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September 25, 1974

SUBJECT:

CONFEREES AGREE TO REPEAL
NO-KNOCK PROVISION

The House Senate Conferees have agreed to repeal the controversial provision which allows police in D.C. to enter and search dwellings without knocking and identifying themselves. Police may now obtain no-knock warrants by persuading the courts that a regular search warrant could lead to destruction of evidence or permit a suspect to escape. If the action is upheld by the House and Senate, authority would be revoked for police to obtain no-knock search and arrest warrants prescribed in the 1970 D.C. Crime Act.

Does the President support the repeal of the no-knock provision?

GUIDANCE: Chief Jerry Wilson has stated that he has no objection to the repeal of this act, and it is my understanding that the D.C. police had used this provision and obtained court permission only five times since it was signed into law in 1971.

Therefore, since it was not used and it appears not to be that necessary, and the Chief of Police did not object to its repeal, the Administration does not oppose its repeal.

JGC