

August 7, 1969

Councilman Sam Smith
Municipal Building
Seattle, Washington

Dear Councilman Smith:

In response to the conversation we had last week regarding the alarming number of street holdups in the last four to five months, I have done my best to compile the list of people that have been attacked and robbed. I have gotten the time that people were confronted as you requested and hope that it will help you in some way.

Please let me elaborate a little the reason for my concern. The confidence that people in the past had invested in the police has deteriorated to the lowest. In fact most of the cases involved has not been reported as people feel that calling the police doesn't do any good so why bother. I think I know of only once case where a boy has been sentenced for robbing one of the women and that was because she knew the boy by name and personal recognition. Other than that I cannot recall any other case where a party has been apprehended or sentenced. When over forty older citizens have been molested or attacked in a period of four to five months in a small area about four blocks square, don't you as a responsible city official feel that something is wrong some where with our law and order? I especially feel for the older Japanese Citizens as they feel very inept at appealing for help, mainly because of a language barrier. I feel strongly and bitterly because these are retired or those over the age of sixty-five. In my list I have made notations of the few that had to be hospitalized or have required medical attention.

I have noticed boys aged anywhere from twelve to twenty, in groups of two to four roaming the streets... in my own store I have seen them watching from across the street to wait for customers that leave. I have heard of boys getting on the bus with their victims and robbing them as they get off. After funerals and evening meetings at the churches, especially the Buddhist Church, they have robbed the victims as they leave the church to go to their cars. I am sure that the church has appealed to the police and you can probably find it on record. In my observation, I find the majority of attacks from the Seattle Community College grounds, 18th and Main. Secondly, some seem to work out of Collins playfield and some have been reported to run into the Collins building after the incident.

As you are in a responsible position as Chairman of the Law and Order Committee, I am appealing to you, as a citizen and tax payer,

Tokuda Drug

1724 E. YESLER WAY • SEATTLE, WASH. 98122 • EA. 3-3611 • EA. 3-3613

Councilman Sam Smith

August 7, 1969
page two

and as a silent representative of older people who cannot have themselves heard, to see what you can do for them. Having meetings or dialogues with officials have been merely dialogue... and I wish you as Councilman and hopefully next mayor of Seattle can do something constructive and find some solution to the appalling situation.

Thank you for listening and for your cooperation. I'm sure the older people would join me if they knew of your interest in the situation.

Sincerely yours,

George Tokuda

Encl: