

one is too old or too wise to learn and to benefit from what has been learned. In the case of police relations with the public this adage is all too true. Good public relations is essential to the police department and the training of police officers in this element of police work.

Perhaps the most serious complaint in connection with public relations is the alleged prejudice shown toward certain minority groups. In the training program great emphasis is placed on the obligation of the police to perform their duties with strict impartiality and without regard to race, creed, or nationality. The importance of this regulation cannot be overemphasized, but complaints have come to the attention of this committee that at times it is disregarded. The committee urges constant attention to this problem and it commends the department for its training efforts and encourages it to expand and improve upon the program whenever possible.

(2) The integration of working teams in the department has also improved the public's view of the police department. Whereas prior to integration, the feeling was often expressed that segregation encouraged biased treatment of citizens; it is now said that the department, by practicing integration, has set an example which encourages impartial enforcement of the law.

(3) In the past, the youth bureau has made numerous contacts with youth in schools, outlining laws applicable to youth and seeking the cooperation of the student body in the enforcement of these laws. Assignment of youth bureau officers to meet with students in classes at individual schools, participation in school assembly programs, and formation of the Police-Youth Student Council are examples of this continuing work. Such contact with youth is important not only to curb juvenile crime, but to help create a positive image of the police which may endure throughout an individual's lifetime.

The youth bureau also meets with youth gangs which are causing trouble in the community. The tone of the meetings is friendly, but firm. Youth officers point out the consequences of continued antisocial behavior and discuss alternative constructive activities in which youth may participate. If it seems advisable, youth officers seek cooperation and help from the Neighborhood Service Organization which has group workers available to work with the gang mental and to plan constructive activities. This program has not only been instrumental in diverting gangs from disruptive and criminal behavior, but has helped create good will between future citizens and the police department.

(4) Provision is made for the department and the commissioner to present civilian awards to individuals or groups who have cooperated with the police in the apprehension of criminals, aided in the solution of crime or in some other way served the department and the community. These awards are useful in informing the community of the extent to which the police are dependent upon and appreciative of cooperation from the public. Similarly, the awards presented to policemen and policewomen for notably courageous actions focus the public's attention on the proper image of an officer and the police department.

Chairman HANNAH. Mr. Tiffany, will you call the next witness?

Mr. TIFFANY. The next witness will be Jesse Ray, retired disabled officer of the Detroit Police Department.

Vice Chairman STOREY. Mr. Ray, will you hold up your right hand and be sworn?

Do you solemnly swear the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. RAY. I will.

Vice Chairman STOREY. Will you please be seated?

Chairman HANNAH. Mr. Ray, it is my understanding you are here in response to a subpoena issued by this Commission.

We will appreciate it if you would make a statement that you think will be helpful to us in getting the answers that we're seeking. We would hope that you might keep your formal statement within about

10 minutes so there will be an opportunity for the Commission to ask you questions, but you proceed, sir, in your own way.

TESTIMONY OF JESSE RAY, RETIRED OFFICER, DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mr. RAY. Yes, sir. Well, as you know, my name is Jesse Ray. I am a disabled retired police officer from the city of Detroit, appearing before this Commission on Civil Rights to talk mainly about two related things:

First, the brutality to Negroes; and second, law enforcement without brutality.

I might add that I am a little worried about some retaliation by the police department. Just how I don't know, but from past experiences I feel that there will be some.

I am here mainly because I feel there is a real need for help to the people of the city of Detroit who are being discriminated against by the police, and also I want to help make Detroit safe for my children.

Chairman HANNAH. Mr. Tiffany, would you move the microphone nearer so we can hear Mr. Ray a little better?

Mr. RAY. I feel the police department should be an organization where people can go for help, but the average colored citizen in the city of Detroit is a little hesitant to go to the police department for any purpose because of police brutality or because of the racial insults and things that he sees when he goes there. In order to improve this situation, I'm willing to testify just what the conditions are.

On police brutality I claim there is a big problem for Negroes in Detroit. The proof that I have of this comes from a number of different places. I have been told of many cases by other Negro officers in which white policemen beat Negroes for no good reason. I have seen one of these instances in my own work, where a colored fellow was gambling and later the colored fellow hid behind a table. The officer saw him and pulled him out from behind the table and started beating him, and I stepped between them myself and told him I thought he had been beaten enough.

I have been employed in the police department for 13 years. Eight of those years I worked with an all-colored crew, and 4 of those years I was responsible—I was a crew leader and responsible—for my own arrests. So, naturally there was no brutality involved there. The other 4 years in the police force I worked on special assignments that didn't require making arrests. And, in addition to this, I am in a strange situation here. I'm a former police officer, as I have told you, and I don't think anyone can say I have no understanding of the citizens' duty to cooperate with the police department.

I have had some troubles with the police department myself, but I still look upon police work as a proud profession. In fact, I was a

tool and die maker by trade and I took a \$2,500 cut in my yearly earnings to become a police officer.

And I, myself, personally have experienced two assaults by police officers. The facts in both incidents happening to me are very similar to the things that I have learned are happening to other Negro citizens. In both cases there was no reason for the officer to hit me or punish me or to take the law in his own hands. In both cases the attitude of the officers of the department, that is, the superior officers, was to protect the policeman instead of trying to find out actually what happened and prevent future brutality. In both cases the officers claimed that there was some provocation, which there wasn't.

The first incident that occurred to me was in 1955. I went to a house on a routine gambling investigation and knocked at the rear door. As I knocked at the door, the lady turned the lights out. I knocked and remained on the porch for a few minutes and started down the steps. When I got to the last step, the lights were turned on again. I turned to see why and the police officer charged down the steps and proceeded to whip me with his pistol.

I was then taken to the fifth precinct where statements were made, and the sergeant, my sergeant, and the police sergeant at the precinct asked me to cooperate with the organization, that it was an unfortunate thing, but they didn't want any adverse criticism and they would appreciate my cooperation. Being a member of the organization, I agreed to cooperate. At that time I was confined to Receiving Hospital for about 5 days. About a year and a half later some blood clots developed in my eye, I went back to the hospital, and this was diagnosed as a ruptured blood vessel in my eye causing these clots, all resulting from the blow I had received. The doctors told me this was something I would have to learn to live with, which I am trying to do.

But the second—well, March of this last year I was forced to walk a beat, disregarding my injuries or my seniority on the job, and an icicle fell off the building and hit me on the head. At that time the police doctor placed me on the disabled list, carrying me as such until the 25th of June this year, when I was retired on two-thirds disability pay.

The second incident occurred on November 13 of this year. I was stopped by two officers, two white officers, who ordered my car pulled over to the curb. One of the officers snatched my door open, after calling me a name that I really shouldn't use, unless——

Chairman HANNAH. Go ahead.

Mr. RAY. He called me a black son of a bitch and ordered me to the curb. I pulled over to the curb and he opened my door and ordered me out of the car. I got out of my car and told the officers to

take it easy; I had been beaten by them once before. The officer then pushed me against my car and stepped back and reached for his black-jack. When he did this, I pushed him back in an effort to try to explain what I meant. He proceeded to hit me on the head. The other officer, his partner, hit me on the head, and then a third officer came up behind me and choked me, cut my wind off, and the two other officers beat me to the ground, and then took my arms and twisted them around behind me and handcuffed me and put me in the scout car.

While I was in the scout car I asked the officers if they would mind getting my hat out of the street. They had knocked my hat off just before. One of the officers told me to shut my so-and-so mouth, and during this time he hit me in the stomach with his fist.

They then proceeded to take me to the 13th precinct, and after arriving at the 13th precinct the sergeant who was on duty there looked at me and said, "I know you."

I said, "Well, you should. I worked here for better than a year, and if you know me you know that I know something about my rights, and I want to call my attorney."

The sergeant asked me why I wanted an attorney, and he refused to let me call him. I then asked him to let me call my wife. He refused to let me call my wife. Then I asked him to call the weekly duty officer on the police department, and he stepped in front of me and said: "As far as you are concerned, I am your weekly duty officer." At that time I said: "Well, there is no point of me saying anything to you with the attitude you have. You must be trying to condone what these officers are doing or cover up for them."

He told me as far as he was concerned we were all a bunch of pigs, and then there were some racial slurs on me after that, and then they took me to the cell where I remained for about an hour.

After being in the cell for about an hour, I was then taken to the Receiving Hospital, out of the precinct, to have my head—just to check my injuries, in other words, and they would then give me an opportunity to use the telephone. After I got to the hospital and they undressed me, they shackled me to the bed and kept me shackled to the bed until the next morning. The next morning I was able to get word to another police officer to call my attorney. My attorney came over. At about one o'clock they released me, and I remained shackled all that time at the Receiving Hospital.

It's my contention that this sort of treatment is unnecessary and that effective law enforcement is possible without brutality. In my 13 years on the force I have never had to hit a man. Up until my injury, which was about—the original injury—about 5 years ago—I arrested as many as 200 people on a weekend, and some of the people—at times we had a little defiance and belligerence, but I was able to persuade

them, and there was never—in my opinion, there was never any need for this type of brutality.

In my conversations with officers during the time I was on the force I found that many officers feel you have to be rough to be effective. They feel toward the Negro that you have to keep them down or they'll get out of hand. I remember one case in particular. I remember the lieutenant said—it was a course in human rights that they had at the various precincts—in fact, in all the precincts—and one of the officers remonstrated that he would rather write statements than end up in a hospital. I can sympathize with this officer if he is dealing with felons or people who are bad characters, but all people don't have this kind of character. It seems to be the contention of most of the officers that to be effective you must hit first before you get hit.

Well, that's about my story, but I would like to say this in conclusion: I have worked with some very fine white officers—they are both courteous and impartial—but unfortunately they are a minority in the police department.

Chairman HANNAH. Just one question, Mr. Ray: You continue to be a retired police officer; you are not on active duty?

Mr. RAY. No.

Chairman HANNAH. You are retired.

Mr. Vice Chairman.

Vice Chairman STOREY. I notice you work part time as a dental technician. Is that in private employment?

Mr. RAY. Yes; it is.

Vice Chairman STOREY. You work regularly?

Mr. RAY. I work—

Vice Chairman STOREY. Well, I mean regularly so far as you are limited to part time.

Mr. RAY. Yes; I do.

Vice Chairman STOREY. Is that because of physical disability that you work part time?

Mr. RAY. Well, I receive two-thirds of my pay, and the police department of the city—they permit you to earn the difference, which is one-third of your pay, to supplement the two-thirds.

Vice Chairman STOREY. And that is what you do to supplement the two-thirds?

Mr. RAY. Yes.

Vice Chairman STOREY. How many cases of police brutality did you, yourself, personally observe, other than your own?

Mr. RAY. Well, I can only say, in the assignments I testified to, just one.

Vice Chairman STOREY. Just one.

Mr. RAY. But in my assignment I was responsible, as I said—I was actually a crew leader, which is actually a sergeant in reality, and I was responsible for my own prisoners. That was during 8 years of my employment. The other 4 years we had what they call special assignments in the police department, and under those assignments you very seldom have an occasion to arrest a person.

Vice Chairman STOREY. That is all.

Chairman HANNAH. Father Hesburgh.

Commissioner HESBURGH. Mr. Ray, if a citizen feels he has been unjustly treated by a policeman or beaten up, or some other such thing, what is his redress? What does he do?

Mr. RAY. Well, there's very little he can do, frankly, unless he has the money to hire an attorney, which so many people don't have. He might go through a precinct inspector, and if the precinct inspector is a considerate man he might take some action. If not that, he'll take the story and write it up and as soon as the man leaves they will throw it in the basket.

Commissioner HESBURGH. In your experience on the force, do you think there is a general feeling among policemen if they deal poorly with one section of the population that nothing will come of it; there will be no redress? I mean: Are there actually cases on hand where a policeman has been convicted of brutality and something has been done?

Mr. RAY. No. In the police department, yes, I imagine there have been civil suits where there was a fine, and the police department has a fund for this purpose. I couldn't tell you of any case in particular, but I know there have been suits because we have been required to donate for that cause.

Commissioner HESBURGH. I think you will agree—you mentioned in your testimony, although you didn't say it orally—that police work is a dangerous work, and policemen are killed every day—not necessarily in this city, but throughout the country we have cases—

Mr. RAY. That is true.

Commissioner HESBURGH. And I think there is always a temptation in the nature of this work to be brutal if you want to be. I mean it is a temptation every human being faces when he has power and when his organization does its own bookkeeping as far as the responsibility for it.

Mr. RAY. I mentioned—you might call it self-preservation, but I don't think the situation should be provoked by the police officer. I don't feel—a lot of these things could be avoided if the people were approached in the right manner; and, naturally, people resent some of the ways that they're talked to, and then you have higher feelings outside.

Commissioner HESBURGH. One last question: We have listened to such testimony around the country, and I am just curious. Is it your considered judgment, after your years on the force, that police brutality is something that is talked about a great deal and doesn't really exist or do you think it is a real existing thing that happens every day?

Mr. RAY. I would say in Detroit it happens every Saturday night. In fact, that came up when I went to the precinct station, the 13th precinct, that is, and I stated I realized what went on there on a Saturday night, that they seemed to amuse themselves by beating up Negroes, but not to put his hands on me again.

Commissioner HESBURGH. Can you think of any possible redress to this situation?

Mr. RAY. I suppose it depends on a person's financial status. If he can afford to hire an attorney and take it to higher courts, I imagine he could do something about it; but if it is handled by the local authorities it doesn't get very far.

Commissioner HESBURGH. I didn't mean it quite that way for the person. I meant for the whole situation. Do you think some kind of a citizens' committee would be helpful?

Mr. RAY. I feel that both the police officer and the citizen should have some recourse out of the police department, someone who could be impartial and fair in matters.

Commissioner HESBURGH. Thank you.

Chairman HANNAH. Dean Johnson.

Commissioner JOHNSON. You have heard the testimony that has been adduced here suggesting that in the matter of police brutality Negroes are most often the victims of police brutality. Now, in your years of service on the police force, would it be your judgment that police brutality is meted out to Negroes more so than to whites?

Mr. RAY. Yes; definitely. I don't think you would have to take my word for it. If you care to, you can go over to the traffic courts and other courts and see the number of people there and see the police department, see where their efforts are concentrated, and when a Negro demands his rights—then generally he is beaten, and they might say something to him—"Well, you might as well tell the NAACP."

"They are not going to do anything. They make a lot of noise, anyway."

These are not just things I have heard.

I have personally heard that in the station myself.

Commissioner JOHNSON. No further questions.

Chairman HANNAH. Mr. Ray, were you born and raised in Detroit?

Mr. RAY. Yes; I was.

Chairman HANNAH. What is your education?

Mr. RAY. I am a Henry Ford Trade School and Apprentice School graduate as a tool and die maker.

Chairman HANNAH. I would just like to reask a question that has already been asked of you: In some of the cities in which we have taken testimony the statement has been made that the Negroes have not really been singled out for unusual treatment, but that the statement that Father Hesburgh has made was more nearly true, that the people who are economically disadvantaged generally do not receive the same sort of treatment from the police department as economically advantaged people receive, regardless of race. You don't believe that is true?

Mr. RAY. Regardless of race?

Chairman HANNAH. Let me put it another way. Economically disadvantaged white people, people that live in poor communities have little money, and where there is a good deal of misbehavior—are they similarly abused as the Negroes in cases like you have been describing here?

Mr. RAY. No; I don't think so. In fact, I'm sure they aren't. We have a section here in the city—what they call Skid Row on Michigan Avenue, where there are quite a few white fellows, winos, they call them. They merely arrest them, take them to court on Monday morning, but there's no abuse. In fact, sometimes they're even given an opportunity to sleep it off and go out without even going before a judge.

In answering questions, like qualified Negroes, I would estimate—and this I have heard in the station also—that if you stop and search 50 Negroes and you get one good arrest out of it that's a good percentage; it's a good day's work. So, in my opinion, there are 49 Negroes whose rights have been misused, and that goes on every day. That's just about the entire population of Detroit over a period of time.

Chairman HANNAH. Thank you very much, Mr. Ray, and I want to say, in fairness to you and again in fairness to Mr. Muthleb, that both of you are here not because you have volunteered to come, but because you have been subpoenaed by this Commission.

Commissioner HESBURGH. Mr. Chairman, may I make one more statement there?

There was a statement made here about reprisal, and it is certainly within our competence to hear if there would be any such thing, because we don't believe in bringing people before this Commission and leaving them unprotected after they leave us.

Mr. RAY. I certainly appreciate that, sir.

Chairman HANNAH. Before we take a 5-minute recess, I would like to place in the record telegrams that have been received from the two

United States Senators from Michigan, Mr. Hart and Mr. McNamara, and we will put them in the record and we will now recess for seven minutes, until 10 minutes to 3.

The telegrams referred to are as follows:

Dr. JOHN HANNAH,
Chairman, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights,
Care Federal Building, Detroit, Mich.:

Unfortunately commitments in Washington prevent accepting your invitation to appear at the Detroit hearing. The urgency with which civil rights problems should be considered in Michigan is no less than that required in other areas of this Nation. Michigan's government officials at all levels, supported by good State law, will give every support to the efforts of your Commission and I join them in the belief that your hearing will add greatly to the efforts of both government officials and citizens groups in Michigan as they move forward toward complete and immediate equality of opportunity for all our citizens. Congratulations on the contribution already made by your Commission.

PHILIP A. HART,
U.S. Senator.

Dr. JOHN HANNAH,
Chairman, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights,
Care Gordon Tiffany, Sheraton-Cadillac Hotel,
Washington Boulevard, Detroit, Mich.

I want to take this opportunity to express my thanks for the valuable service you are performing in taking testimony about civil rights and equal opportunity. Those of us concerned about these two vital subjects have always known that each area of the Nation is never free from criticism. We, therefore, welcome your efforts and we look forward to the findings and recommendations you will make. We have been impressed by the scrupulously fair and judicious manner in which you have conducted past activities.

I personally want to pledge you my wholehearted cooperation in your undertaking and I know that I speak for the citizens of Michigan when I bid the Commission welcome to our State.

Sincerely,

PAT McNAMARA,
U.S. Senator.

(Thereupon, at 2:43 p.m., a 7-minute recess was taken.)

STATEMENT OF JESSE RAY, RETIRED OFFICER (DISABLED), DETROIT POLICE
DEPARTMENT

I am appearing before the Commission on Civil Rights to talk mainly about two related things. First, police brutality to Negroes. Second, law enforcement without brutality.

To tell the truth I am worried what will happen to me and my family because I am testifying. I don't know what kind of retaliation the police will take. But I'm coming here because I feel that there's a real need for help to people who are beaten and discriminated against by the police and also I want to help make Detroit safe for my children. At least they should be proud to live here and go out on the street to a church dance, for example, after dark. The police should be people to whom you go when you need help. But the average colored person is afraid to even go into a police station because of the stories of police brutality and also the insults they get when they go in the station. In order to improve this bad situation I'm willing to take all the risks and testify.

On police brutality I claim that there is a big problem for Negroes in Detroit. The proof that I have of this comes from a number of different places. I have been told of many cases by other Negro officers in which white policemen beat Negroes for no good reason. I have seen one such case where a white officer beat a man who was hiding under a table during a gambling raid. The officer hit the man, who was not resisting, just to punish him. The reason that I did not see more acts of unjustified beating, as far as I can tell, is that for

8 years I worked with an all-colored crew on the vice squad. During 4 of these years, I was crew leader and responsible for the prisoners taken. During my other 4 years on the force, I worked on special assignments and did not come in contact with prisoners very much.

In addition to this I am in the strange situation of being a former policeman who has twice been subjected to police brutality. I don't think anyone can say that I have no understanding of the citizen's duty to cooperate with law enforcement officers or that I resisted arrest or that I became belligerent. Although I've had some troubles with the Detroit Police Department, I look upon police work as a proud profession. I took about a \$2,500 cut in my pay as a tool and die maker to become a police officer.

The facts in both of the assaults on me were very much like the stories I've heard about other beatings given to Negroes by policemen. In both cases there was no reason for the officers to hit me. They seemed to have the attitude that because they were policemen they had the right to hit me and to punish me and to take the law into their own hands. In both cases the attitude of the superior officers of the department was to protect the policeman and not to try to prevent future brutality or to get the truth of the matter. In both cases the officers claimed some provocation.

The first incident occurred in 1955. At the time, I was a plainclothes patrolman assigned to the vice squad. I had had a complaint about gambling at a certain house. As I said, I was in plainclothes at the time. I went to the back door of this house and was unable to gain admittance. As I went to leave, the lights which had been turned off when I knocked, suddenly went on again. I turned to see why this was so. At this point a white un-uniformed officer came charging down the stairs and hit me with the butt of his gun. The blow struck me on the left forehead. The officer did not say a word to me. He merely attacked me.

There was a struggle and finally my partner came back into the yard and said something like, "You damn fools you just hit a policeman." After that I was taken to the fifth precinct and made out a report on the incident. However, I continued on duty and did not go to the hospital until the end of my shift at 3 in the morning. I was examined there and was confined to the hospital.

I was requested by my sergeant on the vice squad and a sergeant at the fifth precinct not to press any charges on this affair. The reasons given were that they did not want any bad publicity for the police department. Since I was a member of the police organization, they told me that I ought to think of the welfare of the organization. I did not press charges for this reason.

I was confined in the Receiving Hospital for about 5 or 6 days. It was not until a year and a half later that I began to have trouble with my eye. I went back to the hospital again and it was diagnosed as a blood clot in the left eye. The doctor told me that the reason it took so long for the clot to appear was because it had to work its way to the center of the eye before I noticed it. This is a permanent condition and the doctors told me that this is something I must simply learn to live with. Early in March of this year while on duty walking a beat an icicle fell on me from a roof and hit me on the head. Following this incident the police doctor recommended that I be placed on the disability list. On June 25, 1960, I was retired at two-thirds pay because of my injuries.

The second incident occurred on November 13, 1960. I was in my car and two police officers in a scout car ordered me over to the side of the road. This was on Woodward Avenue at around 2 a.m. They said to me "You black son-of-a-bitch, pull that car over to the side." I did so and the officer came over to me. Two officers ran over. One snatched the door open and told me to get out of the car. I did so and as I was getting out of the car I put my hands up and said, "I've been beaten by you fellows before. Take it easy." Thereupon the policemen pushed me against my car. The officer then reached toward the back of his own trousers for what I thought was his blackjack. It later proved to be his blackjack. When I saw him doing this I put my hands out and pushed the man back. At this both officers started to hit me with blackjacks. Then a third officer appeared, and put an arm lock around my neck cutting off my wind. While one officer was holding me around the neck the others were hitting me with blackjacks. I was knocked to my knees. Then they pulled my arms in back of me and put the handcuffs on me.

When I was placed in the car I asked the officers to go back and pick my

hat up. They refused to do so and one told me to keep quiet and to emphasize his point he hit me in the stomach with his fist.

When I got to the police station, a number of policemen gathered around me. This was in the 13th precinct. Sergeant Paske said, "I know you." I said, "You should. I worked here better than a year. Since you know me, you know I know my rights." So I asked to call an attorney. He said, "What do you want an attorney for?" and refused to allow me to call one. He also refused to let me call my wife. I said, "What are you trying to do? Cover up for these officers? You must condone what they've done." Sergeant Paske's reply was "As far as I'm concerned, you're all a bunch of pigs." I answered that I wanted to see the weekly duty officer and he said, "You ain't calling nobody. I'm your weekly duty officer." I told them "You fellows get your Saturday night kicks around here beating up Negroes."

Since I saw there was no sense in talking anymore I just went along with the doorman to the cell and sat down. About an hour later I was transferred to Receiving Hospital and shackled to a bed. The best reason I can think of why they did this was that they didn't want me to use the telephone. I got word out to my lawyer and he came to see me while I was still shackled to the bed at 9 in the morning. I was released from the hospital at 1 p.m. of that day.

It is my contention that effective law enforcement is possible without brutality. In my 13 years on the force I've never had to hit anyone or fire a shot. There were times when I met defiance and belligerence on the part of people I've arrested. But I used persuasion to calm the people down and they came peacefully. One time when I was chasing a rapist down the street, I could legitimately have shot the man. But I outtraced him and caught him instead. I'm not saying that violence is never necessary. All I'm saying is that it rarely is. And I could stack my arrest and conviction record up—until the time I was injured—with any man's on the force. I've arrested 200 people on many weekends in gambling raids and have never found it necessary to use force on anyone. Yet, when many other police officers make such raids, there are complaints of brutality.

Many other officers feel that you have to be rough to be effective. You've got to keep them cowed down they say. One officer got up in a class on human relations within the last year and said, "Why, I'd rather write statements than end up in the hospital." I can sympathize with this fellow. A policeman's job can be pretty dangerous. He has to deal with some pretty tough characters. But I and many other officers deal with them effectively without violence. Too many officers take the attitude that if they hit first they won't get hit.

Chairman HANNAH. Mr. Tiffany, will you call the next witness?

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Willis Ward. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ward appears today in the capacity of a citizen of Detroit rather than as a representative of the office with which he is associated. He happens to be the Assistant U.S. Attorney in the city of Detroit. Willis Ward.

Vice Chairman STOREY. Mr. Ward, will you hold up your right hand and be sworn? Do you solemnly swear the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. WARD. I do.

Vice Chairman STOREY. Please be seated.

Chairman HANNAH. Mr. Ward, you are familiar with the procedure we are following here, and we would appreciate it if you would take 10 minutes and tell us whatever you think would be helpful to us in carrying forward our mission, and then we would like an opportunity to ask you some questions.

TESTIMONY OF WILLIS WARD

Mr. WARD. Very well, Honorable Chairman.

I have been listening to the hearing, and one thing, as a lawyer, who has, for the most part of his legal career, spent his time on the law enforcement side of the table, assistant prosecutor, Assistant U.S. Attorney—it's good to see certain problems that confront our society being brought to the front.

I want to talk on local law enforcement. Sadly, I can't go into—for policy reasons of the Department of Justice, I can make no comment with respect to the Civil Rights Act as it is carried out in the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice. That is not to say that particular function is not being carried out, but this Commission has the power to deal with the persons who speak for Justice in Washington in that regard.

I am speaking as a citizen, drawing from my experience, having lived in Detroit all my life, having attended school in the city of Detroit, from kindergarten to high school, through to college. I was an assistant prosecutor for 2 years. Presently I am Chief of the Civil Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Much of the failure of local law enforcement can be enhanced by hearings of this nature in local areas for the reason that so often the good people in racial situations, the so-called good law-abiding colored person and the so-called good law-abiding white person—that they can be brought together to understand their common goal in having a police department that carries out its mission of protection of the individual, crime detection of those who violate the law and bringing them to justice. It breaks down in the city of Detroit largely because, in my opinion, there is a breakdown of communication between good people, both colored and white, who desire the same thing—good law enforcement.

Now, that can be best described by what happened at the beginning of this year. Without calling any names, I will say that two of the most outstanding white citizens in the city of Detroit were gravely concerned about what was called increase in racial tensions in the city. It so happened one of them had some relations with me and thought it would be a good idea if we could get some of the good colored leadership to sit down at the table to determine whether or not the colored people were walking their halfway toward law and order. We picked 12 outstanding Negro leaders, officeholders, businessmen, labor leaders and the professions, and we attempted to determine who would make the first step in trying to overcome what seemed to be an impasse between the Detroit Police Department and the Negro sections of the city, so to speak. It was determined that since the white people were in control of the city and were in the po-