest is here that the police will actually protect?  
22 The problems in our community will never be solved by  
23 attacking the symptoms. You much attack the core. Just  
24 as the influx of drugs will never be affected by attacking  
25 the lower-rung drug user, community-police relations will

1 never improve as long as the police serves primarily as  
2 an arm of the state to protect and preserve the property,  
3 the rights and the interests of those that rule this  
4 country.

5 Our police forces do not protect the masses of  
6 people here in the City. The recent outbreak in Miami  
7 stems from an incident in which a black, working-class  
8 brother was brutally beaten by four police officers. The  
9 officers were acquitted.

10 Now, could you imagine these same officers being  
11 acquitted if the man they killed had been a son or brother  
12 of the DuPonts or the Rockefellers? No way. There can be  
13 no qualitative improve in police-community relationships  
14 here in Washington or in the country until the police force  
15 is responsive to, and serves the needs and the interests of,  
16 the community.

17 Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Thank you, Mr. Van Huss.

20 At this time, we have scheduled workshops. Our  
21 original plan was to break up into individual workshops.  
22 Those plans have been changed and we will, instead of  
23 breaking up into individual workshops, have each moderator --  
24 workshop moderator -- to conduct his or her workshop with  
25 the total group.

1           We will make one other change and that is: we  
2 will move the Media Workshop into the first place on the  
3 list so that we can utilize the expertise of some of our  
4 media personnel who are here.     So we will have the work-  
5 shops and the plenary session in this order:

6           First: The Effect of the Media, Moderator, Yetta  
7 W. Galiber.

8           Then, Enforcement Decisions, Moderator, Dr. Paul  
9 Phillips Cooke.

10          Police Accountability and Community Responsibility,  
11 Howard A. Glickstein.

12          The Role of the Police, Helen Fugh Hays, Moderator.

13          Youth and the Police, Ruth Jordan, Moderator.

14          So, we will ask if the moderators will come forth  
15 in this order and conduct their workshops with the total  
16 group: Yetta W. Galiber, Paul Phillips Cooke, Howard A.  
17 Blickstein, Helen Fugh Hays and Ruth Jordan -- in that  
18 order, without further announcements.

19          (Discussion off the record.)

20          CHAIRMAN GIBSON: As always, when you change  
21 plans, you run into problems unanticipated. As you try  
22 to accommodate some important persons, you cause problems  
23 for other important persons.

24          So, then, we will still try and the workshop, Mrs.  
25 Rolark, that you are a part of is which one?

1 MS. ROLARK: You have me down in workshop number  
2 3 and I have a commitment that I made and I have to go.

3 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: That's the Role of the Police  
4 in the --

5 MS. ROLARK: Police Accountability. That's the  
6 third one you mentioned.

7 (Discussion off the record.)

8 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: All right. We have, again,  
9 changed the order of the workshop and this is the order:  
10 The Effect of the Media, Yetta W. Galiber.  
11 Police Accountability and Community Responsibility,  
12 Howard A. Glickstein.

13 Third, Enforcement Decisions, Dr. Paul Phillips  
14 Cooke.

15 Fourth, the Role of the Police, Helen Fugh Hays.  
16 Come forth, Ms. Galiber.

17 MR. DARDEN: May I have your attention, please?  
18 We are about to begin the workshop. I would like to ask  
19 the resource persons for the Media workshop to please sit  
20 in the first row.

21 The moderator for the first workshop will be Mrs.  
22 Yetta Galiber. The two resource persons who will be here  
23 will introduce themselves as they come up, but I can tell  
24 you they are Angela Owens from News Center 4 and Milton  
25 Coleman from the Washington Post. They will come to the

1 podium and make a brief statement.

2           Afterward, you will have an opportunity to  
3 question them.

4           And, now, I will turn the podium over to Ms.  
5 Galiber.

6           MS. GALIBER: Good evening. We want this to be  
7 a very meaningful forum workshop and so we feel that it's  
8 important for there to be input from the community. That's  
9 what this is all about.

10           Ms. Owens and Mr. Coleman are here. And I would  
11 ask them if they would like to make a statement before we  
12 get into a discussion.

13           If you look on your sheet, the two questions that  
14 we would like to address are: Do media portrayals help or  
15 hinder policy-community relations? and How could media  
16 coverage be improved?

17           Thank about those issues and, certainly, we'll  
18 address other issues.

19           At this time, I'll ask Miss Angela Owens if she  
20 would like to make a statement.

21           MS. OWENS: Good evening, everyone. Because we  
22 do want to have time for quite a bit of discussion, I  
23 really don't have a very long statement to make. I just  
24 want to throw out a couple of things that have come to me  
25 in the years that I've covered the District.

1 First of all, as I am sure you are all aware, the  
2 conditions pointed out in the current Commission report of  
3 1968 that deal with the need for improved police-community  
4 relationships -- I think those needs still exist. I don't  
5 think there's been very much change, particularly in the  
6 eyes of the community.

7 With recent events in the city and in the sur-  
8 rounding areas, there has been a lot of concern because  
9 people still say to me: there seems to be several codes  
10 of law -- maybe three: one for the rich, one for the poor  
11 and one for the police officers.

12 They are concerned that people out of uniform  
13 seem to have few rights -- seem not to have the same rights  
14 -- don't get the same consideration as police officers. It  
15 doesn't have to be the case.

16 We don't see that it is the case, but that is the  
17 perception. That is what people say to me in the Street.  
18 We don't have large numbers of people here tonight, but I  
19 hope that we will be hearing from you about -- not only what  
20 you perceive but what people in the streets tell you as well.  
21 The young man who spoke from RAP, Incorporated, I think,  
22 expressed a concern that I hear a great deal. He said that  
23 the man who was killed in Miami -- had that man been the  
24 son of someone rich; had he had money; had he not been  
25 Black, he didn't believe that those police officers would



1 have been acquitted. That is perception.

2 Three codes: one for the rich, one for the  
3 poor and another for police officers.

4 I would like to hear from you at this point  
5 about that if, Yetta, you are ready to open it up at this  
6 point.

7 MS. GALIBER: I was going to let Mr. Coleman have  
8 a few remarks.

9 MS. OWENS: All right.

10 Milton.

11 MR. COLEMAN: Good evening, my name is Milton  
12 Coleman and I'm the City Editor of the Washington Post and  
13 I'm, first of all, very glad to be here tonight to talk with  
14 you and to meet with you and to hear your views.

15 There are two questions that have been posed.  
16 The first is the role of the media in police-community  
17 relations and the second is: Can the media's role, in any  
18 kind of way, be improved?

19 I think, on the second point, the answer to that  
20 has to be a resounding "yes". By no means is the Washington  
21 Post satisfied with its coverage of the District of Colum-  
22 bia.

23 By no means am I, as City Editor, satisfied with  
24 our coverage of the District of Columbia and I would be  
25 glad to answer all of the questions you have -- all of the

1 criticisms you have.

2 My only caviat is: I have been City Editor for  
3 approximately 72 hours and, before that, I was assistant  
4 city editor for about 72 days, but I will take any kinds  
5 of queries that you have on that.

6 On the first question: What role can the news  
7 media play in police-community relations? -- I think it's  
8 apparent, from people who spoke on the panel, that there  
9 are obviously two sides to that question. Chief Bigelow  
10 from the police department said that he thought that the  
11 police-community relations overall were pretty good. The  
12 succession of speakers thereafter seems to suggest to me  
13 very strongly that that was perhaps not the case, all of  
14 which says that there are apparently two sides to that  
15 story.

16 And we would like to feel, in the Washington Post  
17 that our job is to cover both sides of that story. It is  
18 not -- and I think this often leads to misperceptions -- it  
19 is not the role of the news media to reinforce the role of  
20 the police department.

21 That is not the way that the Constitution of  
22 the United States in the First Amendment stipulated --  
23 Freedom of the Press. It is our role to be as objective  
24 as possible -- to give as complete and accurate a story and  
25 certainly, by no means, to make ourselves an extension of Mr.

1 Bigelow's -- of Chief Begelow's public relations arm for  
2 the Police Department or to make ourselves an extension of  
3 police enforcement of the law. That's not our job.

4 By the same token, it is not our job to, in any  
5 kind of way, be irresponsible, to report inaccurately, to  
6 report without some degree of understanding and some de-  
7 gree of analysis of interpretation.

8 And I would hope that we would not err on that  
9 side either. That is the only thing I would like to say,  
10 because I am really most anxious to get whatever kinds of  
11 questions you have and answer them as fully as I can.

12 Thank you very much.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. GALIBER: Thank you very much. We appreciate  
15 those comments and I would to now open the floor for dis-  
16 cussion and we want very much for you to participate fully  
17 in this discussion tonight.

18 (Remarks off the record.)

19 MS. GALIBER: I'm wondering if we have a micro-  
20 phone that we can move into the audience.

21 MS. BLACKWELL: I want to direct my question  
22 to the Editor, Mr. Coleman.

23 MR. COLEMAN: Yes, Ma'am?

24 MS. BLACKWELL: Mr. Coleman, in your opening  
25 statement, you said that you didn't want us to ask questions

1 on either side, but as citizens of the City.

2 I have been reading the Post paper for -- let me  
3 tell my age -- for a good while. And the editorial is also  
4 slanted, and they always make the minorities -- well, just  
5 look bad. How do you account for that?

6 MR. COLEMAN: Are you speaking specifically, ma'am,  
7 of the editorial page?

8 MS. BLACKWELL: Yes.

9 MR. COLEMAN: All right. The editorial page of  
10 the newspaper is something that is not under my jurisdiction.  
11 The editorial -- all the editorials and all the stuff on the  
12 page opposite the editorial page is handled by an entirely  
13 separate staff from the top on down.

14 That's one part of the operation. The News  
15 operation is the part that I'm involved in and we have  
16 very little input into what they say. The reason we try  
17 to do that is to keep the newspaper's policy separate from  
18 our coverage of the news because, oftentimes, on many issues,  
19 the newspaper has its own vested interest.

20 For example, the Washington Post editorializes in  
21 opposition -- I'm sorry -- in favor of changes in the  
22 Workmen's Compensation Law. And it's very obvious why  
23 they posted that. It's got a whole lot of workers who are  
24 claiming compensation and it's representing the obvious  
25 interest of itself as a business in the City. We have tried

1 to keep separate from that our coverage of the City  
2 Council's deliberations and the vote on the Workmen's  
3 Compensation bill.

4           So I am responsible only on the news side, and I  
5 don't have any input on the editorial side although, if you  
6 want to know someone to talk to, I would be glad -- after  
7 this panel is over -- to tell you whom you should call be-  
8 cause one of the things that does not happen -- especially  
9 for minority communities -- and this gets into your question  
10 that, very often, Black people, Latinos, Asian-Americans,  
11 poor people do not write letters to the editor; do not call;  
12 do not scream and yell every time they feel wronged and  
13 some of us feel: if that process were used more often,  
14 then perhaps the editorial writers could be taught to feel  
15 the brunt of those people's frustrations, just as I'm  
16 certain they feel the brunt of the big wheel's protest  
17 whenever something is written against the big wheels' protest.  
18 Whenever something is written against the big wheels.

19           MS. OWENS: If I may just follow up a bit on what  
20 Milton has said as concerns radio and television stations,  
21 you all know by this time, that we live and die by ratings.  
22 During ratings periods, you certainly notice that you have  
23 more series on the air.

24           We might even have more stories involving sex  
25 and violence, if you will, during ratings times because it's

1 felt that gets the viewers.

2 We don't get any response from the community --  
3 very little response from Black people generally, and  
4 poor people, about what we put on. If you are offended  
5 by what we do, we don't hear it.

6 Generally, the community west of Harlem lets us  
7 know exactly what they want and how they are feeling, so  
8 a good part of what goes on the air, really, is up to you:  
9 It might not happen at the planning process but, if you  
10 complain after you see something on the air, it certainly  
11 will affect what goes on the next time.

12 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: There has been some marvelous  
13 groups in terms of their movement across the city since  
14 the early Sixties that have attacked both radio and TV and  
15 has been largely responsible for some form of affirmative  
16 action plan.

17 We realize the fact that the people have control  
18 over what we see on TV are not the Black folks or other  
19 minorities in policy-making decisions. Further, when it  
20 comes time for ascertainment, some folks have been hand-  
21 picked to participate in that process and, when it comes  
22 time for organizational effort to participate in that  
23 process, somebody in Congress have died a natural death,  
24 so I have to take issue with that, because folks have  
25 been fighting the TV and radio for the past 15 or 20 years.

1 It's not the same process.

2 MS. OWENS: Some jobs have been saved and so  
3 forth but, on a consistent day-to-day basis, it doesn't  
4 happen.

5 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Consistent because even  
6 Black folks aside don't participate in the decision-making  
7 process, so, at some level, we don't even know when we come  
8 in to meet with some of the folks there because they don't  
9 invite you to the meeting.

10 MS. OWENS: That's very true, but I do know what  
11 comes into the news room and I do know how decisions are  
12 made there.

13 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: When it comes to the top --  
14 when it comes time for ascertainment, we've been to the  
15 top to fight for some of the jobs. We sit in those  
16 meetings and raise potato chips to try to have some impact  
17 on what our folks see on that tube.

18 They don't invite you up there.

19 MS. OWENS: May I ask you if you've seen a  
20 difference based on that type -- those meetings?

21 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Not really. Because, if  
22 you look at statistics, it involves pretty much of the  
23 gains they've made in the early Sixties. And that's why  
24 people have launched again across the city -- they have  
25 substantially marvelous groups across the city that are

1 on a daily basis -- ascertainment time has been putting on  
2 pressure.

3 I think all times -- and I appreciate you coming  
4 up here tonight. I think this is what you will have to  
5 do on a regular basis. A lot of times, you show up when  
6 your job is in jeopardy and the community behind you with  
7 picket signs and all that stuff, but I think you need to  
8 come on a regular basis and continue that educational proc-  
9 ess.

10 I think you need to give us some information.

11 MS. OWENS: I think that's very true and I think  
12 you'll find that that happens. And I don't know whether or  
13 not anyone has picketed for a job since the days of the  
14 WTOP matter, but let us move on.

15 (Disorder in the audience.)

16 MS. GALIBER: Would the speakers identify them-  
17 selves, please?

18 MR. HAMPTON: My name is Robert Hampton. My  
19 question is: we talked about this incident that just  
20 occurred in Miami, Florida with the police officers and  
21 Kelly, the black citizen.

22 And my question is: doesn't the media sometimes  
23 perpetuate those types of incidents and cause even more  
24 problems because they fail to deal or show each side of  
25 the incident or to bring issues out, say, if we have a



1 crisis like that in the community?

2 MS. OWENS: I think that, when you have a situa-  
3 tion like Miami, or we can look at what happened in '68 and  
4 how it was covered here -- look how it's covered across the  
5 country -- you see that conflagration makes good television.  
6 The fire is burning, the people running, the people getting  
7 hurt makes good television.

8 People are going to sit and watch that. Reporters  
9 don't have to work hard; the station doesn't have to work  
10 very hard for ratings. They've got the viewers on some-  
11 thing like that.

12 And so the pictures you see will be the exciting  
13 ones. The information that you are given will be maybe  
14 not much more than the death toll on the day news shows.

15 When you get into the specials -- and I believe  
16 CBS is going to put on one tonight, you will get a broader  
17 picture, generally, I think. Remember that a news show  
18 has only so many minutes. The managers feel as though  
19 they've got to spread that time; they've got to cover the  
20 Metropolitan area.

21 So you are really not going to get that much  
22 information in your daily news show. And I think everyone  
23 ought to know by this time that, if you want details, you  
24 have to read the newspapers and the news magazines. Tele-  
25 vision is little more than a headline service.

1 MR. HAMPTON: Maybe I wasn't very clear, but I'm  
2 a police officer and a black police officer, all right?  
3 And I feel the responsibility to deal with some of the  
4 issues that affect the Black community in the police depart-  
5 ment, and I'm going to deal with them very effectively from  
6 my standpoint, but do Blacks in the media, when they see  
7 inequities that exist like that because the media failed to  
8 tell both sides of the story and, in effect, heighten the  
9 crisis, do they -- do you or Milton ever feel any reason  
10 to deal with the issue from a black perspective that they  
11 seem to forget about totally?

12 MS. OWENS: That's a difficult question to  
13 answer. It's an individual sort of thing. It changes from  
14 newsroom to newsroom. Black reporters -- any reporter has  
15 very little to do with what he has assigned. We are on a  
16 general assignment basis.

17 Milton will be able to -- because you are making  
18 assignments. In television, we come in in the morning; we  
19 are handed a story. Yes, we have the responsibility to tell  
20 both sides, but remember: everyone has his biases and what  
21 one reporter sees as telling both sides might not be what  
22 you believe to be both sides of the story. It might be  
23 slanted to you.

24 Someone else in the newsroom might do it completely  
25 in a different fashion and I have to tell you that there's

1 very little time for direction -- at least, in our newsroom.  
2 We have very many managers who are caught up in practically  
3 everything but looking at what goes on in the city on a  
4 day-to-day basis and really sticking with the reporters  
5 during the day.

6           You are told to go out and do your story. You  
7 come back and you are edited and they read your script and,  
8 if it's gramatically all right and if nothing to the  
9 contrary has come over the wires, then it goes.

10           And, sometimes, if you don't have their point of  
11 view, you might get questioned but, as long as you are  
12 able to defend what you say, generally, you know, they  
13 just let it go.

14           MR. COLEMAN: I think I am in -- as of the past  
15 72 hours, I am in a position to ask that question a lot  
16 better.

17           First of all, I think you will find a great many  
18 black people in the media do make a very hard push to fight  
19 the good fight very often as reporters, or even -- you'd  
20 be surprised -- as news aides, photographers -- to try to  
21 make sure that the newspapers' representations of the issues  
22 as they, in fact, affect the black community is done with a  
23 certain degree of understanding.

24           As the City Editor, I -- in very many respects,  
25 the buck stops right here. And, to the degree that I'm the

1 City Editor and to the degree that I can say "no, you can't  
2 do that" -- which is one reason why I'm glad I'm City  
3 Editor, one reason why I was glad to work for the first  
4 black City Editor and one reason why I hope the coverage  
5 is going to be better, and I do seriously hope, if at any  
6 time any of you have any problems about anything we do --  
7 I mean you should call me.

8           You can reach me at the Post. I'm the only  
9 Milton Coleman in the Washington, D. C. phone book and you  
10 should call me. We may not always agree -- I mean because  
11 every two black people don't agree, but you should call me  
12 and you should keep me honest; you should get on my case  
13 and do all of that because, otherwise, if you're black, ain't  
14 no need in having nobody black as the City Editor.

15           MR. GALIBER: Let me just say that I've gotten  
16 the signal that we have three more minutes for this section  
17 of the workshop and so I would like to try to get as many  
18 questions in as possible.

19           I would also like to ask if you would be able to  
20 stay with us a while because some other questions might  
21 come up.

22           MR. COLEMAN: Sure.

23           MS. GALIBER: All right.

24           MR. KAMINS: I'm Larry Kamins, formerly coordinator  
25 of the Police Awareness Alliance of the Gay Activist.

1           First, I want to make an observation and then I  
2 have two specific questions.

3           One observation is that, when I talk about  
4 police-community relations, it's true that we talk about  
5 verbal abuse and we talk about physical harrassment, but  
6 Deputy Chief Bigelow is absolutely correct that that is  
7 not the majority of the problem.

8           The absolute majority of the problem from my  
9 community is police inaction -- officers coming to the  
10 scene and, once they understand that the victim is gay,  
11 ceasing to take any kind of action, losing reports, or  
12 clearly indicating to the victim that they don't wish to  
13 act.

14           Now, when it comes to the media, we see kind of  
15 -- several things at work here. One is that the police  
16 department is a very statistic-oriented organization. If  
17 they don't have 15 numbered reports and 15 numbered com-  
18 plaints to go with them, they don't act. They do not act  
19 on perceptions. They do not act on the basis of the  
20 community feeling.

21           I would like to know what you think the media  
22 can do to see to it that what is out there, even though  
23 it's not formal written complaints in the department, can  
24 be communicated, because the department does respond to  
25 stories in the media.

1 MR. COLEMAN: We have not, to my understanding,  
2 had that -- I think the Post has covered -- I've heard very  
3 little complaining about our coverage. It is not the  
4 job of the Washington Post to advance the cause of any  
5 community, per se.

6 It is our job to talk about what is true, and I  
7 think that, if you look in our coverage of the gay community  
8 -- which has, by and large, been political, although it has  
9 gotten into some other issues, we have done things in the  
10 absence of statistics; when we did this big front-page story  
11 on gay voting strength, we caught a lot of heck and they  
12 said: well, how do you know that? Do you have a whole  
13 map of the city saying "the gays own this precinct; they  
14 own that one? How do you know it?

15 It was based largely on our being able to verify  
16 that information independently of any kind of statistics  
17 or any kind of written rule book, so I think we are  
18 obliged to do that, but we are also obliged to do it with  
19 a certain degree of responsibility, so that just not any  
20 person can come on in and say, you know, like: I represent  
21 the gay community and I say it's this, and you've got to  
22 print that.

23 MR. KAMINS: Okay, thank you.

24 One second question.

25 MS. GALIBER: No, we will have to move on to the

1 next person. We will have to move on. I only have three  
2 minutes, and I think I've got to be fair.

3 MR. KAMINS: Well, we can do this in closed  
4 police session.

5 MR. COLEMAN: We are in favor of opening every-  
6 thing up. I can tell you right now: Larry has been to a  
7 police chiefs' advisory commission that the police said is  
8 open for everyone.

9 MS. GALIBER: Would you go ahead and identify  
10 yourself, please?

11 MR. LOUDERBAUGH: Tom Louderbaugh. While ago,  
12 when they said briefly if it was the Duponts or Rockefellers  
13 or anything like that, they would not have done what they  
14 did down in Miami and I mean the Viet-Nam situation, it is  
15 true the Blacks and the poor and the Latinos and all those  
16 type of people were on the front lines a lot more than the  
17 Whites, and I don't know any rich people that are, you know,  
18 living down in the Love Canal and Three Mile Island.

19 Do you feel, Angela and Mr. Coleman, that the  
20 media is exposing the injustice of the disparity between  
21 the rich and the poor, the haves and the have-nots in the  
22 written media as well as the verbal media?

23 MS. OWENS: I know that we are not on television.  
24 The injustices suffered by the minorities and poor people  
25 are not the kind that are assigned these days. I mean it's

1 just not in vogue.

2 I mean they are not the kinds of stories that  
3 are assigned these days. The people that are making the  
4 assignments are very aware that we have to cover a wide  
5 range of topics and they want to satisfy our viewers.  
6 When it comes to doing features, when it comes to some of  
7 these, they are just not willing to put in the time or  
8 the money or the effort at this point.

9 I just want to point out -- why don't you answer  
10 that, Milton?

11 MR. COLEMAN: My answer to that question is very  
12 simple. I think we are doing -- when we are asked how we  
13 are disposing of all the wrongs and injustices, if I can  
14 transpose the question and ask: are we doing a balanced  
15 job of reporting without giving too much weight to the rich  
16 and too little weight to the poor?

17 I mean I think we are doing all right and that  
18 don't mean we're doing great. I don't think we are doing  
19 terrible but let me just say, in a constructive sense, one  
20 of the ways that it can be improved is that there's a lot  
21 of stuff that goes on in the community, quite frankly, that  
22 we just don't know about.

23 And we don't have the greatest eyes and ears  
24 around and what I ask is that people call in and tell us  
25 about that, because you'd be surprised at how many news



1 stories really come in over the telephone, so just please  
2 call us.

3 MS. GALIBER: Is that the end of our three  
4 minutes? One more question.

5 MR. ROSE: My name is Michael Rose and I want to  
6 address my question to -- I didn't hear your name, but -

7 MR. COLEMAN: Coleman, Milton Coleman.

8 MR. ROSE: I want to address a question around  
9 Chief Bigelow. I got the feeling that, when he was on the  
10 stage there, he was saying that the citizens and community  
11 relationship is sort of like a complacent thing -- like he  
12 was satisfied with the way the police and the community  
13 were relating and also to the elderly lady here that spoke  
14 about minorities -- how they were depicted on the news  
15 media -- and you, in turn, said that your department had  
16 no input in helping resolve the editorial page -- that you  
17 don't have anything to do with that, right?

18 MR. COLEMAN: That's right.

19 MR. ROSE: Okay. I want to know how, then, if  
20 people call in to, like, the Washington Post and complain  
21 about different areas, you know, as far as city things, if  
22 your department isn't in, then, how would the community be  
23 aware of things and would the Washington Post print some  
24 of the things -- maybe the complaints they got?

25 MR. COLEMAN: Did everyone hear the question?

1 The question was simply: if the news department, as I said,  
2 has no input over the editorial page, what good is it if  
3 people call in and would we print it?

4 It would not, if you called the news department.  
5 If you called the City desk, 334-7300, it would not get  
6 any of the complaints over to the editorial page.

7 If you call the editorial page people, it might  
8 get some input on their thinking. If you called us about it,  
9 it might get us to do a story and, if it was a good story,  
10 I think we would write it.

11 And I can't think of all the incidents so far  
12 but, in several cases, the editorial page is going in one  
13 direction and often people are complaining that we are  
14 going in another.

15 I guess the biggest one that comes to mind is:  
16 if you have ever heard the Mayor discussing the media, he'll  
17 tell you that the editorial page has been very friendly to  
18 him and he thinks the news columns are very much against  
19 him.

20 We don't have to be going the same way. We don't  
21 have to be going -- we don't want to be going the same way.  
22 If people call us and we can determine it's a good story,  
23 we will go after it.

24 MR. GALIBER: What constitutes a good story?  
25

1 MR. COLEMAN: Her question is: what constitutes  
2 a good story?

3 It has reader interest, It's something we know  
4 we can write. A lot of stories are allegations. Somebody  
5 said this happened or that happened and, if we can't pin  
6 it down to print it in a way we believe it is actually true,  
7 we can't write it.

8 We try to write stories that have a certain degree  
9 of interest. It doesn't have to be a real broad appeal.  
10 It may be just kind of a unique appeal, but I would encourage  
11 people to call us and it would get into the paper in that  
12 kind of a way.

13 Does that answer your question?

14 MR. ROSE: Somewhat. Yes.

15 MS. GALIBER: Thank you very much.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. OWENS: I would just like to remind you, as  
18 Milton has said: we depend upon telephone calls. We have  
19 to work with the police department as well as the community  
20 and, frequently, in talking with the community people, it  
21 seems as if, once a man puts on a uniform, he becomes some-  
22 one apart. He is still a human being with the same kinds of  
23 feelings.

24 He hurts the same way. He bleeds the same way.  
25 Community people hurt the same way; they bleed the same way

1 but, somehow, a barrier seems to be drawn up when the man  
2 puts on the uniform and community people frequently say  
3 they find it difficult to get beyond once that man has on  
4 the "blue", so I don't know how much dialogue people who  
5 are in the streets, say, feel that they can have with the  
6 police officers.

7           As an example, some of the comments that were  
8 made about the officer killed at 14th and U -- they had he  
9 had harrassed them and he -- they didn't like the man, I  
10 guess, because of some of the ways he had treated them. We  
11 just have to talk.

12           I don't know whether any of them tried to talk to  
13 him; whether or not he tried to talk with them but I just  
14 wanted to throw out that, in television, we depend on both  
15 community and police officers, and we have to get along with  
16 both. We couldn't exist without you.

17           (Applause.)

18           MR. DARDEN: Thank you very much. The next  
19 workshop -- the next topic that we are going to cover on  
20 your program is listed as Police Accountability and Community  
21 Responsibility. The moderator for that workshop would be  
22 an advisory committee member, Professor Howard Glickstein.  
23 He will introduce the resource persons for this workshop.

24           MR. GLICKSTEIN: The workshop now is on police  
25 accountability and community responsibility, so the general

1 questions deal with: how should complaints against police-  
2 men be dealt with; should they be dealt with through law  
3 suits, as I spoke about earlier this evening, or are police  
4 -- other sort of mechanisms appropriate?

5 I'll introduce the speakers in order.

6 Our first speaker is a Council member.

7 Wilhelmina Rolark has been waiting very patiently. She  
8 has other engagements and she has extended her stay here  
9 tonight beyond what she intended to. I am particularly  
10 pleased to introduce her this evening, and I have the good  
11 fortune of knowing her daughter.

12 MS. ROLARK: Good evening, everyone. Yes, I  
13 really am very happy to participate with you this evening.  
14 I'm just sorry, as I guess you are, too, that we do not  
15 have a broader representation of the actually impacted  
16 citizens in these types of cases.

17 I'm always interested in the victims of these  
18 incidents, be they incidents of police harrassment, or  
19 incidents of police brutality because, as Mr. Glickstein  
20 indicated, this workshop deals with police accountability  
21 and, many years ago, 1970 to be exact, when I was a member  
22 of the first human rights commission because the council had  
23 been reorganized into a commission, I was made chairman of  
24 the committee on public safety and conducted what I believe  
25 still remains as the first, you know, city-wide set of

1 hearings on police brutality and police harrassment from  
2 an official standpoint.

3           And those statistics proved to me something that,  
4 as an attorney and as a concerned citizen, I had always  
5 believed that a lot of the tension that exists between the  
6 police and the community exists because the community per-  
7 sons have no vehicle whereby they can lodge their complaints  
8 against police and hope to get a decent reaction to the  
9 same.

10           This idea of police judging police is just  
11 horrendous, in my opinion. It turns people off. It makes  
12 people believe there is no equity in the situation -- that  
13 not only have you been beaten up or harrassed or kicked  
14 around or treated unfairly but then you've got to come  
15 right back to that same source to lodge a -- quote --  
16 "complaint" -- unquote -- agsirt them, hoping to get some  
17 kind of equitable treatment.

18           And no matter, Chief Bigelow, how much you may  
19 say that you are doing this and you are doing the other --  
20 and I do commend you; I think that much more is being done  
21 now than has been done in the past and I do believe that,  
22 with a black chief in a predominantly black City, we do  
23 have a much more sensitive department because, in the old  
24 days, when it was not that way -- and you see some of these  
25 things really go on a Black-White line.

1           You had much more tension. I know that. And  
2 I think the fact that you have black management areas in  
3 areas that are historically areas of high police tension  
4 that is between the police and the community, like in my  
5 district where recently Chief Keller for which I am very  
6 happy -- a man who is not only black, but lives up there in  
7 the area -- and that means a lot.

8           Historically, in the past, we had non-minority  
9 in control of the police department and, for the most part,  
10 they were non-resident. So you had like a foreign army  
11 coming in, you know, controlling us in this most important  
12 area.

13           So, of course, you had piled on the fact that you  
14 didn't have a vehicle by which you could lodge a complaint  
15 the fact that you were blocked out by negative participa-  
16 tion.

17           I made a commitment when I got on the Council  
18 and now I've carried it out -- that there would be one area  
19 I would move in. Very recently, last year, I introduced  
20 a bill, 3-214, called the Human Rights Act Amendment of  
21 1980 -- of 1979.

22           It has thence been amended to read 1980. That  
23 bill was a bill that represented some of the suggestions and  
24 recommendations that we had made as a result of the hearings  
25 that we held on the Human Rights Commission -- that the

1 Human Rights Commission itself reconstituted a body to hear  
2 complaints of these police brutality and police harrassment  
3 complaints because it is, in fact, a civilian body that did  
4 not only do that but police -- training -- human relations  
5 training be instituted because a lot of the incidents that  
6 do occur, occur, I believe, because the police have actually  
7 not been properly trained in the handling of this and, Chief  
8 Bigelow, that has been a long-time commitment of mine -- that  
9 we do need to institute -- re-institute that training that  
10 we have -- just right after the riot. We need to go back  
11 to that now.

12           Some way or another, even though we have racially  
13 a different-constituted department, we still have that  
14 problem of a little guff between the police and the community  
15 based on the fact that sometimes, once you put that uniform  
16 on, you simply don't understand people any more like you  
17 understood them in the first place.

18           Well, this bill would mandate intensive human  
19 relations training at all levels of command within the  
20 department in addition to constituting the Human Rights  
21 Commission -- a body to which these comolaints could be  
22 lodged.

23           In January of this year -- and I think most of  
24 you are familiar with this, I introduced Bill 3-247. It is  
25 co-sponsored by four of the Council members -- called the



1 Civilian Complaint Review Board Act of 1980. This was a  
2 bill introduced at the request of the Mayor. It supposedly  
3 would show objective investigation and review of citizens'  
4 allegations of misconduct by regular or special police  
5 officers.

6 It would be comprised of a board that would do  
7 the investigation with six members and a chairman. The  
8 board would be appointed from a variety of sources -- one  
9 member from the policemen's union; two by the Council --  
10 that is, the City Council; one by the Chief of Police from  
11 the Rights of the Police Department and two would be appointed  
12 by the Mayor.

13 That would include the appointment of the  
14 Chairman and the terms would be for three years. This  
15 Board would make recommendation to the Chief of Police about  
16 disciplinary actions that should be taken when officers  
17 have been complained about by civilians, and it would assure  
18 that all of the residents of the District of Columbia would  
19 have access to complaint forms and information about the  
20 investigatory process.

21 Both bills would assure that they would be wide  
22 and open to add to the complaint of the gentleman in the  
23 back there, you know, who spoke about closed processes,  
24 because I agree with him on that.  
25

1           Part, also, of the problem is that the citizens  
2 not have been harrassed or brutalized but, then, whatever  
3 is being done about that now is done in a highly secretive  
4 fashion and just to cavalierly say that all you have to do  
5 is go up and inquire about what happened to your case is  
6 not as simple as it seems.

7           But, if either one of these systems, or if a  
8 combination of them, without full hearings on both bills --  
9 the bills are now before both committees, the Committee on  
10 Judiciary and the Committee on the Public Service and  
11 Consumer Affairs which I chair.

12           Councilmember Clark chairs the committee on the  
13 Judiciary and, hopefully, some type of merger -- good  
14 merger, if you please -- of the two bills will come out  
15 and, hopefully, will survive the process and become law  
16 and, if all that happens, perhaps some of this tension will  
17 be alleviated.

18           Thank you very much.

19           (Applause.)

20           MR. GLICKSTEIN: Our next speaker is Professor  
21 Irving Ferman of the Howard Law School. Professor Ferman  
22 is an authority on police-community review boards. He  
23 headed the police-community review board we had in the  
24 District of Columbia from 1965 to '73, and I think he will  
25 be able to share with us tonight some of his experiences on

1 that occasion.

2 Mr. Ferman.

3 MR. FERMAN: Thank you very much.

4 First, I would like to express my support of your  
5 bill, Ms. Rolark. I would like, however, to review the  
6 work of our review board from '65-'73 so that so much of  
7 our discussion can have some historical antecedents.

8 First, let me say, at the outset, that we resigned  
9 in '73 in protest of the lack of reform we had recommended  
10 to the Mayor. We were constituted as a board by executive  
11 order in 1965. We had five members of the board. Complaints  
12 were filed only in the District so it meant that a citizen  
13 had to go down to the District Building and file a complaint  
14 in affidavit form.

15 The complaint was then sent to the police depart-  
16 ment to the internal security division for investigation.  
17 And, at times, it took almost a minimum of one year before  
18 the investigation was completed and turned over to us. We  
19 instituted a preliminary proceeding -- an ex parte proceeding  
20 with the complainant in order to check and be satisfied  
21 that the investigative findings had some credibility and  
22 then we either dismissed the complaint or ordered a hearing.

23 Now, our basic observation, after functioning  
24 this way for five years, was: first, the process was too  
25 slow; secondly, we had some misgivings about the police

1 investigating complaints against policemen as a police  
2 department.

3 That's not easy to remedy. Thirdly, we felt that  
4 the complaints forms should be widely circulated and the  
5 complainant should have a hearing within a reasonable  
6 period of time -- two, three -- at least a month or two  
7 or three weeks.

8 A confrontation here -- a kind of "sifting-out"  
9 process. Now, we had also recommended -- we had recommended  
10 that the widespread availability of complaint forms with  
11 a kind of sifting process -- almost with -- before the  
12 investigation -- confrontation with a policeman and the  
13 complainant and we felt the experience indicated in other  
14 cities -- that we could eliminate the spurious complaints  
15 and also in a number of situations, a good number of situa-  
16 tions, we could receive a result which might involve a  
17 letter of reprimand or some kind of letter be put into the  
18 jacket of the policeman and that would resolve the com-  
19 plaint.

20 We made recommendations along those lines. We  
21 also made recommendations very similar to your bill -- that  
22 is, we wanted to add a member of the police department --  
23 hopefully, Community Relations, to our board -- to bring  
24 into play the policemen's point of view in our delibera-  
25 tions.

1           We never received a reply to our report, urging  
2 what we considered to be reforms so, in 1973, with the  
3 exception of one member, we all turned in our resigna-  
4 tions.

5           Now, nothing has happened since. Let me say  
6 this: in response to what I consider to be propoganda by  
7 the police Benevolent Association or the police unions  
8 attacking the concept of a civilian complaint review board,  
9 the attack is made on two grounds: one, mainly, that the  
10 police has to function as an autonomous group -- as an  
11 automonous agency.

12           That concept has never been part of our system.  
13 Dating back to the Eighteenth Century, it is traditional  
14 for all our agencies to be subject to checks in order to  
15 achieve balance. That's part of the American system. That's  
16 true in the Army. That's true in the military forces and,  
17 indeed, it is implicitly true in the organization of the  
18 police department because every significant police depart-  
19 ment is controlled by a civilian head.

20           So, if a police chief cannot live within civilian  
21 controlling and civilian checks, I think he has an obligation  
22 to resign.

23           Secondly, I feel very keenly -- well, let me  
24 put it more precisely: I think the police unions and police  
25 organizations have made a mistake -- a drastic mistake in

1 fighting civilian-police review boards from the late  
2 Fifties through the early Sixties because it has meant the  
3 filing of civ-1 suits against police and the city govern-  
4 ment.

5           It has also meant a rush or an increase in inves-  
6 tigation and Mr. Glickstein, in FBI investigations, he  
7 alluded to in the statutes against the police -- which is  
8 much more harmful against the policeman than to have citizens  
9 trained who would understand the police to sit and listen  
10 to complaints and then make a recommendation to the police  
11 department.

12           And I will never understand, for the life of me,  
13 why criticism has been lodged by police unions and police  
14 benevolent associations against a civilian complaining of  
15 due process because what a policeman is facing now is  
16 far more drastic.

17           If they had cooperated, we could have achieved  
18 an effective civilian-police complaint process. I also  
19 would like to add another fact. The complainant process is  
20 not, and should not be, the total mechanism in achieving  
21 police reform.

22           We should not view again the civilian complaint  
23 review process as "the" mechanism that will achieve the  
24 kind of reform in police practices and police-community  
25 relations that we hope for.

1           It is just one weapon. It is just one weapon.  
2           And we need -- as Ms. Rolark indicated, we need the kind  
3           of training suggested by the Human Relations Commission, and  
4           I would like to see, based upon my experience -- and I think  
5           that Ms. Rolark's bill is responsive to our experiences,  
6           that we restore the civilian complaint review board and I  
7           would hope that the police would see now, after the experi-  
8           ence in the last ten years, that this is the way to go for  
9           the benefit of effective police-community relations.

10           Thank you.

11           (Applause.)

12           MR. GLICKSTEIN: We have two more panelists and  
13           then the previous two speakers, as well as the next two,  
14           will be prepared to answer your questions.

15           The next speaker is Lt. James Gannon, from the  
16           Field Inspections Division of the Metropolitan Police  
17           Department.

18           LT. GANNON: How do you do? I wasn't prepared  
19           to make any specific presentations other than to point  
20           out that, in your blue folders, there are outlines on the  
21           complaint procedure, which I am part of on the department --  
22           the flow of the complaint and a little explanation of how  
23           the process works.

24           Basically, that is the area that I would be able  
25           to respond to. Thank you.

1 MR. GLICKSTEIN: Our next speaker is Officer Ron  
2 Hampton of the District of Columbia Afro-American Police  
3 Officers' Association.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. HAMPSON: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen,  
6 and I want to thank the Commission for the opportunity to  
7 come before you today and speaking.

8 I was just going over some of the questions that  
9 the panel was supposed to deal with -- how are the police  
10 held responsible for the actions of the police department?  
11 And I would submit to you that police are not held responsi-  
12 ble.

13 Certain police officers are held responsible for  
14 their actions, but most police officers aren't held responsi-  
15 ble for their actions -- by the courts -- probably because  
16 the police department is the one that submits or goes to the  
17 courts that have police prosecutors so, if the police  
18 department don't want their police officers prosecuted,  
19 then they're not going to submit the necessary requirements  
20 to the courts to have their police officers prosecuted, but  
21 citizens -- some citizens hold their police officers  
22 responsible.

23 The citizens that came together tonight that are  
24 interested in whether or not -- the types of treatment the  
25 folks in their community are receiving -- they don't hold



1 their police department responsible because the police  
2 department don't listen to what they have to say. Their  
3 views fall on deaf ears when it comes to the police depart-  
4 ment.

5           And I'd like to respond a little more to some of  
6 the things that the gentlemen before the lieutenant talked  
7 about.

8           I represent an organization of black police  
9 officers in this city and we belong to an organization of  
10 some 30,000 black police officers across the Nation and  
11 we support the civilian review board concept because we  
12 do our job and we have nothing to fear about somebody look-  
13 ing over our shoulders.

14           (Applause.)

15           MR. HAMPTON: Why the unions and such disagree  
16 with the concept of police review board is because, if we  
17 look back in history, police departments in the United  
18 States were established in the 1800's along the Barbary  
19 Coast for the sole purpose of controlling certain sectors  
20 of society.

21           That's what the police department in this city  
22 deals with -- controlling the Black and the poor of this  
23 city, so the police union wouldn't come out and say: well,  
24 we're going to condone the process where the people on the  
25 lower end of the spectrum can have a vehicle like Ms. Rolark

1 talked about to have their things come in and talk about  
2 their complaints and talk about -- on the same level as  
3 folks on this end of the spectrum can come into the police  
4 department or any other department and have their complaints  
5 listened to.

6           Some time ago, the Washington Post -- and Mr.  
7 Coleman works for it -- brought up some articles about the  
8 citizens of this city who have filed complaints against  
9 police officers and they won their cases in court, so I  
10 went through the process of going back -- researching to  
11 find out: who were these people who won these cases in  
12 court -- civil cases in court -- to win this money against  
13 the city.

14           And the city has a long record of losing cases  
15 in court, you know, but all the folks that received this  
16 monetary gain of settlement are folks that have access to  
17 the criminal justice system and I'm talking about people  
18 that already have money and they can go out and get good  
19 lawyers, you know, so they don't have no problem about --

20           (Applause.)

21           MR. HAMPTON: They don't have no problem in terms  
22 of access to the criminal justice system but none of those  
23 folks are the people who are here and the folks on 14th  
24 Street and the folks in Clifton Terrace and the folks in  
25 Ms. Rolark's ward in Southeast.

1           Those folks don't have money, so they don't have  
2 no access. Their abuse still fall on deaf ears, so they  
3 don't win money from the City, 'cause they can't even take  
4 the city to court to start off with so we need a vehicle  
5 to air our complaints to talk to -- to talk about police  
6 beating on us.

7           So, like I said at first, we endorse the civilian  
8 review board process because it's needed.

9           And, then, again, I speak about -- I'd like to  
10 speak about a subject that's dear to me and that's about  
11 police beating up on black folks and I'm a black police  
12 officer and I have even witnessed police officers beating  
13 up on people.

14           And, then -- and go back a little further to give  
15 you some reason why I'm talking about this, because I  
16 asked Miss Owens and Mr. Coleman if blacks in the media  
17 felt as though they had a sense of responsibility to the  
18 types of things that they noticed were missing in the media  
19 that should be there.

20           So, myself, as a black police officer, when I see  
21 things missing in the police department that shouldn't be  
22 there or that's there that shouldn't be there, I do something  
23 about it.

24           I reported a police officer. And, every time I  
25 see one, I'm going to report them. And they know it. So

1 it gets down to: they don't do it in front of me and some  
2 other brothers I work with in our police association -- they  
3 don't do it in front of them because they're going to re-  
4 port them.

5 And I'm serious -- that it's not about y'all  
6 putting the pressure on the police department to change  
7 the police department. If there was some more black po-  
8 lice officers on this police department that wouldn't  
9 stand for it, then, we wouldn't have it to start off  
10 with.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. GLICKSTEIN: Now, there's about five or  
13 ten minutes for questions.

14 MR. LOUDERBAUGH: My name is Thomas Louderbaugh.  
15 I'm a former co-coordinator of the Police Awareness Alliance  
16 of the Gay Activist Alliance.

17 I agree heartily with Councilwoman Rolark. I  
18 agree that we need independent civilian police on the  
19 review board.

20 And I am proud to say the Gay Activist Alliance  
21 one year ago submitted the -- to the Mayor's office a  
22 proposal for a civilian complaint review board, similar  
23 to Councilwoman Rolark's.

24 I am also in total agreement with Mr. Glickstein  
25 in his comments that prevative actions are much more valuable

1 than remedial actions.

2 In fact, litigation for most of us in the district  
3 is a useless means of getting any kind of cure. The ques-  
4 tion in enforcement for all of us is not how to frighten  
5 our police officers into perhaps being better police officers.  
6 Most of them don't need that.

7 The question is how to improve enforcement by  
8 opening up the police department to the citizens of the  
9 District of Columbia.

10 The police department is, from my experience,  
11 closed. Deputy Chief Bigelow claims that the Chiefs'  
12 Advisory Council is open to the citizens. I wish that  
13 were true. It, indeed, is not true.

14 Chief Jefferson himself has told me so. And,  
15 when I wished to attend a meeting, he said that I was not  
16 allowed to do so; it was a closed meeting.

17 Furthermore, the people allowed to attend that  
18 meeting were only citizens appointed by the Chief of  
19 Police to advise him, I fear, in ways he wished to be  
20 advised.

21 When the Gay Activist Alliance attempted to get  
22 a citizen from the Gay community in the district on that  
23 Council, we found that the Chief of Police refused to  
24 appoint a representative and, in fact, we had to request  
25 the Mayor's office to put pressure on the Chief of Police

1 to even hear a request.

2           The question that I would, therefore, ask, first  
3 of all, is: how do we improve enforcement in other ways  
4 than litigation and demonstrations in other remedial actions  
5 if, indeed, we find the police department closed to us and  
6 the Chief of Police wishes not to hear us on his Advisory  
7 Council and, in fact, wishes not to meet with us, and often  
8 has met with us only because the Mayor has told him to do  
9 so.

10           May I ask: How do we get some kind of response?

11           MR. GLICKSTEIN: Would one of the members of our  
12 panel --

13           CHIEF BIGELOW: Can I just clarify something?

14           MR. GLICKSTEIN: Certainly. You've been mentioned  
15 a few times.

16           CHIEF BIGELOW: Just a point of clarification. I  
17 don't recall saying that it was open to the general public.  
18 I recall saying that representation of all segments of the  
19 community are on the Chiefs' Advisory Council and I believe  
20 there is a representative from your group on that Advisory  
21 Council, is that right?

22           MR. LOUDERBAUGH: Yes, there is, but only because  
23 the Mayor's office decided it was better to push the Chief  
24 into making that agreement than it was to having us make  
25

1 more trouble.

2 I would also like to ask another quick question  
3 and that is that, if I understand Form -99, it's an informal  
4 complaint form or it is ignored as a formal complaint. The  
5 only formal complaint is made through the Mayor's office --  
6 not through the Chief's office and, therefore, any PD-99  
7 trial can be ignored entirely by the police department if  
8 it so desires, is that not true?

9 MR. HAMPTON: The PD-99 -- I believe the PD-99  
10 reads "Informal Citizen Complaint" or something like that,  
11 with the terms of it being -- in making a complaint, you  
12 can use it as it is used as a legal document, right?

13 And you don't really have to have a PD-99. You  
14 could just write it out on your own -- you know, on a piece  
15 of paper yourself but you can really make a verbal complaint  
16 against a police officer over the telephone, so you don't have  
17 to use the PD-99 system, you know, but that's something  
18 that the police department sets up and I have to agree with  
19 you that the PD-99 system don't work.

20 MR. GANNON: The PD-99 is a form. It's a recom-  
21 mended type of form that I believe the national committees  
22 in the past have recommended that there be an informal  
23 report and, by orders of the department, they ought not to  
24 be ignored. As a matter of fact, there's a very strict  
25 accounting system for all -99's. They all have to be

1 answered.

2           What might be very, very serious or what might  
3 appear to be very frivolous, they are all answered. And  
4 the response is returned to all citizens that make them --  
5 those '99's.

6           MR. HAMPTON: I'm glad he said that because what  
7 I want to tell you is: the other day, I was in the police  
8 station, coming into the door of the police station going  
9 upstairs and the gentleman came from outside and he was in  
10 an irate condition and he wanted to make a complaint against  
11 a police officer.

12           So, when he talked to the police officer at the  
13 front desk, he asked him for a PD-99 so he could make a  
14 complaint against a police officer and, if what the lieuten-  
15 ant says and what the assistant says is true, then the PD-99  
16 should have been on the front desk and all he should have  
17 done is just walk up, pick it up and write out his complaint  
18 and give it to the officer and then they would have dealt  
19 with it, right?

20           Well, what do you think happened? It's not multi-  
21 ple choice. You don't have but one answer. The officer  
22 didn't never give him a PD-99. The first thing he done  
23 was ask him why he wanted it.

24           So, the individual -- he ended up leaving the  
25 station more irate than he came in there because they never  
dealt with the service that they were supposed to render.



1           They're supposed to give him the form. They're  
2 not supposed to question him. So that's why I say it don't  
3 work because I've seen too many times where they don't even  
4 get it to start off and then, if they do get it, some  
5 official come from the back room and comes up there and  
6 talks to them about: why you want to -- they take the  
7 complaint but, in the process of taking the complaint, they  
8 tell them -- well, they give them excuses like: well, the  
9 police officer had a bad day, so would you please excuse  
10 him because he has a lot of things to do?

11           So he might have just been upset and we all get  
12 upset. But, then, even on the back of the thing, what's  
13 noted about it, the complaint -- they make a complaint, but  
14 all you had to do in the police department was an action  
15 had to be taken so you can put on the back of the complaint  
16 "Officer So-and-So warned the Council" and that was it. That  
17 don't do nothing for you, the person who was -- you was  
18 beaten or verbally abused. That don't do nothing for you,  
19 but, see, that's an action. That's the system.

20           (Applause.)

21           MS. OWENS: What about the level of fear? Have  
22 you found that there is a lot of fear if they have to leave  
23 the station without making it? Do they then fear some kind  
24 of reprisals if several people come out to talk to them and  
25 try to discourage them not to file?

1 MR. HAMPTON: Well, I don't believe so much the  
2 present type of fear thing. It's just like you mentioned  
3 something about putting on a uniform and we tend to think  
4 there's something different about that person in the  
5 uniform, right?

6 The uniform has a tendency to be oppressive to  
7 our folks because we see it as an arm of that oppression --  
8 the oppressor part, you know, so that's what -- it don't  
9 have to be but one and then you see one in a white shirt  
10 who is, you know, and he comes and hits you and gets you  
11 with a bunch of questions when you want to make a complaint  
12 and, it seems like: every way you turn, he turn you the  
13 other way, so you end up very frustrated so you just walk  
14 off and don't make a complaint no way, so it don't have to  
15 be three or four of them jump down on you.

16 The only time three or four of them would jump  
17 down on you is if the incident when you have someone from  
18 the, say, criminal community -- you know, the actual person  
19 who might have committed a crime but then he got beat, too,  
20 and, see, he didn't deserve to get beat so then three or  
21 four of the officers come up -- you know, three or four  
22 officials come out and then they start, you know, pressing  
23 him and, you know, saying all types of things to him in  
24 terms of: he didn't really have no reason to make the  
25 complaint because he committed a crime, so they just started

1 using that as leverage, so that's a fear tactic in a sense.

2 MR. GLICKSTEIN: We have one more question before  
3 we conclude this panel.

4 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I have a question but my  
5 question, first of all, is not a question.

6 Having dealt with the police department for a  
7 long time as a criminal, it makes me feel real good to  
8 sit here now and just listen to this as a productive citizen  
9 of society.

10 It's nice to see two policemen that's not on  
11 the wave length. He's not on the same wave length with  
12 him. They are really not together, so we can't hold him  
13 accountable.

14 You understand what I'm saying? Joe is saying  
15 on his side and he's going to say his side, so then we  
16 know we're in trouble when the police department is to-  
17 gether.

18 Listening to Councilwoman Rolark, I agree with  
19 what's she saying -- the police need some training. They  
20 should institute that training, but I also think she should  
21 take it a step further because the City Council people need  
22 some retraining, too, because they have forgot that they  
23 was once a street activist and they are the first to say:  
24 call the police.

25 So I'm just sitting here and just listening to

1 what he said -- why you don't train the police and they  
2 say: we ain't got nowhere we can take out complaints. We  
3 should be able to take out complaints to eight wards -- to  
4 our City Council people who ran on platforms of saying how  
5 compassionate they were and how concerned they were for the  
6 little person.

7 I can understand what Mr. -- Officer Hampton  
8 was saying about the Big People -- the Big Hustlers -- and  
9 I mean Hustlers -- those people in Cleveland Park. They  
10 ain't going to get beat up when they go down there, man,  
11 and they ain't going to get the monetary value as opposed  
12 to a lady who's going in there with a public defender.

13 So, tonight -- and just listening -- and, of  
14 course, I don't have an eighth-grade education and I can't  
15 speak too articulate -- you understand what I mean, but I  
16 know what the PD-99 -- I can't get a PD-99 if I go in there  
17 but let me break the law; they get so many papers in there  
18 and I don't know where those papers come from, but they  
19 must be stacked on top of the PD-99's.

20 (Applause.)

21 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I believe that you have in  
22 them offices -- I believe that you have books on the wall --  
23 I might be wrong, but I think that you have all the police  
24 laws from Alabama in one book; all the laws from Tennessee  
25 in one book and all the laws from Washington in one book and

1 I believe, when there's a riot, you say: Get the Alabama  
2 book! Jones. 'Cause I just don't understand how so many  
3 white police can get to Southeast to jump on people when  
4 all these black folks are there.

5 You know, these type things just don't rationalize  
6 to me. Now, we are cutting police and I know we are going  
7 to have to have new police because the police we've got  
8 now can't speak Vietnamese so we're going to get some  
9 more police that can understand what them people are saying  
10 or these people are going to get up and the man is going  
11 to say "Ung-jung-jung!" so we gotta get some more  
12 police.

13 So, in referencé to -- speaking again as an  
14 old, hard, disadvantaged criminal -- that's what I am --  
15 an old, disadvantaged criminal, I do know that the bottom  
16 line is that we need police officers. I know we gotta  
17 have them.

18 And I know that's -- there is some black police  
19 that are three times rougher than some black police. I  
20 understand that but, until we as people, can get our City  
21 Council people accountable -- until we get our mayor account-  
22 able; until City Council people get together and see that  
23 the City Council don't know ANC -- they are scared of  
24 ANC, so, you know, it's just a sad, frightening thing. In  
25 fact, a review board -- I think everybody should have a

1 review board.

2           They had a thing one time when I was a street  
3 activist -- see, I just came here from Mississippi -- they  
4 was riding around in police cars and monitor police, so  
5 they used to call me a "Tom" because I wouldn't ride in  
6 a police car -- some way, they was going to make sure that  
7 they get me, so I wouldn't get in no police car, so my  
8 rationale was a lot different from you professional type  
9 people.

10           I think the way you get killed quick is two  
11 things: that's a dog that chase cars and a nigger that  
12 fights policemen, so I ain't gonna fight no policeman. I  
13 ain't going to fight none. I'm gonna respect them to the  
14 highest.

15           I think Chief Bigelow is a good man and I do  
16 believe that and, in fact, I'm having a union man on my  
17 show Sunday -- one of the policemen.

18           I am also a TV whatever-you-call-me, because  
19 I'm not like the rest of the blacks on television -- the  
20 rest of the blacks on television and I -- we don't get  
21 along and they understand why we don't get along, because  
22 I'm not going to set up there and say what they say up there  
23 every night because I know Bruce Johnson is a dirty, TV  
24 black man I even seen when it comes to dealing with black  
25 people.

1 I would tell him that and bust him in his  
2 mouth if he was going to refute it and I would say to  
3 those others that sat up there and say that TV just take  
4 the minute things that don't make no headlines.

5 I shouldn't say it. When they do a series on  
6 disadvantaged people on TV, how can that be minute? I  
7 understand she has to have a job. I understand I have to  
8 have a job, but I would be delightful with you if I can't  
9 speak here like I speak at home -- then, I don't need to  
10 be here.

11 And I think this man here needs to be commended  
12 because he's in a world of trouble. He shouldn't have  
13 even sat on the board. They didn't have any Serpico  
14 standards. I just wanted to get that off my chest.

15 Again, to you, Miss Rolark, I think you are a  
16 very fine person. You are one of the hottest wards in Ward  
17 8 but, before we start cleaning up the police department,  
18 clean up the City Council. Get them accountable and let  
19 them remember that they came from the street, too.

20 Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. ROLARK: Well, of course, Mr. Beam, in his  
23 colorful way, has really given us the real issue and I  
24 must say that I agree: charity always begins at home. I  
25 agree with that and you know that there's some of us on the

1 Council who never agree with a lot of public -- call-in-  
2 the-guards; we'll have a public hearing and all the rest.  
3 But, at Council, like any other body -- it is diverse. And  
4 you have diverse views on it and I hope that none of you  
5 out here believe that every one of us on there is like every-  
6 body else on there because that's not the case.

7 And I think that there is a segment on the Council  
8 who wishes very much to do something about this problem.  
9 We are in there to soon find out how the total council  
10 feels after they have finished marking up this bill which  
11 in some respects is a very radical type of bill because  
12 it intends to have some civilian review of police action.  
13 I still feel that's necessary.

14 This is long overdue and I think, when we do  
15 get it, we can avert what's happening in Miami because we  
16 would have put in place a peaceful vehicle to deal with  
17 this type of tension.

18 I think it's necessary.

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. GLICKSTEIN: We have another panel.

21 MR. KAMINS: I would like to raise a concern  
22 that has not come up here. It's a very simple concern  
23 and I'll make it short and sweet. It is this: as we  
24 discussed a great deal how to file and how to complain  
25 against an individual officer, what we have not discussed



1 is how you complain against the department policy or how  
2 you complain against subtle department policy. I work with  
3 a community that very definitely feels subtleties. We  
4 are discriminated against like black people are discriminated  
5 against for several reasons and how do you file a complaint  
6 against the system and how do you make those kind of  
7 changes?

8 That hasn't been dealt with. I'm very sorry  
9 you don't wish me to speak.

10 MR. GLICKSTEIN: The answer to that is: you  
11 do that through the political process. You do that through  
12 the Mayor; you do that through your elected officials,  
13 the ones that can influence policy.

14 Mr. Darden is about to file something against  
15 me.

16 MR. DARDEN: I'm sorry to be stepping up here  
17 this way but we do have three other areas that we are trying  
18 to cover tonight. We had scheduled the session to be over  
19 at 10:15 and perhaps we might be able to keep that  
20 schedule.

21 The next area we'd like to cover is listed on  
22 your program as Enforcement Decisions. Our moderator  
23 from the Advisory Committee is Dr. Paul Phillips Cooke and  
24 he will introduce the resource persons.

25 MR. COOKE: Thank you, Mr. Darden, and ladies

1 and gentlemen.

2 Enforcement Decision -- the title of this  
3 workshop -- might be Enforcement Issues just as well  
4 because people are divided with respect to when do police  
5 officers enforce the law? What laws they do not enforce.  
6 Well, we heard Bob King this evening in one of the earlier  
7 perspectives say that 14th and Irving Street -- young  
8 people in that neighborhood on 14th Street had extremely  
9 loud stereo maybe as early as 4:00 in the morning and  
10 there was a question before Police officers as to whether  
11 they would enforce the law or not. It was a matter of  
12 discretion.

13 We are concerned, then, with this short fifteen-  
14 minute segment as to what is policy in the Metropolitan  
15 Police Department with respect to enforcement -- enforce-  
16 ment of the laws of the District of Columbia.

17 When is there discretion? Ladies and gentlemen,  
18 the staff has suggested at first I call for order. Can I  
19 get some of those small meetings to halt and to ask persons  
20 to sit for these few minutes?

21 We have only one resource person -- not four  
22 speakers this time, so we may be short.

23 May I ask you to be in order? Thank you, ladies  
24 and gentlemen.

25 Again, now, the enforcement decision -- the

1 decision of the police officers to enforce the law -- does  
2 he make a distinction between enforcing the law in the  
3 Southeast and, as has often been mentioned, Spring Valley,  
4 Chevy Chase and so on?

5 Now, one other aspect of enforcement. That deals  
6 with the weapon -- the use of deadly force in enforcement  
7 of law and so, again, the question is two-fold: one, what  
8 is policy of the Metropolitan police Department? two,  
9 What is discretion?

10 We've gone back into history briefly. We have  
11 observed a mayor in his activity. As I remember, when the  
12 mayor came to the Teacher's College at which I worked many  
13 a year and his role then was a part of a police community  
14 board, advisory to the Third Police District, I do remember  
15 mentioning the Third police district for two reasons -- one  
16 because our resource person, Officer Beverly Medlock comes  
17 from the Third Police District but also because of the  
18 experience of the Mayor ten years ago which included his  
19 service as an advisory member of the police board in a  
20 police district.

21 Now, this was shortly after the city had been  
22 re-districted away from the precincts into the Third and  
23 Fourth Police Districts. That was actually the District of  
24 Columbia Teachers' College that was covered by the Third  
25 Police District but, just across the street, the Fourth

1 Police District and we had as many as 400 officers in the  
2 college in 1970 for training.

3 I don't know whether I can use Councilwoman  
4 Rolark's term of Human Relations -- whether our training  
5 program at the college then, ten years ago, was Community  
6 Relations but, whatever it was, the television was used and  
7 I think of Angela Owens because constantly police officers  
8 could monitor themselves on the television in the classroom  
9 as they saw themselves talk to each injured persons to see  
10 how their manner was in speaking and whether, indeed, they  
11 did suggest at times verbal abuse, whether they meant it  
12 or not.

13 But, at any rate, this issue is enforced. The  
14 choices -- first of all, policy with respect to enforcement  
15 and the choices that police officers have.

16 I'm going to ask Officer Beverly Medlock of the  
17 Third Police District to say a word as she sees fact and  
18 discretion. Officer Medlock has assignments with respect  
19 to gambling in the street and down-at-the-station work.

20 Officer.

21 OFFICER MEDLOCK: Thank you.

22 My name is Officer Beverly Medlock, assigned to  
23 the Third District. As far as enforcement procedures are  
24 concerned, all fines are to be enforced and all the rest are  
25 to be enforced but we also have selective enforcement which

1 means that, because the community has input into problem  
2 areas such as 14th Street and drug areas, prostitution,  
3 selective traffic enforcement and a variety of other things  
4 and also what comes into play with this is the police  
5 discretion.

6           And this varies with the individual officer. Now,  
7 working at the station in the District, I take a lot of  
8 telephone calls and complaints from the citizens, saying  
9 that an officer did not do something right or he did what  
10 he was supposed to do but they didn't like it because he  
11 didn't use proper discretion.

12           So I'll take some questions now if anyone has  
13 any particular problem areas.

14           MR. KAMINS: My name is Larry Kamins of Gay  
15 Activist Alliance again. I want to ask a question that  
16 doesn't necessarily relate to specifically the officer's  
17 discretion on the scene with a particular crime, but the  
18 whole system of what I would call discrimination by "lost  
19 report".

20           Now, as we know, the police department will  
21 target a particular area for needed work. Say that there  
22 has been a series of rapes or a series of robberies based  
23 on reports; the department will send teams in to work certain  
24 things -- usually, casually clothed.

25           However, the department, which is incredibly

1 statistic-oriented -- if it does not have the written  
2 reports in --

3 DR. COOKE: Your question, now, sir, to the  
4 officer.

5 MR. KAMINS: That's what I'm doing now, thank  
6 you.

7 Now, the officer on the scene has, as I under-  
8 stand it, incredible discretion as to whether to file the  
9 report, one and, secondly, how to file the report, two.  
10 For instance, we have a situation -- in Southeast where  
11 four women were attacked by six men with crow bars. The  
12 officer in question, knowing the women were lesbians, filed  
13 a report of damaged property because a car was hit.

14 We have cases like this where the officer has a  
15 discretion to downgrade the crime or no crime at all is  
16 reported.

17 Based on the statistics, we do not get officers  
18 going into the area to deal with the matter, so we see  
19 multiple processing -- addition, it's my understanding --  
20 and you may correct me if I'm wrong -- that reports of  
21 merchants: there are robbers outside the establishment but,  
22 without formal written reports, they do not get responded  
23 to and reports to church groups --

24 DR. COOKE: Do you want an answer to a specific  
25 question or are you simply getting into the record your

1 complaints -- which may be a reasonable thing for you to  
2 do but what this workshop was set up for you to do was to  
3 put your questions so that many of us could gain from the  
4 answer.

5 MR. KAMINS: Can you not gain from the informa-  
6 tion?

7 DR. COOKE: The intent was for you to put it to  
8 the resource person and then, after they had been exhausted,  
9 then other means could be used.

10 OFFICER MEDLOCK: I think I know what you are  
11 talking about -- the crimes that should be reported that  
12 are not reported in the discretion of the officer -- that he  
13 might make this some other thing that can be settled between  
14 the people that are involved.

15 MR. KAMINS: No, I mean crimes where the officers  
16 -- I don't believe that nothing happens -- crimes where  
17 people fear the officer and, therefore, don't want to, say,  
18 file a formal report.

19 An officer comes to the scene. Somebody is lying  
20 there bleeding. And the officer says: Will you prosecute  
21 and the citizen says: no. No report. No police action.  
22 No statistics.

23 OFFICER MEDLOCK: Let me ask you: when you see  
24 such situations, what do you do about it? If you see the  
25 officer doing this, do you make a complaint; would you bring

1 it to the attention of his officials?

2 MR. KAMINS: If I were personally there, yes,  
3 I would. But the question is that the officer is thorough-  
4 ly aware that a crime has taken place. The officer also  
5 knows that's it's a crime that didn't go into the computer.  
6 No overall department action.

7 Is not this inappropriate for the officer to  
8 let the thing drop out of the system?

9 DR. COOKE: Let me see if I can phrase this  
10 question. Do you, as an officer, have a responsibility,  
11 he says, to report that: here is a person who is bleeding,  
12 who has been struck and is bleeding and is on the ground;  
13 do you have a responsibility to report that if there is no  
14 one there to prosecute?

15 OFFICER MEDLOCK: The police department does not  
16 -- at certain times, does not need someone to say that they  
17 need someone to prosecute. A crime is a crime; if it  
18 meets the criterion of a particular crime, it should be  
19 reported.

20 Now, people who don't make the report because  
21 they fear the individual officer -- then, no one ever knows  
22 about it -- I would say that it's up to that person or  
23 someone who knows about it to make this information known.

24 MR. KAMINS: Okay. The question is if they  
25 downgrade the report, what can be done to get the report --



1 DR. COOKE: Let me get you quiet in the back of  
2 the auditorium so this gentleman can be heard, the reporter  
3 can hear the question and the speaker can respond. A little  
4 quieter in the back of the auditorium, please.

5 Go ahead, sir. Put your question.

6 MR. KAMINS: Okay.

7 In a simple situation -- 9th Street Northwest --  
8 18 people getting mugged. When you query the computer, you  
9 get three reports of muggings and that's it -- for any number  
10 of reasons and some of us feel, at times, it is discrimination  
11 on the officer's part.

12 The merchants in the area know there is a problem  
13 and report it to the people and the officers; the churches  
14 in the area know there's a problem; they report it to the  
15 officers they deal. The community groups in the area know  
16 it's a problem; they report it to the officers.

17 I dealt with this in the Gay community. The  
18 police department's official reponse is: no report; no  
19 crime wave.

20 How can that be altered?

21 DR. COOKE: I think, again, the question is: are  
22 you required, officer, to report when someone has told you  
23 that --

24 MR. KAMINS: I'm sorry. That was not the question.  
25 The question was: it's a question of enforcement and somehow

1 or other the statistics on which these actions are based  
2 by the police --

3 DR. COOKE: It's not reported. That's your  
4 point. See, all you are saying is: the officer is not  
5 reporting the muggings that have been reported to him and,  
6 therefore, the statistics are not going to show it.

7 MR. KAMINS: Okay. In addition, you have a very  
8 real situation in certain -- shall we say? -- deprived  
9 communities or oppressed communities where they are afraid  
10 to report crimes where the crimes as are reported by mer-  
11 chants but not by particular victims and, in those cases  
12 where these people have legitimate fears or not, you may  
13 have a crime wave by -- without report from the victim. Will  
14 the department respond to the reports of the merchants,  
15 the church groups and the community?

16 DR. COOKE: You want an answer to that and we'll  
17 turn to another question, Officer Medlock?

18 OFFICER MEDLOCK: It is the police officer's  
19 responsibility to report each crime as reported to him and  
20 those crimes that don't need the approval of the complainant  
21 for prosecution -- they are also to be reported. Each time  
22 an officer reports to a run, he has to give a disposition  
23 of that run as to what is happening.

24 All this information is recorded and he's given  
25 a complaint number and it is kept on tape.

1           Now, in the instances where things that happen  
2 don't meet the criteria of a crime, then, they are often  
3 not reported.

4           Now, if an individual person feels that it  
5 should be, that person should take the responsibility of  
6 seeing someone in higher authority to make sure that this  
7 is being done.

8           MR. KAMINS: Okay, thank you.

9           DR. COOKE: Another question.

10           MR. HAHN: My name is Albert Hahn and I'm a  
11 member of the Chiefs' Advisory Council. I just heard about  
12 this meeting tonight from my director, Miss Terry Thornhill  
13 and I'm also Chairman of the Board of an LEAA-sponsored  
14 program that deals in crime prevention that is known as  
15 the Sixth District Citizens' Crime Prevention Project,  
16 Incorporated.

17           Now, my reason for appearing before you is that  
18 I know, in Officer Medlock's case, that she cannot answer  
19 all these questions because -- for the simple reason that I  
20 have been involved with the Chiefs' Advisory Council since  
21 the year of its beginning in 1970 when they drew up the  
22 police-citizens' advisory council structure.

23           Within that structure, all of the things that  
24 we are asking Officer Medlock that are a part of Council  
25 action -- all these councils are set up in the seven police

1 districts. There are seven police districts. There were  
2 not seven at first. There were only six at first. And I  
3 was Chairman of the district that they split -- which was  
4 the sixth district and they made the seventh district, which  
5 is Anacostia.

6 But, within that advisory council, they have all  
7 of the definites. Whenever there is a complaint against  
8 the police officer -- when a citizen has a complaint against  
9 a police officer -- when a citizen feels that in any way  
10 they have been mistreated, those advisory council officers  
11 who are elected by the citizens within the Northeast Dis-  
12 trict -- they can start all the proceedings that is  
13 necessary to bring about a corrective action.

14 I just hope that any future conference that the  
15 police department would be a part of the police-community  
16 relationship. They certainly should not overlook these  
17 advisory councils because they are the ones that are the  
18 watchdog over the police in regards to their treatment in  
19 regards to the misconduct of the police officer -- whether  
20 it's against another officer or whether it's against a  
21 civilian.

22 Now, these are the things I think Officer Medlock  
23 has been talking about -- how the enforcement is made by the  
24 police officer. You know, you are doing your job.

25 I say to all of you, including the police: go to

1 your police advisory council. That's the way we go.

2 DR. COOKE: Thank you, Mr. Hahn.

3 Is there a final question? We'd like to end  
4 this workshop and turn to another one.

5 (No response.)

6 DR. COOKE: If there is no question, thank you  
7 very much. Shall we close out this workshop.

8 MR. HAMPTON: My name is Ronald Hampton and my  
9 question is: when it comes down to enforcement of certain  
10 types of crimes, are the police to mark certain crimes down  
11 and certain crimes, say, like drug traffic on 14th Street,  
12 do you feel that we don't play a whole mess of games of  
13 enforcing or trying to get rid of the type of crime that  
14 exists in that area -- more of a containment type of game  
15 -- keeping it in the area where we know where it's at, but  
16 you want to go find it?

17 OFFICER MEDLOCK: Personally, I feel it's more of  
18 a containment game because everybody knows that making a  
19 drug case at 14th Street is the hardest thing in the world  
20 to do so they are reduced to writing tickets for jaywalking  
21 or spitting or throwing trash, which isn't really what the  
22 problem is.

23 DR. COOKE: Does that answer your question?

24 MR. HAMPTON: Yes, sir, thank you.

25 DR. COOKE: All right. Thank you very much,

1 Officer and thank you for this workshop.

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. DARDEN: Thank you, Dr. Cooke.

4 We have two other areas that we'd like to cover  
5 tonight. The next one is the role of the Police -- the  
6 advisory committee moderator will be Miss Helen Fugh Hays.

7 MS. JORDAN: I wonder if it would be possible, due  
8 to the lateness of the hour, to combine these two panels so  
9 that they resource person who is on the Youth panel here  
10 would also be involved and could talk about that.

11 MS. HAYS: We could run the two together? That  
12 would be wonderful, because we are running short of time.

13 First of all, let me introduce the resource per-  
14 son in the Role of the Police, Melvin Boozer, Professor  
15 of Sociology and then Father Joaquin Bazin, Shrine of the  
16 Sacred Heart; Lt Charles Bason -- he is not here; Adjoa  
17 Burrow, D. C. Alliance Against Racism and Political  
18 Repression.

19 The purpose of this workshop -- the Role of the  
20 Police is to examine the role of the police in the community  
21 in law enforcement and other police activities in the  
22 communities.

23 As presented by both members of the community  
24 and the police --

25 MR. DARDEN: If you are interested in combining

1 them, then I will also bring on the moderator for the  
2 Youth and Police workshop, the moderator of the Commission,  
3 Ruth Jordan.

4 MS. JORDAN: I would just like to invite the  
5 other resource people and combine the two aspects together  
6 -- the impact on the youth community and I would introduce  
7 Lt. Douglas from the 1st District Youth Services and  
8 Mr. Carver Leach, who is the director of the Roving Leader  
9 Program which is part of the D. C. Department of Recreation.

10 Would you come up, please?

11 I'm sorry -- and Audrey Winston -- Officer Audrey  
12 Winston -- she may have stepped out.

13 Helen, I turn it back over to you.

14 PROF. BOOZER: I'll make a very brief statement.  
15 I am the President of the Gay Activist Alliance. First of  
16 all, I want to express my gratitude for being asked to say  
17 anything at all because I gather that my presence here today  
18 is a minimum -- that is, the federal Civil Rights Commission  
19 is not mandated to protect the civil rights of gay people.  
20 Only in the City of Washington locally are there laws which  
21 protect the rights of gay people and there are people sitting  
22 here now looking at me thinking I perhaps come from Mars  
23 and wondering why I am standing here and wondering what I  
24 have to do with anything that's going on.

25 I want to clear up a very simple problem. We do

1 not need any special treatment from the police. Our  
2 problem is that we get lots of special treatment from  
3 the police and that's what we're trying to get rid of.  
4 Somehow, some police officers, when they begin to think  
5 that we are gay, are -- somehow, they cannot relate to  
6 us the way they relate to other people and that's because,  
7 when they come to the police department and put on uniforms,  
8 they don't stop having the attitudes that people in the  
9 society have.

10 There are people who use words that are not  
11 used in front of me but, as soon as they walk out of this  
12 room, they say "this faggot" said this, that and the other  
13 thing. They don't stop having these attitudes when they  
14 put the uniforms on.

15 So we know, in the gay community, that one of the  
16 things that affects the policemen's role is this concept  
17 of who the citizens are and what his role is toward them  
18 in the sense of how he is trained.

19 Policemen are not adequately trained in the sense  
20 of understanding the gay people as being just people because  
21 those attitudes are very often unaffected and, when we  
22 approach them on the streets, we sometimes have too much  
23 police service.

24 They want to do more for us than we want, or they  
25 don't want to do things when we need them. The solution, I



1 think, lies not in simply training because someone made  
2 the statement that the police officers enforce the laws of  
3 the community.

4           That's not true. Police officers enforce the laws  
5 the police department wants enforced, those laws that the  
6 political climate dictates be enforced and we understand we  
7 don't get any action out of the police department until we  
8 go to the Mayor. They understand, then. That's all they  
9 understand.

10           I must say, before I stop talking, I am very  
11 grateful that there are police officers like Officer Hampton.  
12 I hope he keeps his job because, if there were more like  
13 him, I wouldn't be standing here saying these things. I  
14 hope he makes a career of the police department. I hope  
15 it's possible for a person like that to have a career.

16           So the final thing I want to say is: I think  
17 the police problems as we experience them -- now, we are  
18 just standing in line like every other group in the country  
19 has had to stand in lines.

20           The Constitution got written because the people  
21 who wrote the Constitution didn't understand they applied  
22 to all the people they were talking about. They wrote it  
23 but they didn't quite see it, and we are just saying that  
24 we are one of those people, too; that we have the same rights  
25 that everybody else has and we come and we talk and we have

1 to keep doing that until people realize we aren't going  
2 anywhere.

3           Second, I want to promise you one thing -- that  
4 the people who sponsored this program tonight -- the time  
5 will come, and I think it will come in my time where the  
6 law will be amended and it will include sexual orientation  
7 because we have suffered the same problems as women and  
8 Blacks and all other minorities have suffered in the past,  
9 so I think the solution to the problem is political  
10 activism.

11           I think we have to press upon the City Council  
12 and upon the elected officials to get action out of the  
13 police department because I think civil authority is  
14 supreme.

15           Now, we are reaching, I think, in this City and  
16 across the country where police officers at particular  
17 levels at particular levels begin to think that they are  
18 not amenable to civil processes and that is a very dangerous  
19 thing.

20           (Applause:)

21           MS. HAYS: Well, let me just throw out a couple  
22 of questions.

23           What are the responsibilities in dealing with  
24 the police in reporting crimes in serving as witnesses,  
25 jurors, what-not, and what is the effect of community

1 perception and demands in defining the role of the  
2 police?

3 MR. BURROW: My name is Adjoa Burrow and I'm  
4 representing, tonight, the D. C. Alliance Against Racism  
5 and Political Repression. The D. C. Alliance feels that  
6 the role of the police in any community is to be responsive  
7 to the needs of the citizens.

8 The police are the servants of the people. Many  
9 times, in our society, in fact, it is not even many times,  
10 but usually -- the police, as a body, controls the citizens  
11 as opposed to --

12 (Disorder in the audience.)

13 MR. BURROW: What happens in most of our  
14 communities in the United States, if not all of our  
15 communities, is that the police are defining the role of  
16 the citizen as opposed to the citizen defining the role of  
17 the police.

18 We, in the D. C. Alliance are opposed to that.  
19 We feel that the citizen should be the one to define what  
20 it is that the police should do and what are the things that  
21 the police should be responsive to.

22 In that regard, there is kind of an overlap  
23 between this workshop and one of the previous workshops  
24 that dealt with the accountability of the police to the  
25 citizens.

1 We, in the D. C. Area Alliance, do support  
2 citizen review boards, but we support citizen review boards  
3 where the citizens actually have some authority. One of  
4 the problems that we have found in citizen review boards,  
5 across the country, is that review boards do one thing:  
6 they recommend to the same authority that we are criticizing.  
7 They recommend to the police chief.

8 We feel that the citizen review board should have  
9 some authority, some final say in decisions, as opposed to  
10 again dealing with that body that we are all saying has  
11 not been responsive to the needs of the citizens.

12 Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. HAYS: Father, would you like to comment  
15 on this?

16 FATHER BAZIN: I think that the officer who  
17 spoke earlier gave, I think, what would be the ideal in  
18 terms of police enforcement. The problem that we have is  
19 that, in the perception of many individuals, there was a  
20 study done by the Urban League, SOS '78 or '79 -- I forget  
21 which -- which was a repeat of a study that had been made  
22 a couple of years before.

23 It was surprising that, in a study of such a  
24 large number of individuals -- high percentages of indiv-  
25 iduals that lived in this section in my parrish -- that

1 faced crime against their person.

2 And it especially affected -- I was noticing --  
3 the elderly and the helpless and, over and over again, the  
4 question comes in: how do we get more protection? A sur-  
5 vey was taken and they found out that what the people  
6 wanted was more protection.

7 In 1970, I took a survey which -- apparently,  
8 that was the year for taking a lot of surveys -- '70 and  
9 '71 -- and one of the things that surprised me was the  
10 need that the large percentage -- the feeling that they  
11 wanted more police protection.

12 And I -- the kind of growing up I had -- I always  
13 wondered about that, you know -- just really what they  
14 wanted. And today on 14th Street -- 14th and Irving are  
15 a number of really fine officers -- Officer Sylvester,  
16 Officer Moss -- others who work in and out of there in terms  
17 of just walking the street.

18 Individuals -- officers like that, despite all  
19 the problems that do exist, make a very real difference.  
20 How one enforces the crime that one actually sees when you  
21 walk around that section -- you know where the drugs are  
22 being picked up -- the kids know.

23 You can pinpoint the time. The question that  
24 always comes to my mind is: why is it so difficult to  
25 make a drug bust? Does this mean the laws are wrong or

1 does this mean we have decided that, in certain sections  
2 or on certain streets -- that we will, for containment  
3 purposes, allow it there so it doesn't spread anywhere  
4 else?

5 Well, that's fine if you live somewhere else,  
6 but I don't live somewhere else. I live there, where it's  
7 happening. The back of our alley: a man was shot to  
8 death.

9 The side of the church, another person was shot.  
10 He didn't die.

11 Across the street, a man was knifed. A rape  
12 occurs between the church and the rectory. A rape on  
13 the other side. And that was one week last year, just  
14 about this time of the year.

15 That was the worst week we had had, but the  
16 whole question then comes: how do we get -- the problem  
17 that most people have is: how do we get about getting  
18 more people to enforce the crime against the person and  
19 not have to deal with the individual in terms of spitting  
20 or throwing trash because that's what they seem to be pro-  
21 ducing.

22 And they had a big roundup -- and Bob King men-  
23 tioned that -- and this is a big problem we are facing in  
24 our community.

25 Thank you very much.

1 MS. JORDAN: It's really appropriate to include  
2 Youth under there and I would like to ask the two speakers,  
3 if they would, to address themselves to the kind of com-  
4 plaints we get at the Advisory Committee by young people  
5 -- particularly young, black males who say they are the  
6 targets of special practices by the police -- that they  
7 are "scare arrests" for crimes that don't really exist,  
8 but just to throw a scare into them, they are being dragged  
9 to the station.

10 We get complaints not only -- you'll be  
11 interested in knowing -- from poor neighborhoods, but from  
12 Ward 3 -- from kids who say that, if they look a certain  
13 way or if they dress a certain way, their parties are sub-  
14 ject to a certain kind of law enforcement that other parties  
15 are not subject to.

16 Children who say, if they are even on school  
17 assignment during the day, wandering, using public trans-  
18 portation, evidence of being on school assignment -- that  
19 they are treated differently than adults are being treated  
20 and that children who dress a certain way or look a certain  
21 way or behave a certain way get a certain kind of attention  
22 and I wonder if both in the Youth program and in the Police  
23 program with youth -- whether you address these problems,  
24 whether you have conversations with them.

25 Mr. Leach, would you please come up?

1 MR. LEACH: I'm just going to say three basic  
2 things. One is the lack of communication. Two is the lack  
3 of training on both parts. And, three, it's a lack of  
4 trust.

5 I'm not going to get into a long speel but what  
6 I would like to have you do right now is give me four  
7 minutes -- just four minutes.

8 I'd like everybody to stand up and get themselves  
9 a partner. Just stand up now. Get a partner right quick.

10 Now, what I would like you to do -- does everyone  
11 have a partner?

12 PROF. BOOZER: I don't.

13 MR. LEACH: You got me, chief.

14 I want you to look at your partner's feet. Do  
15 not smile. I want you to introduce yourself. Okay. But  
16 do not smile.

17 (Audience complying.)

18 MR. LEACH: All right. This time, I want you  
19 to look at your partner's waist and shake your partner's  
20 hand, but don't do it in a firm shake but just a loose  
21 shake.

22 (Audience complying.)

23 MR. LEACH: This time, I want you to look at  
24 your partner's eyes. Look him directly in the eyes but,  
25 as you introduce yourselves, I want you to act as if your



1 lover or your favorite person came to the door and you'd  
2 rather be with them than this person here. Do that.

3 (Audience complying.)

4 MR. LEACH: This time, I want you to look at  
5 your partner; I want you to shake his hand; I want you to  
6 look directly in his eyes or her eyes; I want you to start  
7 talking about the weather or whatever, but I want you to  
8 really keep that contact going. Go ahead.

9 (Audience complying.)

10 MR. LEACH: This time -- thank you. This time,  
11 I want you to be acting like you're walking down the  
12 street and you haven't seen this person in ten years. I  
13 want you to greet him -- go ahead -- or her.

14 (Audience complying.)

15 MR. LEACH: All right, now, turn around back-to-  
16 back. One person be "A"; the other person be "B".

17 Okay, you picked "A" and "B". Now, this time, I  
18 want you to talk for 15 seconds -- "A's"; "B's", you cannot  
19 answer. You cannot answer. And, then, I'm going to say:  
20 change, and then the "B's" will do it. Okay, go.

21 (Audience complying.)

22 MR. LEACH: All right. Stop.

23 That was only for 15 seconds. "B's" go.

24 (Audience complying.)

25 MR. LEACH: All right. Both of you turn around,

1 face-to-face and, at the same time -- at the same time,  
2 both of you talk to each other.

3 (Audience complying.)

4 MR. LEACH: All right, you may sit down.

5 Okay, let's go through the first process that we  
6 went through. The first process that we went through is  
7 communication. Several things happened. If you notice,  
8 the room came alive.

9 The room came alive when we started talking about  
10 it and shaking each other's hand and looking in people's  
11 eyes.

12 One thing in communication, as far as the police  
13 and youth are concerned, the youth are grit on you -- you  
14 know, everybody knows what "grit" is on you. They would  
15 "grit" if they feel you are doing them wrong. So what  
16 happens to a police officer many times is, when they "grit"  
17 with those guys, they've got to let them know they are in  
18 charge, the same way Mama does or Daddy does or your friend  
19 does.

20 And, when he has a pistol on his hip and the  
21 kid "grits", he's going to let him know: looky, if you  
22 don't do right, you're going to get it up, side your head.  
23 So the kid says: I don't give a damn; hit me up side my  
24 head and go on and do what you want to do.

25 What we have to start doing is getting more

1 sensitivity about what's going down -- letting that youth  
2 know that he does have something going -- also, getting  
3 to know that person a little bit more.

4           Now, the thing that we did before, at the end,  
5 was -- I said: act as though you hadn't met this person  
6 in ten years. Some people pushed away; some people shook  
7 hands; some people hugged.

8           Touch means a whole lot to me and these youth.  
9 And, whether you realize it or not, police officers are  
10 just as sensitive to wanting people to like them as youth  
11 are sensitive to wanting to be liked.

12           And what happens is that the image that maybe  
13 youth have is that the police officer has a gun and doesn't  
14 smile and doesn't give a damn, the officer, many times,  
15 believing because he is in a certain neighborhood in the  
16 area that he's got to carry an image.

17           What we have to do is -- people in this work --  
18 is to bring both of them together; to let the youth know  
19 he has a process he can go through.

20           The last exercise we went through -- we're back-  
21 to-back. We only talked for 15 seconds. Many people  
22 couldn't even find anything to say in 15 seconds but I  
23 notice that people who aren't even supposed to be talking  
24 find a lot to say.

25           When I had you turn around and face each other

1 and talk face-to-face, everybody found it very difficult  
2 to talk while another person was talking because they  
3 couldn't listen, but you've been doing it right in and  
4 out.

5 I'm not going to make a big thing about it, but  
6 what I'm saying is: we've got to listen; we've got to have  
7 trust and we've got to communicate.

8 Thank you very much.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. JORDAN: Now, you know why the Roving Leader  
11 Program is one of the best programs. Officer Leach is a  
12 tough act to follow.

13 OFFICER DOUGLAS: I'm Officer Fred Douglas, the  
14 First District Youth Services, and, first of all, I'd like  
15 to thank Mr. Leach because I think everything that every-  
16 body has been trying to say here tonight -- he did it in  
17 about five minutes -- what we were all trying to get  
18 around and talk about -- community relations, citizens  
19 relationship and those two relationships together -- the  
20 police and the community.

21 I work strictly with juveniles. I've been working  
22 with First District Youth Services now for five years and I  
23 have ten years on the police force.

24 What Ms. Jordan was talking about earlier in  
25 reference to the children being brought in -- that is

1 harrassment. I see it every day.

2           There's a lot of things that we try to do. Let's  
3 get back to Mr. Leach for a second. You talk about the gun  
4 on your hip when you are trying to talk to these juveniles.  
5 Well, in our office, we don't wear guns. When we deal with  
6 juveniles, that's the first thing we take off as soon as  
7 we --

8           Well, let me give you a little background as to  
9 what we do -- First District Youth Services or any youth  
10 services office in the precinct. We are basically there to  
11 process juvenile arrests. That's our number one aspect. We  
12 try to process all arrests that come into the precinct.

13           Number two: we are the old-fashioned truency  
14 officer when school is in session. We do a little of that.  
15 Basically, whenever a juvenile comes in contact with the  
16 police, we somehow get on the scene and try to evaluate  
17 and make a determination of whether John goes to court or  
18 we can do some kind of paperwork at the precinct that might  
19 curtail that.

20           Most of the time, if it's not a serious crime  
21 and is a misdemeanor and it's the child's first time, we  
22 release him to his parent with a warning and hope that it  
23 won't happen again -- that it's enough.

24           There's a lot of things I could tell you, but we  
25 do so many things. Maybe the best thing for me to do is

1 to allow you to ask me more questions in reference to  
2 juveniles and how they are processed.

3 Does anyone have any questions?

4 MR. DARDEN: I have a general question. You might  
5 not be able to answer it. Do you think that the number of  
6 juveniles involved in violent crimes has increased, you  
7 know, recently and, if so, do you see that as a direct  
8 result of the conomic crisis that we are all in?

9 OFFICER DOUGLAS: As far as --

10 MR. LEACH: Repeat the question.

11 OFFICER DOUGLAS: The young man's question is:  
12 have I noticed that there has been an increase in violent  
13 crimes and, if so, would be possibly be due to the fact of  
14 the economic situation that most people are in now?

15 There has been an increase in violent crimes in  
16 juvenile statistics. A lot of times, you can't always go  
17 by statistics because, in what we are talking about earlier,  
18 some statistics on some cases aren't reported but, from my  
19 own knowledge of the First District -- which is the only  
20 real statistics I can give you, there has been an increase.  
21 The biggest increase is mainly in larceny -- shoplifting  
22 or breaking into cars and burglaries. There has been a  
23 very big increase in burglaries.

24 In fact, there -- well, in the First District --  
25 I'm going to use that as a general concensus that it's all

1 in the D. C. area.

2 MR. DARDEN: Okay. When I say "violent crimes",  
3 I mean doing harm to another person. I guess what I'm  
4 trying to get at is whether the youth today have a shorter  
5 fuse, in other words, and are more likely to, you know,  
6 hurt you if you confront them in the street in any kind  
7 of situation.

8 OFFICER DOUGLAS: Okay. Violent crimes are  
9 basically robberies and crimes that have victims, so you  
10 are talking about robberies and assaults. Any time somebody  
11 is going to get hurt. So, yes, there have been.

12 If you refer to your packages, in the part of the  
13 format in there, you'll see some of the statistics on  
14 crime and the breakdown as far as juveniles and you can see  
15 where it has risen very highly.

16 FATHER BAZIN: Officer, actually, it has increased  
17 to this point. You can make a living predicting where  
18 crime will go down by just seeing the age index. Do you  
19 know what the age index is going to be; just follow the  
20 trend.

21 You can predict a crime decrease or a crime  
22 increase -- very, very carefully -- very easily, rather.

23 MS. BLACKWELL: I have a recommendation when it  
24 comes to children. I have a recommendation now and I hope  
25 somebody will listen and put it into effect. I have had

1 occasions where nine-year-old children -- 10, 11 and 12 --  
2 who have opened the pocketbook and everything -- and here is  
3 what I would recommend -- that the citizens -- victims  
4 whose pocketbook was stolen -- whatever the amount of  
5 money that he took, he should be made to work after  
6 school or in the morning -- even Saturdays and Sundays -- to  
7 pay for that money that he got in his hot little hand. What  
8 do you think?

9 OFFICER DOUGLAS: Well, that's a good idea but,  
10 you see, that comes under the court systems and, right  
11 now, there aren't too many courts that believe in restitu-  
12 tion.

13 Normally, if a crime is committed --

14 MS. BLACKWELL: But, even this panel here --  
15 couldn't it make that kind of a recommendation?

16 OFFICER DOUGLAS: Okay, then, probably what you  
17 would have to do is go to the City Council.

18 MS. BLACKWELL: Oh-h-h-h!

19 MS. GALIBER: I just want to say there are  
20 restitution programs being implemented in the City. Inner  
21 Voices has a restitution program and I think it is being  
22 picked up by the courts and it's an excellent idea and this  
23 would be an excellent recommendation and it is definitely  
24 a good idea.

25 MR. STEINBACHER: My name is Dave Steinbacher and



1 I'm from Virginia.

2 I just wanted to know: are the school systems  
3 making your job easier or tougher? I mean: do you feel  
4 that the schools are showing the kids how to get jobs and  
5 keep them off the streets and showing them how to increase  
6 their self-worth and their self-concept and this type of  
7 thing and is there any statistics showing that, in the  
8 summertime, there's more crime than during the school year  
9 and weekends -- more than during the week, and this type of  
10 thing? Are the schools, you know, helping?

11 OFFICER DOUGLAS: Okay, the first part of your  
12 question -- it's kind of hard to say what schools -- some  
13 schools, yes, they do have good programs for the juveniles  
14 and, as far as crime going up in the summertime, it does,  
15 because there are more juveniles out of school. They don't  
16 have anything to do; there aren't too many recreation pro-  
17 grams and the ones that we do have are over-crowded, so that  
18 they do get into more crime.

19 A lot of time, it's peer contact -- a group --  
20 kids hanging in one group and they decide they want to do  
21 something. It's more mischievous, playfulness that some-  
22 times turns into crimes.

23 MS. JORDAN: Let me remind you there were two  
24 panels here, so, if people have questions of both, just to  
25 speed it up --

1 MR. LOUDERBAUGH: I'm Thomas Louderbaugh,  
2 former Police Awareness Alliance of the Gay Activist  
3 Alliance. I'm sorry to report this but, in all my  
4 experience, in most cases, if we look upon the police  
5 officer as an enemy, I've had a number of gay people tell  
6 me: if they were mugged, if they were robbed -- whatever,  
7 they would not report the crime to a police officer. They  
8 considered the treatment they would get from the police  
9 officer would be probably even worse than they got from the  
10 criminal and it's better to just write it off as a bad loss.  
11 I tried to explain to these people that that is not a good  
12 approach; that, in fact, police officers, by and large,  
13 will be helpful, courteous, kind and useful. They refuse  
14 to believe it.

15 In fact, the only source that they will believe  
16 is the police department itself. We, in the Gay Activist  
17 Alliance, have attempted for approximately two years now  
18 to convince the police chief in Washington, D. C. to issue  
19 a public anti-discrimination statement for us as he has for  
20 other groups.

21 He will not do so and my question, therefore, to  
22 the panel, or to the police officer, is: how can we  
23 communicate to gay people that they are full citizens; that  
24 the police department will treat them as full citizens if  
25 we cannot get such a statement from the Chief of Police; if

1 we cannot get the word out through the regular general  
2 media?

3 If the Washington Post won't print it, as far  
4 as most people are concerned, it is not true. That leaves  
5 us with the problem that exists and the question: how do  
6 we solve it?

7 PROF. BOOZER: I can't really answer the question.  
8 It's one I'd like to ask, perhaps. I would like to make a  
9 comment, however. There is already ample precedent in  
10 which the police officers have made statements on behalf  
11 of minority groups.

12 A most recent example is the statement by the  
13 police chief on behalf of aliens in which he stated -- in  
14 which he made it crystal clear that he wanted police  
15 officers to treat aliens like other people because they  
16 were police officers and they still are police officers  
17 and, when they come across somebody who is not a citizen  
18 and doesn't speak the language well, and he gets treated  
19 pretty poorly -- somehow, the police chief doesn't under-  
20 stand that there are police officers who deal with gay  
21 people in exactly the same way.

22 Somehow, the police chief doesn't believe that  
23 what he does with one group he has to do for another and,  
24 somehow, it always gets brought back to us that we are  
25 asking for special treatment.

1           So there is a clear lack of communication there  
2 but I am sure what you do about it. We have sat in  
3 meetings with the police chief, with lots of people; we  
4 have sat in meetings with few people; we have tried every-  
5 thing except sign language, but nothing seems to work.

6           MR. BAINES: My name is Dave Baines from RAP,  
7 Incorporated. I would like to ask Officer Douglas a ques-  
8 tion because, you know, one of the major problems that I  
9 see happening in the city revolves around the drug abuse  
10 for a lot of the young people here in Washington and I'm  
11 sure that it applies across the country.

12           But, speaking just here in Washington, I think  
13 that the abuse at this point is getting atrocious. It's  
14 not always heroin, but the level of marijuana smoked on  
15 buses and you walk down the street, and anywhere you go --  
16 our program attended something at Anacostia Park -- which  
17 there were thousands of young people there -- I mean you  
18 could hardly go and mix with anybody that wasn't smoking  
19 marijuana in some form.

20           But I guess what frightens me -- the question I  
21 want to ask you about is, as it relates to this Angel  
22 Dust that is now being smoked by the young people, because  
23 I don't think they are at all aware of the frightening  
24 kind of results that this drug can have on people and I  
25 know quite a few instances at St. Elizabeth's Hospital where

1 cases are coming in and being diagnosed as schizophrenia  
2 or something, or some type of neurosis which the young  
3 people have actually smoked this chemical.

4 Presently, we have a small segment of youth that  
5 come into our facility at RAP and, more and more frequently,  
6 we come into contact with young persons who have become  
7 mentally disoriented through the use of this particular  
8 drug.

9 So my question to you is: how does your office  
10 see this problem and what, if anything, are you attempting  
11 to do about it?

12 OFFICER DOUGLAS: Okay. As far as our office,  
13 we really don't get involved on too many drug cases, okay?  
14 The normal procedure is not the treatment; it's the con-  
15 viction.

16 What should be done is that these children should  
17 be made more aware through the school system, if possible.  
18 Right now, the way things are going with the police depart-  
19 ment, it's hard. We don't have the manpower. I'm not  
20 trying to take up for the police department by any means,  
21 but you have to see the point that they don't have the  
22 manpower and the capabilities to get out here and go around  
23 and just have open seminars or have movies and films. They  
24 try to. They have an Officer Friendly program that tries  
25 to get involved in it at times, but they can only do so much.

1           Now, where I come in at Youth Services, if a  
2 child comes in and he's arrested because he has some type  
3 of a marijuana or Angel Dust or some kind of amphetimine  
4 in his possession, that's when I come in.

5           And what I try to do then is either get him into  
6 some kind of drug program or we try to -- we have different  
7 ways and means we try to do other than try to go right  
8 through the court system.

9           It's a little more involved. It's not the program  
10 that it should be but, right now, the police department  
11 doesn't have a great drug abuse program.

12           MR. LEACH: I'd like to make a comment on that.  
13 It's even deeper than that. They have heroin that you can  
14 smoke and, as you can imagine, some of these youth are  
15 getting hooked on that.

16           That's going to be something else. They have to  
17 live by the tracks and all that kind of stuff now. The  
18 only thing I can say is that, usually, in groups, every-  
19 body tries to say what somebody else isn't doing. The only  
20 way we can deal with this is that we have to support each  
21 other.

22           We have to support the police in their efforts.  
23 We have to support the schools in their efforts. We have  
24 to support all those agencies that are trying to help and  
25 work with the youth.

1 I'm going to be calling on you because you've  
2 been through the system, and I want to bring some of those  
3 youths that know it all -- that say: I'm not going to get  
4 that way, so you can say: Hey, I've been that way. And  
5 you can rap to them.

6 It's just like a parent. Many times, as parents,  
7 sometimes, we can't say anything to our own youth. In  
8 fact, sometimes, you want to bust them in the head, but  
9 that's not the way to deal with it.

10 What you might have to do -- it might be a cousin  
11 or a brother or somebody else that might be able to say  
12 something to them to get them off of it but what we have to  
13 do right now is to realize that any particular agency  
14 doesn't have all the answers, admit we don't have all the  
15 answers and ask for help.

16 MS. JORDAN: I want to thank all the panelists  
17 and everybody who stayed to the end.

18 The record that has been assembled here will  
19 be studied and discussed by the Advisory Commission and we  
20 will -- I think, from this, what we know is that we have to  
21 do more work in this area.

22 And I think what we will also do is report back  
23 to the full Commission, the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights,  
24 with the information because, as we know by what is happening  
25 in Florida, the relationships between the police and the

1 community are vital to all of our well-being.

2 So we are going to go over the record that is  
3 being made here tonight carefully and study what you have  
4 all said here tonight.

5 I want to thank you for coming and for your  
6 patience and for your participation.

7 Goodnight.

8 (Whereupon, the meeting was concluded at  
9 10:25 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the attached proceedings in the aforecaptioned matter were held on May 19, 1980 and that this is a true and accurate record thereof and that this is the original transcript thereof.

  
NEAL R. GROSS

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