

Police Officials Endorse Senate Bills Aimed at Curbing Urban Guerrilla Warfare

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 6—Law enforcement officers and officials opened Senate hearings today on urban guerrilla warfare by endorsing several tough bills aimed at curbing snipers, bombers and attacks on policemen.

One of the bills, sponsored by Senator Thomas J. Dodd, Democrat of Connecticut, would prohibit publication of periodicals that advocate violence against lawmen and overthrow of the Government.

The Black Panther party newspaper and The Nola Express, an underground paper in New Orleans, were cited as examples of such publications.

Several police officers, the Attorney General of Maryland and a Deputy Attorney General of California identified the Panthers as the prime target of such legislation, although they also strongly condemned white

radical groups such as the Students for a Democratic Society.

The four days of hearings by the Senate Subcommittee on Internal Security will be heavily weighted with witnesses favorable to the bill. Senator James O. Eastland, committee chairman, said officers from a dozen cities would testify. No unfavorable testimony is expected.

Senator Eastland, Democrat of Mississippi, and today's witnesses said that a conspiracy of urban terror existed in the country.

'War Against Police'

"This is a war against the police," said Senator Eastland, the only committee member present, in his opening remarks. "These deliberate attacks are too widespread, the incidents too numerous, the tactics too similar to suggest separate and isolated acts of violence. These attacks are tied together and connected in various ways."

"These instances of deadly violence, fitting into an ominous pattern, are part of a wave of guerrilla warfare which threatens to undermine a pillar of law and order from end-to-end of this nation," he continued, "and some of these assaults have a common denominator in the organizational affiliation of those who have planned the terror and those who have carried it out."

The four bills are sponsored by Senators whose politics range from Northern liberal to Southern conservative. Besides Mr. Dodd, measures under consideration were introduced by Senators Eastland, Richard S. Schweiker, Republican of Pennsylvania, and Harrison A. Williams Jr., Democrat of New Jersey.

Senator Dodd's proposal, termed the Urban Terrorism Prevention bill, would outlaw acts of violence through urban terrorism designed to under-

mine or overthrow the United States Government.

It would prohibit handling of explosives for such purposes, and it would make it a crime to hold membership in or to aid members of organizations advocating terrorism. The bill also would classify Molotov cocktails as an illegal explosive.

The bills of Senators Williams and Schweiker would provide for Federal intervention and prosecution in cases involving the murder of police officers and firemen.

Mr. Schweiker's proposal would make it a Federal crime to attempt to harm police officers and firemen and for anyone to offer aid or encourage another person to do so.

Senator Eastland's bill would make it a Federal crime to travel across state lines to assault, injure or kill a policeman, or to incite others to do so. It also would authorize a \$50,000 reward for information leading

to conviction of persons accused of killing policemen.

Francis B. Burch, Maryland's Attorney General, said the Federal Government should take a role in preventing assaults on policemen, but he questioned the constitutionality of one section of the Eastland bill.

"Since Senator Eastland's bill would make it a crime to incite acts of violence without regard to the immediate provable effect of such teaching, there would appear to be a very real possibility of judicial invalidation of such a law," Mr. Burch said.

Charles A. O'Brien, Deputy Attorney General of California, said 81 peace officers there were killed since 1960. The state is averaging two a month so far this year, with a total of 15, he added.

"While much of this problem is politically motivated, I should note that there are indications that violence against police is a result of an in-

creasingly violent atmosphere a growing disrespect for life which seems to infest our nation," Mr. O'Brien remarked.

The committee also heard testimony of police officers from Omaha, where a patrolman was killed last August by a booby-trap, and New Orleans, where policemen and Panthers engaged in a half-hour shootout last month during a police raid.

The police officers told of increased Panther activity in their cities and supported the bill that would prevent circulation of the Panther newspaper.