

IV. FULL-LENGTH CHRONOLOGY OF DETROIT DISORDER

SUNDAY, JULY 23, 1967

Approximately 3:45 A.M.-5:00 A.M.: The disorder in Detroit began with what the police squad leader described as a "routine" raid on an after-hours drinking place known as a "blind pig" in the heart of the Negro ghetto of Detroit.

The failure of the police raiding party to gather reliable intelligence as to the number of persons inside the building complicated the arrest procedure. More than 80 persons -- three times as many persons as had been anticipated -- were inside the building so that it took more than one hour to load the arrestees into the few patrol wagons summoned. During this period, a crowd of more than 200 people gathered and began exchanging wisecracks with the prisoners. The potential for violence which became apparent as two agitators came on the scene was masked by the initially jovial mood of the bystanders. The mood was dramatically changed as the crowd responded to entreaties of the agitators to attack the police with rocks and bottles.

At approximately 5:10 a.m., as the last patrol car pulled away from the scene, the first rock of the disorder was thrown through the car's rear window.

Approximately 5:10 A.M. to 7:30, Sunday: As the police hurriedly left the scene, the aroused crowd continued to respond to the directions of the agitators. The rock and bottle throwing which had been directed toward the police was rechanneled toward the stores in the immediate vicinity of 12th and Clairmount Streets. As the first store window was broken by one of the agitators, indiscriminate looting began. Word spread in the neighborhood that the police were making no attempt to control the looting\* and 12th Street apparently became overrun by hundreds of people who

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\* The reasons given for the apparent permissiveness of the police during the initial phase of the rioting are not entirely clear. Commissioner Girardin testified that prior to the arrival of the day shift on Sunday morning, only 193 policemen were on the streets in scout cars (only 44 officers from the Tenth Precinct where the disorder began) and that by the time the shifts had changed the crowd had reportedly grown so much that "it would have taken a small size army to control it." He commented that since the force was so undermanned, he did not know what tactic short of shooting the looters would have been effective (if even that would have done it) but he felt that such a policy would have been extreme to say the least.

wanted to take advantage of the opportunity to get something for nothing without fear of reprisals from the police. Mr. Richard Simmons, Assistant Director of Mayor's Committee on Human Resources (the anti-poverty program of Detroit) told an interviewer that as he walked down 12th Street at about 7:30 a.m., he felt that until the word spread that the police were either absent or looking the other way, generally "things seemed to be under control." He described crowds on 12th Street as young people having a "field day."

Within half an hour (8:00 a.m.), the crowd had reportedly grown to approximately 3,000 people.

8:24 A.M., Sunday: At 8:24 a.m., the first fire was reported; more than two hours earlier, the fire department had alerted the Executive Chief, Charles J. Quinlan, of an "assumed racial incident in the area of 12th and Clairmount Streets."

9:00 A.M., Sunday: Mayor Cavanagh estimated that the size of the crowd has risen within an hour to between 8,000 9,000. The first police response to the looting was an attempt to cordon off a twelve-block area around the focal point of the disorder. This tactic, which had been successfully used to quell the 1966 disturbance known as the Kercheval Incident, did not work in this instance. It has been suggested that the sporadic nature of the disorder and the fact that it spread so quickly over such large areas made this tactic ineffective.

Because the police could not be certain that the outbreak was spontaneous, the precaution was taken to put all known militants under surveillance. The police assumed that the real leaders of the more revolutionary, guerrilla warfare oriented groups were undoubtedly unknown to them and had gone underground. On this basis, they believed that the arrest of known militant would have no dampening effect on the disorder. Mr. Hubert Locke, the former Special Assistant to the Commissioner of



Police, told an interviewer that very few known militant became involved in the riot. Those few who were arrested, were arrested for curfew violations. This assessment of the noninvolvement of hard-core militants was corroborated by Mr. Charles Brown, the Director of the Suburban Legal Services. His close contact with the developments on the street led him to conclude that the underground guerrilla groups were not involved in any organized way. He cautioned, however, that while the disorder was "not a sophisticated riot" it did serve as a training ground for those who would be interested in precipitating an organized disorder.

Midmorning, Sunday, July 23, 1967: As the size of the crowds and the intensity of the looting increased, a number of Negro leaders, such as Congressman John Conyers, Arthur Johnson, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, and Hubert Locke and others reportedly took to the streets and attempted to "convey a note of calm." Their attempts were futile.

Through the morning much of the intelligence actions in the streets was gathered by more than 30 members of the Mayor's Summer Task Force, a group whose function during the riot/<sup>was</sup> comparable to that of "white hats" in Dayton and Tampa. Mayor Cavanagh acknowledged that much of the information that he and other city officials received and upon which they made decisions came from Task Force members.

Romney reported that, through the morning, state officials were repeatedly assured that the situation was under control and that no outside help was necessary. State officials anticipated that the situation might become more serious than local officials were reporting. Governor Romney testified that shortly after he was notified of "a clash between citizens and the Detroit police" (at 7:15 a.m.) he dispatched a state police liaison officer to the Tenth Precinct and notified Generals Schnipke and Simmons at the summer encampment of the National Guard at Camp Grayling, 200 miles from Detroit.

At this same time, initial emergency measures were taken such as the voluntary closing of all bars and liquor stores in the 12th Street area.

11:00 A.M. to 12:15 P.M., Sunday: The disorder and general pillaging which had been characterized as a "carnival atmosphere," continued with increased intensity. One observer noted that while there was no real violence in terms of personal attacks on white people or the police, there was a good deal of window breaking and opportunistic looting. This looting has been interpreted as a kind of "street justice;" a long-awaited opportunity to get back at merchants who had been overcharging the ghetto residents for years. As one teenage girl remarked: "The point about the riot is that people want refrigerators and televisions sets and all of the things which money can buy. In a riot you get whitey, who already has all the things you want." It is interesting to note that one interviewer felt that the inattentiveness of the police not

only afforded an opportunity to loot but may have fostered a breakdown of all moral compunction about taking goods that were not one's own. He told members of the Commission's staff that while watching the disorder on 12th Street Sunday morning, he sensed that the feeling was that the merchandise was free and if it wasn't taken it would be burned.

Approximately 11:30 A.M., Sunday: By this time most of the stores in the 12th Street area had been looted. It appeared to one observer that the looting was subsiding and that people were beginning to go home with their loot.

Approximately 12:15 P.M., Sunday: The first repressive confrontation between the police and the rioters came at this time in the form of an attempted "sweep" of 12th Street by a special riot force of the police department. The helmeted, bayonet-wielding force came into the area looking as one observer described them like an "occupying force."

According to some witnesses an incident then occurred that the staff has found impossible to substantiate. As they moved in locked formation down the street, the crowd receded. A young Negro man who was thought to be drunk, was evidently oblivious to the police phalanx. When he failed to move at the order of one of the officers, perhaps because he was too drunk to hear or understand it, the officer viciously bayoneted the man in the back, the leg and the side and kicked a girl who screamed for help for the man. Reportedly no ambulance was called and it is not known what happened to the man. The interviewers were shown photographs of a man lying on the ground with what was alleged to be his intestine coming out of his mouth. Reportedly, at this point pandemonium broke out among the crowd which had witnessed the attack. It has been suggested that much of the violence of Sunday and following days might have been averted completely had the crowd been allowed to voluntarily disperse

after the looting and had this flagrant incident of police brutality not been witnessed by so many people. As news of the attack spread through the Negro community it became inevitable this observer told us that violence would escalate.

Early Afternoon, Sunday: Whether control of the situation was ever gained during the late morning as had been reported to the fire department by the police, is dubious. If it were, it was short-lived. By early afternoon numerous fires were set in looted stores along 12th Street. Firemen and police units attempting to protect the firemen were pelted by rocks and bottles as they attempted to control the fires. Three possible explanations were given for the arson. First, it may have been used as a decoy for looting. Second, it may have been a means of retaliating further against merchant-exploiters. Third, it may have been a deliberate attempt to destroy credit records of many of the businesses to which members of the black community were heavily in debt.

Approximately 2:00 P.M., Sunday: Mayor Cavanagh requested and was granted the use of approximately 350 members of the Michigan State Police. He testified that about 350 state troopers were to be available within the hour. (Actually, as Mayor Cavanagh testified before the Commission, it took more than three hours for the troopers to mobilize and be deployed on the streets.) He commented that the state police had been requested because they were considered to be professionally trained officers presumably with a greater degree of skill to control the situation. One major reservation, however, had been that the state police force did not have a single Negro member.

3:00 P.M.-4:00 P.M., Sunday: Sporadic looting and firebombing continued to spread from the 12th Street focal point. According to a FBI report by this time, 16 stores had been looted and unknown quantities of weapons had been taken from pawnshops. It is probable that many more stores had been looted by this time.

As the state police began to arrive, the first arrestees were brought in to the Recorder's Court (the court convenes on Saturdays and Sundays) where two judges arraigned the prisoners.

Shortly After 4:00 P.M., Sunday: At about this time the use of the Michigan National Guard troops who were training at the Detroit Armory was authorized by the Governor. One battallien was mobilized and a second was put on alert.

Dr. Hubert Locke, the former Special Assistant to the Commissioner of Police, told members of the Commission's staff that from the beginning of the violence the National Guard had been alerted. The decision was made, however, to use the Guard forces only as a last resort. Commission staff members were told that the officials of the police department realized that for the most part the National Guardsmen were "trigger-happy" kids and it was feared that their presence would inflame rather than dampen the potential



for violence. Local authorities decried the fact that they had to call in the Guard rather than federal forces when the situation became more than the local forces could handle.

Approximately 4:30 P.M., Sunday: As the Guardsmen were being deployed in the streets of Detroit under the command of General Simmons. George Messerlian, age 68, the operator of a shoe shop on Linwood Avenue, was beaten about the head by looters with a thirty inch club, after attempting to defend himself with a sabre. He died four days later in Henry Ford Hospital.

5:00 P.M., Sunday: At this time Mayor Cavanagh met with representatives of the Negro community at the Tenth Precinct stationhouse. An appeal was made for suggestions as to what could be done to restore order to the city. Reportedly the leaders agreed that a firm policy was necessary and that a curfew should be imposed.

The suggestion that citizens be assigned with the National Guard and police units to maintain law and order was unheeded. The general feeling of the group of citizens was that nothing had really been accomplished at the meeting other than the scheduling of a more public meeting for 10:00 a.m. the next day.

Early Sunday Evening: According to a FBI report, looting and arson spread from the 12th Street focal point as far south as the downtown area and as far north as Six Mile Road. At this time additional National Guard units from surrounding cities were mobilized and a perimeter defense was established around the Detroit Police Department Headquarters. A curfew was imposed by the mayor which ordered people off the streets between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 5:30 a.m.

Approximately 9:00 P.M.-Midnight, Sunday: The first instances of sniper fire were reported. During the late evening looting and arson continued on the west side as numerous fires burned out of control. A second

front of looting and violence opened on the east side along the Chrysler Expressway and Kercheval and Pennsylvania Avenues.

Around midnight, the first woman victim of the riot, Mrs. Sheren George, was wounded fatally as she was shot through the chest while riding in an automobile in the riot area.\* By midnight the number of fires had increased to the extent that every piece of city fire equipment and that of 41 surrounding communities were committed to the inner city area.

To assure the effectiveness of the curfew earlier imposed by Mayor Cavanagh, Governor Romney declared a state of emergency in the cities of Detroit, Hamtramick, and Highland Park.

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\* Most of the descriptions in this chronology of the events surrounding the deaths of riot victims are derived from a Detroit Free Press article "The 43 Who Died," published September 3, 1967. The article, several pages long, was based on extensive interviews carried out by Free Press staff members. Commission staff interviews with some of those interviewed by the Free Press indicates that their investigation generally reflected a high level of objectivity and thoroughness.

MONDAY, JULY 24, 1967

Shortly After Midnight Monday: Walter Grzanka, a white man, was shot by an irate store manager as he climbed through the broken window of a looted grocery store. On Grzanka's person were seven cigars, four packages of pipe tobacco and nine pairs of shoe laces.

Through the night the wave of arson spread through the city resulting in scores of major multi-alarm fires. Governor Romney claimed that snipers firing at firemen and the axing of firehouses made the need for police protection of the firemen critical.

2:00 A.M., Monday: In an early morning meeting, Mayor Cavanagh, Police Commissioner Girardin, Governor Romney and Colonel Davids of the Michigan National Guard decided that the number of local forces available could not possibly contain the disorder which seemed likely to spread over the entire 139 square miles of the city. It was estimated that an additional 2,000 men would be required to augment the total strength of all local and state personnel. To be "on the safe

side," Governor Romney testified, it was decided to request 5,000 additional forces. Within half an hour, a verbal request was made the Attorney General for 5,000 federal troops. There is some controversy as to whether the Attorney General immediately pointed out the conditions under which federal forces could be committed. Governor Romney alleges that he and Mayor Cavanagh were assured by the Attorney General that the oral request was all that was necessary and that he would proceed to alert the Army officials. According to Cyrus Vance's account of the events of the disorder, the Attorney General immediately advised Secretary Resor of the situation and the necessity of beginning preparations for the commitment of federal troops.

At approximately this same time, a white man who had been with four other men on the roof of an apartment building attempting to check the spread of sparks from fires was killed. Although the original police report indicated that an appeal was made to the men to

halt as they came down a rear stairway, it was later acknowledged that the white men, Clifton Pryor, had been shot by Guardsmen who thought that he was a sniper. Although one of the men did have a shotgun with him as they came down the stairs, no attempt had been made to use it. There was little likelihood that Pryor was a sniper since there had been no sniping incidents on the all-white block on which he lived. (Shortly after Pryor's death the order was given that permission was to be obtained from General Moore before automatic weapons, such as machine guns, were to be fired by Guardsmen.)

Approximately 3:00 A.M., Monday: Mayor Cavanagh and Governor Romney held a press conference at this time at which they announced that 5,000 federal troops had been requested. Romney was quoted as saying: "We would rather be overcommitted."

Pre dawn, Monday Morning: As the morning wore on, fires continued to burn out of control. The first fireman, John Ashby, received fatal burns from a high voltage wire while fighting a fire in the riot area.

The mayor requested that all businesses voluntarily close on Monday.

5:00 A.M., Monday: The Attorney General contacted Generals Simmons and Moore of the Michigan National Guard and Inspector Gage of the Detroit Police Department to get their assessment of the situation. He then called Governor Romney at 5:15 a.m. to advise him that the consensus among these officials was that the situation could be handled locally. He also advised Governor Romney that a written request was necessary for the commitment of federal forces and, according to Governor Romney, reiterated that an indication had to be given that a state of insurrection existed.

According to a 5:45 a.m. report to the FBI, the police had indicated that the disorder was not under control and that looting and sporadic sniping continued

as extensive fires burned out of control on the east and west sides.

Early Morning, Monday: By 6:45 a.m. as city, state and National Guard officials met to discuss the advisability of proclaiming a state of insurrection, the first plans were activated to provide emergency food and shelter for displaced victims of the riots.

Between the hours of 7:00 and 8:00 a.m., Fred Williams, a 49-year old Negro was apparently electrocuted when he stumbled onto a live electric powerline that had fallen during a fire reportedly started by a molotov cocktail thrown the previous evening. The fire had been put out by firemen but it rekindled later Sunday evening. As Williams was attempting to retrieve some clothing which he had carried to the safety of his neighbor's yard, he apparently came in contact with the live wire. National Guardsmen found him dead, face down in the wet alley near his house, his entire face and the front of his body charred.



9:00 A.M., Monday: At the Recorder's Court the entire panel of 13 judges met, suspended the regular criminal docket and arranged to work around the clock in six-hour shifts. George Crockett, a Negro judge on the Recorder's Court told an interviewer that the judges who had not been on duty Sunday were given an informal briefing by the Executive Judge of the Court, Judge Brennan, regarding a policy of setting high bonds (\$5,000 to \$15,000 and in particular cases more) which had been followed the day before as a means of keeping the arrestees off of the streets. Judge Crockett said that he viewed the policy as arbitrary and informal in that no vote was taken nor was any agreement sought or made among the judges at the meeting.

At a 9:15 a.m. meeting of Governor Romney, General Simmons, Colonel Davids, Mayor Cavanagh, Police Commissioner Girardin, Superintendent Rueter, Superintendent Nichols, an assessment was made of the manpower requirements necessary to control the situation. It was unanimously agreed that federal troops were needed. According to the reports of an early morning press

conference (9:30 a.m.) Mayor Cavanagh reported that "at no time was an order issued that police were not to use the weapons that were available to them." He commented that policemen would have to use professional individual judgment about the extent of force necessary to control each incident.

Shortly thereafter (at 9:45 a.m.), an unlicensed private watchman shot Herman Ector. The police initially listed Ector as a looter. Further investigation of the shooting led to a murder charge against the private guard, but it was later dismissed. Witnesses alleged that as Ector passed the store being guarded and objected to the way in which the watchman, Waverly Soloman was treating suspected looters Soloman followed Ector and his companion past the store. An argument ensued during which Ector was struck with the butt of Soloman's carbine and then shot. He died when he reached the hospital.

10:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M., Monday: At 10:00, the previously scheduled meeting of community leaders and interested

citizens was held at Reverend Audrey's church on Dexter Avenue, in the heart of the riot area. One observer who attended the meeting said that the looting and burning continued on Dexter as the meeting was being held. He said that as he arrived at the church, the market across the streets was being looted and several arrests were being made. The meeting produced recommendations that the mayor form peace patrols, use citizens to try to control the situation and a forceful crackdown be made by the police.

As the meeting was being held, Governor Romney sent a telegram to President Johnson stating "there is reasonable doubt that we can suppress the existing looting, arson and sniping without the assistance of federal troops" and requesting the "immediate employment of federal troops into Michigan." Within the hour the President replied that federal troops were being dispatched and that Cyrus Vance would confer with Romney to decide what assistance was necessary.

Throughout the morning and afternoon, looting and burning continued and became more widespread as the death toll continued to mount. At noon, Daniel Jennings, a Negro and the father of 14 children, was shot on his way home from a union hiring hall. According to the Detroit Free Press, he and two other men had been standing outside of a drugstore when someone smashed the front door window. The storeowner fired one shot after allegedly shouting a warning. Jennings was struck and was declared dead on arrival at the hospital.

In a separate incident in a different part of the city, Robert Beal and Joseph Chandler were killed. Allegedly Beal was shot while attempting to loot a store. According to a newspaper account, Beal had been discovered by police and ordered to come out of the store, when he made a sudden movement toward the patrolman and was shot in the abdomen. Although the reports of the patrolman and the Homocide Bureau differ as to the circumstances of Beal's death, no evidence of criminal intent could be found in the action of the patrolman.

The circumstances of Joseph Chandler's death are no clearer. According to the Detroit Free Press, Chandler went out to get his wife a pack of cigarettes. Forty-five minutes later he was dead. Allegedly he had been looting a market about a block and a half from his home when officers yelled for him to stop. When he ran, the officers chased him down the street, through an alley and over two fences firing as they ran. After dropping his loot, Chandler scaled the fence and officers gave up the chase believing that they had missed. They had not missed. Chandler had been shot more than once. A policeman found him later lying under an automobile. He was pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital.

Afternoon, Monday: In midafternoon, Herman Canty was killed when he failed to heed police commands to halt. According to witnesses, Canty had boldly backed up a green delivery van to the side door of a large supermarket in broad daylight. He and two other men and a woman were loading merchandise into the van when they were surprised by police and Guardsmen. Allegedly

an order to halt was given and shots were then fired. The truck, with Canty at the wheel, sped down the driveway and across Grand Avenue, jumping two medians and finally coming to rest against a tree. Canty was slumped dead over the wheel with a bullet in his neck. A rumor that Canty had been shot while driving through the riot area soon spread throughout the community. Shortly thereafter, the market was burned down.

4:00 P.M.-6:00 P.M., Monday: By late afternoon as federal troops began to arrive at Selfridge Air Force Base outside Detroit, fires were continuing to spread at the rate of 10 to 12 per hour.

At about the same time, a volley of shotgun bullets aimed at a suspected looter also struck two innocent women. As two police officers entered an A&P Market through a window, they discovered two men fleeing toward the rear of the store. The two men were reported to have refused to halt and shots were fired. One officer

said that he saw a shiny object in the hand of Alred Peachlum which looked like a weapon. Peachlum was struck in the chest by pellets from the shot. The shiny object was later identified as a package of beef wrapped in tinfoil. The prosecutor ruled that the death was justifiable homicide.

Shortly thereafter, Alphonso Smith, a 35-year old Negro waiter, was also killed, though the circumstances of his death are unclear. According to a preliminary police report, he was one of several Negroes who was seen by police entering a store. As the officer entered the building, two shots were fired, one of which struck Smith. A follow-up investigation by detectives of the Homicide Bureau gave a slightly different version. It stated that when the looters were discovered they were ordered to halt. Allegedly Smith threw a can at one of the officers. A warning shot was fired from a machine gun into the ceiling. A second officer startled by the shot slipped on debris and his privately-owned revolver discharged a shot which struck Smith in the neck.

The other looters who were involved in the incident denied to Free Press reporters that an order to halt was given or that the police officer slipped. They claim that the police jumped out of the car and shot through the window before they were even close to the store.

The prosecutor's office ruled that the shooting was accidental and without criminality even though according to the Detroit Free Press, the participant-witnesses were not questioned.

As these events were taking place, Cyrus Vance and General Throckmorton arrived at the Detroit Police Headquarters and held a meeting with top police and Guard officials. Mayor Cavanagh reported that between 800 and 900 police officers were on the street and that between 2,000 and 3,000 Army National Guard troops were available for deployment on Detroit streets. Although Governor Romney indicated that over 730 state policemen were available in Detroit, he assured Mr. Vance that he was not prepared to state that a condition of insurrection existed. He did feel, however, "that there was reasonable doubt" as to whether the situation could be controlled by the state and local enforcement agencies.



While federal, state and local officials discussed the necessity of committing federal troops, the riot claimed another victim. Nathaniel Edmonds was slain by a white man, Richard Shugar, after an argument about breaking into a store. Shugar had yelled at a trio of Negro boys, "Why did you break into my store?" although, in fact, he had no connection with the vacant sewing shop. Witnesses say that Edmonds was shotgunned as he scrambled to take cover inside the back door of a house on Baldwin Street. Shugar, however, is being held for murder.

As Governor Romney, Cyrus Vance, General Throckmorton, Mayor Cavanagh and a party of other officials toured the most destructed parts of the riot area. Edward Kemp died. When confronted by the police, Kemp had abandoned a cash register which he had looted. Kemp was shot by two policemen and a Guard sergeant after failing to obey an order to halt. The only nonpolice witness does not remember hearing the order to halt and is almost positive that one of the three shots which felled Kemp was fired from the police car before the car had come to a stop.

Approximately 6:00 P.M., Monday: The police department reported that the law enforcement personnel on the street at this time consisted of 812 Detroit Police Department officers, 825 National Guardsmen, 200 Michigan State policemen and that an additional 200 state policemen were being held in reserve.

Approximately 7:15 P.M.-8:30 P.M., Monday: A meeting was held by Cyrus Vance, Mayor Cavanagh and Governor Romney with officials of the Negro community to discuss the use of federal troops. All the persons present except Congressman Conyers and one other felt that federal troops should be committed at once. Mr. Vance and General Throcknorton concluded, however, that there was still insufficient basis to justify commitment. This decision was based on two factors. First, the incident rate as reflected in the figures then available was about one-third of what it had been the previous day and was holding rather level. Second, three times as many National Guard troops were committed to the city as had been the previous day and it was not clear that order could not be restored by these additional forces.

Approximately 8:45 P.M., Monday: Richard Simms left his home after spending most of the day watching TV on his front porch. He told his wife that he was just going down to the corner. A few minutes later, a witness saw Simms and another man attempting to jimmy open a side door of the Hobby Bar. Four members of a police patrol unit saw Simms and his companion. When they came after them, they ran in separate directions. The officers chose to chase Simms. They alleged that they ordered him to halt several times. He was shot as he tried to escape through the side door of a building. At 9:00 p.m., he was dead on arrival at Detroit General Hospital.

Evening, Monday: Mayor Cavanagh testified that Monday night had the highest incidence of fires and as the evening wore on, alleged sniper fire became more intense. Incidents of looting, arson and sniping were reportedly on the rise, especially on the east side. As the incident rate continued to climb, Cyrus Vance and General Throckmorton decided to move three battalions of the paratroopers from the Selfridge Air Force Base

to the Detroit Fair Grounds so that they might readily be available for deployment on the streets. Regarding the "incident rate" as an index of the volume of riot violence, Cyrus Vance pointed out that:

"the incident rate must be used with caution although an incident was at all times described as 'an event requiring police action.' A review of the specific incidents logged reveals a wide range of variation and apparent validity. Substantial numbers of individual incidents which were surveyed did not bear any relation to the riot. Hence, these data may be useful to identify trends and were used in that way but should not be considered an absolute indicator."

Approximately 9:30 P.M., Monday: At this time, Frank Tanner, a 19-year old, who had apparently been drinking and looting much of the day, was shot as he fled from a pharmacy on East Grand Boulevard. Reportedly, he ignored the commands of the police to halt and was shot in the abdomen as he ran down an alley behind the pharmacy. Police and National Guardsmen lost him during the chase. Half an hour later, several of the tenants

in the nearby building behind which he had collapsed heard him moan. For fear of being shot if they went outside, the tenants did not go to his aid. At 8:05 a.m., the next morning, 11 hours after he was shot, Tanner was dead at Detroit General Hospital.

Dr. Hubert Locke, at the time Special Assistant to the Commissioner of Police, told the Commission staff that concentrated violence against police officers and fire department personnel began at about this time on Monday and continued for several hours as snipers pinned down precinct houses and fire stations in the area. He suggested that fatigue and the increased incidents of violence directed at fire and law enforcement officers precipitated more repressive and brutal police tactics against rioters.

According to Judge Crockett of the Recorder's Court, on Monday night the arrest and booking process began to breakdown because of insufficient clerical staff and booking procedures which were complicated by complex paperwork. He said that by this time Monday night, detention

facilities were already starting to be overtaxed and arrestees who were brought in on buses for booking at the Central Precinct were kept sitting on the buses through the night. Judge Crockett characterized the sanitary conditions as "deplorable." For example, he pointed out that one portable latrine had been set up in public near the courthouse to serve six busloads of men and women.

11:00 P.M., Monday: Cyrus Vance and General Throckmorton reported that they consulted with Governor Romney and Mayor Cavanagh and determined that local law enforcement agencies could not control the situation. Vance reported that, after recommending to the President that federal troops be deployed, the President signed the Proclamation and Executive Order authorizing the use of federal forces and the federalizing of the Army and Air National Guards. General Throckmorton immediately took command of all of these forces, ordered the deployment of the regular

United States Army troops in the eastern half of the city and gave the responsibility for policing the western sector to the National Guard. Vance reported that this division of responsibilities was made because on Monday evening the incidents in the eastern half of the city had begun to increase over those in the western half and he wanted to assign the regular troops to the most active sector. An additional factor influencing the decision to assign the troops to the east side was its proximity to Selfridge Air Force Base. One interviewee speculated, however, that a number of strategic utilities in Detroit were located on the east side, such as the waterworks. In addition, there was some speculation that the more experienced troops were deployed on the east side because it was feared that if there were to be any racial confrontations they would be on the east side where Negroes and lower class whites lived in closest proximity.

The rules of engagement issued to all troops under federal control were to "use the minimum force necessary to restore law and order." Specifically, the troop

commanders were instructed to apply force in the following order of priority: (a) unloaded rifles and bayonets fixed and sheathed; (b) unloaded rifles with bare bayonets fixed; (c) riot control agent CS tear gas; and (d) loaded rifles with bayonets fixed.

Approximately Midnight, Monday: Shortly before midnight, a fireman, Carl Smith, was killed during an exchange of fire between police, Guardsmen and alleged snipers. Smith was pinned down in front of an east side fire station which was described as being under "heavy sniper fire." As the newspaper account reported it, "The massive counterattack of police and National Guard undoubtedly contributed to the heavy firing." After the order to evacuate the area was given, Smith ran to the north corner of the street toward his fire truck and crouched behind a waste receptacle. A few seconds later he clasped his hand to his head and fell forward on the sidewalk. An autopsy showed that he had been killed by a .30 caliber bullet, the ammunition used in the .30



caliber carbines carried by the Guardsmen. There was much speculation as to whether Smith was killed by a sniper or a Guardsman. No evidence was offered to support the theory given by a police report that he was probably looking up at the roof top from which the sniper was firing. The angle of the entry of the bullet indicated, on the contrary, that he was probably killed accidentally by a Guardsman at street level or by an undetected sniper on the street.

TUESDAY, JULY 25, 1967

Shortly After Midnight, Tuesday: Through Monday evening and Tuesday morning, the number of reports of snipers besieging fire houses and police stations increased. The FBI reported that shortly after midnight, sniper fire on the Seventh Precinct station ceased but that the Fifth Precinct was reporting machine gunfire.

It should be noted that most of the evidence available indicates that the actual number of confirmed sniping incidents was small. Major General Cecil L. Simmons, Commander of the Michigan National Guard, told an interviewer that he felt that there were few snipers actually involved in the disorders. He estimated that there were never more than seven snipers at work at one time. He said that it was possible for these men to shoot rapidly for four or five minutes in one place and then to run to another place and continue sniping from there. Although he implied that this may have been the pattern of the individual snipers, he did state that the sniping was not organized but entirely sporadic.

Early Morning, Tuesday: Early Tuesday morning, small units of the Michigan State Police and later 250 Michigan State policemen were detached from the Detroit force and sent to other Michigan cities as the first outbreaks of violence occurred in Grand Rapids, Pontiac, Saginaw and Flint.

Henry Denson was the first known fatality on Tuesday. Several versions of his death are given by witnesses, police and survivors of the confrontation between Guardsmen and the victim at a checkpoint. At about 1:00 a.m., Denson, age 27, and two companions drove up to a Guard-police checkpoint just east of East Grand Boulevard. Officers and Guardsmen stepped into the street and ordered the car to halt. The car stopped, then evidently lunged forward. Shots were fired by two Guardsmen who allege that Denson was trying to run over them. The car stopped 50 feet north of the checkpoint. Denson was slumped dead in the front seat with a single gunshot wound that had penetrated his shoulders and left side of his neck. According to the passengers in the car,

they were shot at as they were waiting for a red light after they had been cautioned by police at the checkpoint to keep their speed down because another checkpoint was ahead. As the light turned green, the car moved forward, the command to halt was given and as the driver tried to step on the brakes, the shot was fired. Other witnesses agreed with the occupants of the car that no attempt had been made to get away from or to run over the Guardsmen.

Shortly After 2:00 A.M., Tuesday: A Negro private guard was the victim of a tragedy of errors when looters threatened him if he didn't look the other way and allow them to loot the fruit market he was guarding. The guard, Julian Dorsey, fired three shots into the air to scare them away. These three shots set in motion the machinery which killed him. Because of his shots, neighbors believed and reported to the police that the looters were armed. As police came to the intersection, they spotted the looters and ordered them to halt. As the looters fled, a series of shots was fired. The looters escaped and Dorsey was dead. The prosecutor's office ruled that the shooting was accidental. A

memorandum notes, however, that "perhaps further investigation should be made to find out who fired the other shots."

3:00 A.M., Tuesday: General Throckmorton reported in a radio broadcast that the federal troops were under his command and were augmenting the city and state police and National Guard forces in their attempt to quell the disorders. He noted that these forces were under orders to "utilize only that force necessary to restore law and order and to protect persons and property." At this same time, Mayor Cavanagh reported that the number of arrests had passed 5,000 and that the problem of providing ample detention facilities was critical. He noted that the court processes had broken down and that prisoners were being sent to facilities outside Detroit, such as Jackson and Milan Prisons.

The only police officer to die during the riot was killed at this hour. Patrolman Jerome Olshove was accidentally shot by a fellow officer's shotgun that went off during a scuffle with looters whom they were attempting to arrest.

Within an hour, as incidents of sniping, especially at precinct houses and fire stations, continued, two other looters lost their lives. Roland Evans and William Jones were killed after being caught in a grocery store carrying an armload of beer. Evans was shot as he attempted to run after being instructed to lie down on the sidewalk. Jones was killed as he ran through the front door of the store into a volley of fire from the 20 policemen and Guardsmen who were standing outside.

4:15 A.M., Tuesday: Shortly after 4:00 a.m., an appeal was made to the public to help get the situation back to normal by going back to work on Tuesday morning. During this hour, another victim was claimed by the riot. Roy Banks, who as a result of polio had lost his hearing at age 2, was shot by a National Guardsman at 4:00 a.m. and died three weeks later. Although a police report indicated that Banks was shot while looting a bar, witnesses contend that he was walking to work when he was mistaken for a looter and shot down. The police

report, which indicated that Banks failed to halt when ordered, did not indicate an awareness that Banks was deaf and dumb.

The strain under which the administration of justice was placed over the course of the riot was particularly evident on Tuesday morning. Cyrus Vance reported that:

"By Tuesday morning, the system as well as the facilities were severely strained. Long delays occurred in the processing of prisoners at the precinct stations where conditions were particularly bad. Further long delays occurred while the prisoners waited in bull pen or temporary facilities at the Recorder's Court, without food, water or latrine facilities while they were processed through the bond hearing. The temporary facilities included the police garage and a number of separate buses parked outside the Recorder's Court."

Vance further noted that:

"While there was no formal change in policy of high bail, however, beginning on Tuesday morning the Prosecutor's Office, at the urging of a number of persons including federal officials, began to think in terms of releasing prisoners on personal bond or on reasonable bond. Officials also considered whether a new policy should be adopted."

7:30 A.M., Tuesday: A joint statement by Governor Romney, Mayor Cavanagh and Cyrus Vance was issued urging businesses to resume operation where possible despite the continuing official curfew.

Midmorning, Tuesday: At this time Governor Romney and Mayor Cavanagh advised federal authorities in Washington that conditions in Detroit were not greatly improved but requested that Detroit should be considered to be a disaster area.

Noon, Tuesday: According to a FBI report, a large blackmarket in looted goods had developed. FBI sources reported later in the day that several cars with out-of-state license plates had been seen in the riot area and that the occupants had been observed participating in the breaking and entering and looting of stores. This development is consistent with the opinion of many observers of the disorder interviewed by the staff that after the first day or so of looting, professional



shoplifting teams did come into the area and the looting became more systematic. This FBI report also pointed out that local and federal officials had issued a statement that the number of riot-related incidents had declined since the commitment of federal troops and that troops would remain in Detroit until conditions were returned to normal.

Afternoon, Tuesday: On Tuesday afternoon, two more looters were killed. Arthur Johnson and Perry Williams were shot by police officers as they attempted to loot a pawnshop. The police alleged that the two were shot in self-defense after they had attempted to attack the officers with a club and a length of pipe. No club or pipe was retained to substantiate the police officer's story.

Evening, Tuesday: More Michigan state policemen were detailed to other areas of the state in order to avert further violence as reports of sniping and other acts

of violence directed toward police continued. Two alleged snipers were apprehended by police in the Tenth Precinct where the disorder had begun. According to the Detroit Free Press, at approximately 9:45 p.m. the only confirmed sniper among the 43 riot victims was killed. Jack Sydnor, a Negro, spent Tuesday afternoon drinking at his home. Later in the afternoon, his wife discovered him playing with a pistol that had long been kept around their apartment. After musing whether it would work, he started shooting into the street from his third floor apartment window. Frightened tenants called the police. Within 30 minutes, he was dead, having been shot as police riddled the apartment with gunfire.

10:00 P.M., Tuesday: According to a later statement by Mayor Cavanagh, sniper fire was reported to be so heavy at this time that the police were ordered to withdraw from the Grand River, Dexter, and Clairmont

Streets area. Guardsmen were ordered in to sweep the area, a tactic which had been attempted during the first day of the riot, but was not successful. About this time, Jack Sydnor, a Negro, returned to his home drunk and fired a shot into an alley with a pistol. After wounding a policeman responding to the shot, Sydnor was himself killed. Other shots were fired by police. Reports of "heavy sniper fire" came into police headquarters and tanks and National Guard troops responded. Over the next several hours, Guardsmen opened fire at several points in response to what they believed was sniper fire. One of the victims of this firing was four-year old Tonia Blanding. Tonia was shot as Guardsmen machine gunned an apartment in which they thought the flicker of a match lighting a cigarette was gunfire. A Detroit newspaper article pointed out that had the Guardsmen followed police procedure of using tear gas to flush out suspected snipers, Tonia might not have died.

Shortly Before Midnight, Tuesday: A few minutes before midnight, Manuel Cosby was one of four looters trapped by police as he attempted to loot a grocery store. When the looters failed to heed the warning of the police to halt, three shots were fired, one of which killed Cosby.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 1967

Shortly After Midnight, Wednesday: Sometime late Tuesday night or early Wednesday, according to the Police Commissioner's Administrative Assistant, Hubert Locke, there was a marked breakdown in discipline among front-line enforcement personnel. The loss of control at the command level was attributed by Dr. Locke to (1) the general fatigue that had set in among the troops, and (2) the increasing number of reports of violence directed at police and firemen by the rioters. Illustrative of this observation, perhaps, is the fact that police and Guard forces reportedly killed nine persons, including three at the Algiers Motel, between the hours of 9:45 P.M. on Tuesday and 4:00 A.M., Wednesday.

Dr. Locke also said that at about the mid-point of the riot week, the policemen on the street discontinued wearing their badges and tape was applied over the license plates and identifying number of scout cars. Dr. Locke believes that the desire for anonymity was the principal reason for the obliteration of all identifying insignia.

1:00 A.M., Wednesday: Between the late hours of Tuesday and early morning, Wednesday, there was, according to FBI reports, an appreciable decline in the number of lootings and burnings. However, reports of sniper activity had increased, and officers at the 10th Precinct station house reported that it was under fire for the second time since the beginning of the riot.

At about this hour, Mrs. Helen Hall, who was in Detroit on business, was killed by a rifle slug as she stood looking out a fourth floor window of the Harlan House Motel. Official reports attributed the death to sniper fire. The Free Press concurred in the reported opinion of Henry Heading, chief of the criminal division of the county prosecutor's office. He believes a Guardsman shot Mrs. Hall.

1:50 A.M., Wednesday: The FBI was advised that, as of this time, the number of persons injured included 100 prisoners, 47 Detroit policeman, 4 State policeman, 13 Guardsmen, 29 firemen and 76 civilians. Fire Chief Quinlan said that 1,110 fires had been reported since the beginning of the disorder.

Over 4,000 persons had been taken into custody up to this time.

2:00 A.M., Wednesday: At about this hour, three Negro teenagers were shot to death in the annex of the Algiers Motel. A Detroit policeman has been indicted for first-degree murder in the death of one youth. Two policemen and a private guard have been charged with conspiracy. The homicide charges against another patrolman were dismissed at a preliminary examination for lack of evidence.

A pathologist hired by the Free Press said that each victim had been shot more than once from a range of fifteen feet or less by 12-gauge double O buckshot. Two of them were shot while lying or kneeling.

3:00 A.M., Wednesday: The police department reported that 94 persons were arrested between the hours of midnight and 3:00 A.M. Wednesday. In comparison, 598 arrests had been made during the same period on Monday, July 24th, and 126 during the first three hours of Tuesday.

In the early morning darkness of this day, three white youths went out sight-seeing in violation of the curfew.

The official report claims that the young men drove through a blockade and the Guard troops opened fire. The youths said that there was no blockade in sight and no command to halt was given. At any rate, no weapons were found in the car. A short time later, Sgt. Post was found lying on the ground dying.

The men said they were turned over the Detroit police, who took them to the 10th Precinct. One of the men said that they were taken into an interrogation room and then beaten with blackjacks. The youth said, "They hit us with their fists and with blackjacks on the head. They didn't ask us any questions. They just started on us for no reason." Records at Detroit General Hospital show the three were treated at 7:00 A.M., five hours after they had been taken into custody. One man was treated for a broken jaw and all three received stitches for cuts about the head and face. According to the Free Press, none of the boys was injured in the roadblock shooting. There is no other apparent explanation for their injuries than the beating.

4:15 A.M., Wednesday: The police department advised that at this time there were no reports of lootings or burnings.



There were a few incidents of sniping reported, but firemen were no longer experiencing difficulty fighting fires.

6:00 A.M., Wednesday: The FBI was advised by the police that the disturbance areas in Detroit were quiet. The Fire Department said that there had been a substantial decrease in fires during the last twelve hours, and at this time, there were no fires out of control.

7:00 A.M., Wednesday: In view of the decline in fire activity, Chief Quinlan ordered six-hour relief periods for all fire personnel. Detroit firemen had been on around-the-clock duty since 4:30 P.M., Sunday, July 23.

8:30 A.M., Wednesday: Governor Romney extended the hours during which gasoline could be sold to 5:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. The mayor urged workers to return to their jobs. Mr. Vance, General Throckmorton, Governor Romney and Mayor Cavanagh all agreed that the troops on the streets were now adequate to suppress the disorder.

9:15 A.M., Wednesday: The mayor said that his Summer Task Force was receiving the first complaints that merchants in the riot area were charging exorbitant prices.

During the morning, Judge George Crockett wrote a letter to Executive Judge Brennan, with copies circulated to the other eleven judges, denouncing the high bail policy. He called attention to the fact that the practice was violative of State and Federal Constitutional guarantees.

The practice of assessing high bonds compounded the problems arising from the enormous number of arrests. Detention facilities were swamped, and since the earliest arrestees were not released, no space opened up for later arrests. Mayor Cavanagh testified for the Commission that, "We were using those big buses as prisons, so to speak, to detain prisoners. They were living on them 24 hours a day, no toilet facilities or anything else, parked out in the street around the court."

11:00 A.M., Wednesday: Governor Romney made a public appeal to merchants to refrain from price gouging.

12:00 Noon, Wednesday: The police reported that 299 persons had been injured up to this hour. Of this number, the largest category (116) was persons in custody. Only 83 civilians not in custody were reported injured.

During Wednesday afternoon, Willie McDaniels, age 23, was fatally shot as a looter in a furniture store.

3:00 P.M., Wednesday: Police statistics indicate that only 23 persons were arrested during the preceding three hours. During the same period on Monday, 462 arrests were made and on Tuesday, 79.

4:30 P.M., Wednesday: The FBI was advised that sniper activity was continuing at this time in the adjoining 10th and 13th Precincts. The police command post at Herman Kiefer Hospital and the police and fire stations in 10th Precinct had been fired upon. Police personnel were told to leave the 10th Precinct area since heavy armored equipment was being moved in.

5:00 P.M., Wednesday: At this time, according to the Free Press, a 20-year old Negro, George Talbert, was fatally wounded by a National Guardsman as he walked down a west side street "unarmed and innocent." Why he was shot is a mystery. The circumstances render it highly unlikely that he could have been mistaken for a looter: he carried nothing with him and there are no stores in the area where he was shot. The curfew was not in effect, and he was unarmed. The Guard version is that Talbert was shot for refusing to heed a command to halt. None of the civilian witnesses believe the Guard story, the paper said. Julian Witherspoon,

an area chairman for the Mayor's Committee on Human Resources Development, told the Free Press that he was "an eye-witness to murder."

A reporter assigned to the area at the time said that several of the streets were being closed by the Guard. He said the technique of closing them consisted of "standing in the middle of the street, shouting obscenities at whomever they were trying to move. If they didn't instantly obey, they'd fire over the cars or over people's heads as they stood on their lawns." Mr. Witherspoon confirmed this. He said he saw two Guardsmen proceeding up the street, waving back cars that were trying to go east on 12th Street. When cars failed to stop, the Guardsmen squeezed off rounds over the cars from their M-1 rifles.

Witherspoon told the Free Press that he saw a man -- Talbert -- walking east. He said he was frightened for Talbert but had no chance to wave him back. A moment later, one of the Guardsmen raised his rifle, aimed directly at Talbert and shot. He died ten days later.

6:00 P.M., Wednesday: Governor Romney read a statement at this time reimposing the curfew. He also announced that race tracks and motion picture houses would remain closed. Restaurants could serve food, but no alcoholic beverages.

Gasoline stations were still limited to operation between 5:30 A.M. and 9:00 P.M. There was in addition a five gallon per sale limit and fuel had to be pumped directly into automobile gasoline tanks and not into separate containers.

According to Mr. Vance's report, the prosecutor's office decided at this time to resubmit individual files to the court for release of prisoners on their own recognizance who had no record of prior convictions.

Early Evening, Wednesday: This evening, the first steps were taken to mobilize local leadership for rebuilding the city. A list of those to be invited to attend a meeting at 3:00 p.m. the next day was prepared, and telegrams were sent out.

A summary prepared by Congressman John Conyers' Detroit office of about 200 complaints of enforcement personnel abuses during the riot indicates that the control forces were especially unrestrained against Negro citizens on Wednesday evening, the fourth night of the disorder. All the following examples, of course, reflect only the complainant's version of an incident:

At 6:00 P.M., Mr. Rubin Lacy was dozing on his front porch when he was awakened by private policemen and taken to the 10th Precinct stationhouse. He was there described as a sniper, and then severely beaten by Guardsmen using rifle butts. He was charged with assault but discharged the next day.

at 7:10 P.M., Mr. Wendell West said he and a friend were arrested and beaten by State Police. His friend has been missing ever since the riot.

at 7:45 P.M., Mr. John N. Berry and a friend were leaving a White Tower restaurant when police and Guard troops began firing upon them. Mr. Berry was hit twice, and the pair sought refuge on a nearby porch. There, police and soldiers pistol-whipped both of the men, despite Berry's wounds.

at 8:30 P.M., Mr. Eddie Young said that police broke into his apartment building. The apartments were ransacked, and he was beaten by police, suffering multiple bruises and broken teeth.

At 8:45 P.M., Mr. Eddie Paulding and Mr. Willie Jackson said that Paulding's house came under heavy fire from police for five minutes. The people were ordered out of the house, but as they emerged, Jackson and Paulding were both shot down.

Because no weapons were found, the men were released. According to Mr. Atchison, the troops were acting on a report of sniper activity, and had the right street number but the wrong street.

9:00 P.M., Wednesday: Police statistics indicated a slight increase in arrests during the three hour period ending at 9:00 P.M. Sixty-one persons had been taken into custody, compared to forty-four during the previous three hours. During the 6:00 - 9:00 P.M. period of the past three days, there were 275 arrests on Sunday, 257 on Monday, and 83 on Tuesday.

9:30 P.M., Wednesday: The thirty-fifth man to die in the Detroit riot was a 26-year old white man named Julian Lust. He was shot by police in a junk yard, where he was apparently trying to steal an automobile water pump. Police had been told that an armed Negro and a couple of other men had broken into the yard. Two patrolmen went to the front of the yard and one to the back. They saw Lust and ordered him to halt. The officers said that Lust made a move with his hand and then began to run. Two officers fired, and one bullet struck the man. The Free Press said, "A pool of blood was found later, within two feet of the

motor Lust had been workin on. If he ran, he did not run far." No Negroes and no weapons were found.

Sometime during the last hours of Wednesday, July 26, Mr. Albert Robinson, a 38-year old Negro factory worker, received the wounds that would make him the forty-first to die in the Detroit riot. The versions of the National Guard and civilian witnesses are irreconcilable.

National Guardsmen stated that they were under fire from snipers in Robinson's apartment building on the West Side. They said they returned the fire and that when police arrived, even more fire was directed at the building. The occupants were ordered out of the building, and in the melee that followed, the Guardsmen say Robinson was shot twice. He died ten days later.

Robinson's own story, according to his mother who spoke with him in the hospital, is that he was in the hall emptying trash when Guardsmen burst in the door and ordered everyone out. He said there was a volley of bullets and he got shot and stabbed.

When Robinson was wounded, he was, according to the initial police report quoted in the Free Press, ordered to lie in the alley behind the building. Here, according to the apartment manager, Robinson was kicked and bayoneted.



by a Guard soldier. The manager, who is a Negro, reported that the trooper said, "Aren't you dead yet?", and bayoneted Robinson twice. Another witness, a white man named Charles Maleseve, swore that he saw the soldier take his rifle with bayonet fixed, and stick it on Robinson's body, saying, "Does that feel good? How does that feel?" Maleseve also said that after police departed for the hospital with Robinson, the Guardsman told him, "I stuck him five times, and I tried to rip him, but he wouldn't rip. So I just twisted it." This story has not been corroborated by other witnesses.

Police say that Robinson was not bayoneted, basing this claim on the affidavit of one of the examining physicians at Detroit General Hospital. The doctor swore that he knew of no bayonet wounds on Robinson's body, although, reportedly, he later told the Free Press that he could not be sure, since his sole concern at the time was the abdominal bullet wound. According to the county Medical Examiner, an autopsy showed five lacerations on Robinson's body, which, he said, were identified as operative or drainage incisions. In any event, no weapons were found in the apartment.

11:30 P.M., Wednesday: The FBI was advised of a high incidence of sniper activity in the area of 12th Street and Grand River, where the riot began. Otherwise, there had been a marked decrease in other types of riot-related activity. The Fire Department reported that fire problems were diminishing.

12:00 Midnight, Wednesday: The Police reported that 425 persons had been arrested during the preceding 24 hours. This was a substantial decline from the 732 arrests on Tuesday, the 2,931 on Monday and the 1,129 on Sunday.

THURSDAY, JULY 27, 1967

Early Morning, Thursday, July 27, 1967: Mayor Cavanagh reported that in view of the improved situation on Thursday morning, the first steps were being taken to restore full responsibility for the maintenance of law and order to state and local authorities. He also noted that he and General Throckmorton had agreed that an order should be issued to Federal forces and National Guardsmen to sheath bayonets and remove ammunition from all weapons used by these forces. The order was issued and complied with. It was reported by Hubert Locke, former Special Assistant to Commissioner Girardin that the commanding officers of each of the precincts had a joint meeting--the first such meeting held during the riot. At this meeting Commissioner Girardin advised the precinct commanders that it had been brought to his attention that some squad cars had taped over their license plates to avoid identification. Girardin insisted that all tape be removed and he cautioned the officers that if any squad car was seen on the streets with its identifying insignia removed or taped over, the officer in charge of the precinct to which the car was assigned would be in serious trouble.

10:00 A.M., Thursday, July 27, 1967: Mayor Cavanagh announced that the curfew had been lifted and that there had been an easing on the restriction of the selling of gasoline. Some citizens apparently called to request that the curfew be reimposed because rumors persisted that further violence would occur.

Shortly after 4:00 P.M., Thursday: According to Cyrus Vance a meeting of several hundred community leaders was held at 4:15 to discuss how best to get the city back on its feet. General Throckmorton and Mayor Cavanagh gave brief reports on the status of law and order and on the Federal actions being taken to provide for emergency food, health and safety needs. Following the remarks made by a number of participants, Governor Romney announced the appointment of J. L. Hudson, Jr., as head of a committee of community leaders from various political and economic background. This committee, known as the New Detroit Committee, was given the responsibility for developing plans for the recovery of the city and the building of better relations.

Thursday Evening: Shortly after 7:00 p.m. the curfew was reimposed by the governor. The FBI reported that it had been advised that there had not been a marked increase

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in the number of incidents as compared to the previous evening. At this time no major fires were in progress and the fire department reported a normal number of fire runs.

FRIDAY, JULY 28, 1967

Shortly after Midnight, Friday nineteen year old William N. Dalton, an ex-Job Corps trainee was killed by the shotgun blast of an unidentified patrolman. A number of witnesses claim that Dalton had been stopped and was goaded by police into making a break. He was shot when he ran. Investigators from the Detroit homicide bureau deny this version: According to the Free Press, they reported that Dalton and several of his companions were committing arson during the night. They claim that Dalton "may have been attempting to escape arrest" and that, if he was so attempting, they had every right to shoot. An investigation of the case showed, however, that no report of the shooting was ever filed. Detroit Free Press investigators noted that of the several persons who said they had witnessed the incident, not one had ever been able to provide information that could help identify the officer that they said fired the shot.

Approximately 2:30 A.M., Friday, July 28, 1967: At this time, the FBI reported that it had been advised by the police department that for the first time in five days

there were no reports of riot-related incidents in the 10th precinct and that conditions appeared to be calm in that area.

Morning, Friday, July 28, 1967: Cyrus Vance reported that he had met Governor Romney and Mayor Cavanagh in accordance with a telegram from the President of Thursday, July 27th and that they had discussed further the emergency health, food and safety needs of the citizens of Detroit. He reported that since there had been substantial improvement in the situation, the first steps taken to withdraw Federal troops from the Detroit area. As Federal forces were moved out of the First, Seventh and Thirteenth precincts, the responsibility for these sectors was taken over by the National Guard troops. The FBI reported that inasmuch as all local facilities for the incarceration of riot arrestees were filled to capacity the governor had announced that many individuals arrested for offenses such as looting and curfew violation were being released on personal bond, provided that they had no prior criminal record.

Noon, Friday, July 28, 1967: As clean-up operations began in the riot area, 300 Michigan state police officers and

800 members of the Michigan National Guard were returned to their posts outside the Detroit area.

12:30 P.M., Friday, July 28, 1967: Cyrus Vance, Deputy Attorney General Christopher, and the Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Civil Rights Division, John Doar, met with Governor Romney, Mayor Cavanagh and other state, city, and county legal and judicial authorities to review the problems connected with the large number of persons who were still in custody awaiting disposition of their cases. It was noted that most of the arrestees during the riot were for curfew violations and that a substantial number of those arrested were being released at the precinct level to appear in court at a later date.

Early Evening, Friday, July 28, 1967: The FBI reported that it had been advised that relatively little riot-related activity had occurred during the early evening. Most of the reported incidents, which included sniping, looting and burning, were unconfirmed, and very little looting had been reported.

8:00 P.M., Friday, July 28, 1967: By Friday evening it was necessary for Mayor Cavanagh to reinstate the curfew



because hords of sightseers were driving through the riot affected areas hampering clean-up operations and causing the kind of crowds and confusion that could have ignited further rioting in the area.

Late Evening, Friday: The FBI reported that Governor Romney said in a news broadcast that the Detroit area was secure and free from major incidents of sniping, looting and arson.

SATURDAY, JULY 29, 1967

1:30 A.M., Saturday: The FBI reported that it had been advised that a National Guardsman in the area of 12th and Philadelphia Street was fired upon by a sniper using a bow and arrow. The Guardsman was not injured. Mr. Vance reported that early Saturday morning he returned to Washington to report to the President on the situation and attend the first meeting of the President's National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders. In a news conference, the Governor announced that the Small Business Administration had declared Detroit a disaster area. This declaration had the effect of authorizing low interest (3%) long-term (30 year) loans for repairing or replacing small businesses destroyed or damaged by the riot. Governor Romney announced that 1,400 prisoners were released as of 6:00 A.M. Saturday morning and Mayor Cavanagh noted that although a new policy was never formally adopted, some of the judges beginning on Tuesday or Wednesday and continuing through Thursday, Friday and Saturday, abandoned the policy of arbitrary high bond for persons arrested during the rioting and considered each case on its merits. According to the fire chief,

the fire department resumed its normal shift schedule on Saturday morning.

Noon, Saturday: Governor Romney announced that conditions of the Detroit area were improved. He urged people in the community to attend church and advised that his proclamation limiting the congregation of five or more persons had been rescinded. He also announced that the curfew for Saturday, July 29, and Sunday, July 30, would be imposed only from 11:00 p.m. to 5:30 a.m.

Shortly after 7:00 p.m., Saturday, Ernest Rocquemore, aged 19, was shot in the back and killed by an Army paratrooper as he fled from a police raid on an Eastside flat. According to the Detroit Free Press account of this incident, the paratrooper was cleared of any wrong-doing by the prosecutor's office. It was ruled that Rocquemore's death was a justifiable homicide that had occurred when the Negro youth ran into the line of fire between the paratrooper and an unknown man fleeing with a gun. The police reported that as they mounted the porch steps they saw through the screen door, a young Negro with a brown paper bag in one hand and a chrome plated revolver in the other.

They stormed into the house and fired at least three shotgun blasts at the screaming crowd inside--a group of about a dozen. The paratroopers who had remained outside the house near the police cars upon hearing the shots, ran along the side of the house to the back door just as the young people were spilling out of the house. As someone shouted "Watch it, that man has a gun coming out of the door," the soldiers observed what they thought was a chrome revolver and began firing at the man. It was at this point that Rocquemore was shot. A 16 year old boy, who has never been questioned by the police, claims that he was the youth on the front stairs when officers arrived and that what he carried was not a revolver, but a transistor radio trimmed in shiny metal and topped with a chrome-plated antenna.

SUNDAY, JULY 30, 1967

Sunday Morning: The FBI reported that the incidents now being recorded by the police department were routine -- reports of prowlers, family disturbances, suspicious persons, disorderly gangs and the location of loot.

11:00 P.M., Sunday, July 30 to 3:00 A.M., Monday, July 31:

The Detroit Police Department advised the FBI that the city was quiet and seemed to be normal. It was reported that only 15 curfew violations had occurred during this time period and that no major fires were in progress or any looting reported. Shortly after 8:00 a.m., Monday, July 31, Mayor Cavanagh reported the curfew was revised to midnight to 5:30 a.m., and that the sale of alcoholic beverages was permitted from 7:00 a.m. to 12 midnight.

MONDAY, JULY 31, 1967

Mid-day, Monday: Cyrus Vance reported that approximately 2,200 riot prisoners were still confined. It was also reported by the FBI that "the situation continued to be favorable," and that few arrests were made during the 12 hour period beginning at 12:01 a.m., Monday. Most of the arrests that were made were for curfew violations. No fires or confirmed incidents of sniper activity or looting had been reported.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 1967

According to the police department, the situation continued to be near normal. Few arrests were made other than for minor curfew violations. The police department returned to a regular eight-hour shift and no incidents of looting, arson and sniper activity were reported. The hundreds of prisoners who remained in custody had all been arraigned and would be tried in the Recorder's Court in Detroit at the earliest possible date.

Cyrus Vance reported that four battalions of Federal forces had been air-lifted to their home stations at Selfridge Air Force Base. Vance also reported that the return of the control of the city to the National Guard and local authority and the relaxation of curfew and the restriction on liquor sales did not result in any increase in incidents.

Shortly After Noon, Tuesday, August 1, 1967: Mayor Cavanagh reported that curfew restrictions were officially lifted and that the remaining units of the National Guard would be taken off the streets by 9:00 P.M. Tuesday evening.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 1967

Wednesday Morning, August 2, 1967: Vance reported that the administrator of the Small Business Administration was visiting Detroit with members of his staff to discuss SBA programs and its potential contribution to the city's recovery. Vance and General Throckmorton held a press conference at police headquarters to announce that "law and order had been restored in Detroit...responsibility for maintaining law and order in Detroit will be returned at noon to state authorities."