

with
Jimmy Ward

Congressman James D. Martin of Alabama has inserted in the Congressional Record an interesting column written by Don MacLean of the Washington Daily News on a timely subject. It is the newspaperman's reaction to President Johnson's pointed warning that riots might erupt in Washington if Congress doesn't approve the President's plan to provide political home rule for the District of Columbia.

Mr. MacLean wrote:

By now, the President doesn't need the likes of me to tell him how poorly conceived were his remarks about the possibility of a riot here. The editorialists and, I'm sure, his advisers, have already done that. My personal view is that what the President said was the greatest flame-fanning act since Nero and his fiddle at Rome. What I want to do today is (1) tell the President what it is like to live in the mouth of a cannon and (2) thank him for making it more likely that some nut will pull the trigger.

I live about 30 blocks from the White House, in a neighborhood called Mount Pleasant. (In contrast to many of L. B. J.'s leading liberals, who live safely tucked away in Maryland or Virginia.) There's no ghetto of any kind in Mount Pleasant, not even a white one. I have never had anything but the friendliest relations with my neighbors, be they Negro or white. In short, we are a happy mixture of people who get along just swell. The riots in Los Angeles made all of us nervous, because, in truth, none of us wants any trouble.

HERE'S HOW IT IS

There is a serious rate of violent crime in our area. But it affects everyone equally. The crimes have caused many of us to take precautions. After several attempts were made to break into my house, I surrounded it as best I could with a 6-foot fence. After a girl running from an attacker pounded on my door one night seeking safety, I called the police and the next week bought a gun. I figure that something worse may happen another night, and I want a gun if he has one. My wife suggested watchdogs, and I got two German shepherds.

You don't know it is? Well, on Saturday night in Mount Pleasant, it is worth your life to walk to the store. An elderly man was killed for \$2 in the bright sunlight, while washing his car. A man was shot out by my mailbox. Many a night we've watched from a second floor window as gangs of men have battled in the alley with boards and pipes. Ever hear the "thunk" a pipe makes when it hits a human head? The sound carries quite a distance. What is it