

P R O C E E D I N G S

CHAIRMAN KERNER: The Commission will please come to order.

We are very happy to have with us today Mayor Cavanagh of Detroit, Michigan, with his personnel. I would call upon Mayor Cavanagh to take charge of the presentation of such matters as they wish to place before the Commission here.

The various documents, films, charts, that you have here we would like copies and marked as exhibits so that they may go in the record to support your statements as they are being made. We would appreciate your working with Colonel McKenzie on that for the identification for the purposes of the record. Mayor Cavanagh.

## STATEMENT OF

THE HONORABLE JEROME P. CAVANAGH, MAYOR OF  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN; ACCOMPANIED BY ROBERT P.  
ROSELLE; RAY GIRARDIN; RICHARD STRICHARTZ;  
PHILIP RUTLEDGE; HERBERT LOCHE; THOMAS ANGOTT;  
JOHN NICHOLS; ANTHONY RIPLEY; FRED J. ROMANOFF;  
ARTHUR JOHNSON; REVEREND ROBERT POTTS; ALVIN  
HARRISON; RON HEWITT; CONRAD MALLETT; BERNARD  
WINCKOSKI; RICHARD MARKS; and NORMAN DRACHLER

MAYOR CAVANAGH: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and members of the Commission. First, let me express on behalf of not just myself but the people of our community

our pleasure at the fact that this Commission has been appointed and as what we perceive the nature of this Commission to be. It is regrettable, however, that by virtue of circumstances many of which I think are beyond our control, occasions our appearance here today to be testifying as to what happened in our city. I would like to take for a moment, and for the purpose of the record principally introduce to you people that have accompanied me here today before the Commission. Starting on my right is Mr. Richard Strichartz, who is the Coordinator of our new development team, which is doing the planning necessary as a result of this riot. Next to Mr. Strichartz, on his right, is Dr. Norman Drachler, the Superintendent of our Detroit Public School System. And next to Dr. Drachler is Mr. Arthur Johnson, who is the Deputy Superintendent of the Detroit Public School System. Next to Mr. Johnson is Mr. Philip Rutledge, who is the Chairman, Director, I should say, of the Mayor's Committee on Human Resources Development, which operates our poverty program. Next to Mr. Rutledge is the Reverend Robert Potts, who is a member of the New Detroit Committee, but also interestingly enough is the Rector of a church, which was located right in the heart of the original location of this riot down on 12th Street. And next to Reverend Potts is Mr. Richard Marks, who is the Director of our Commission on Community Relations.

Seated here on my left is Mr. Robert Roselle, who

mbh/4  
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392

1 is my principal executive assistant. Next to him is our  
2 Police Commissioner, Mr. Ray Girardin. Next to him is the  
3 Deputy Superintendent of Police, Mr. John Nichols. Next to  
4 Mr. Nichols is the Executive Assistant to the Commissioner,  
5 Mr. Hubert Loche. Next to him is Mr. Thomas Angott, one  
6 of the members of our fire commission. Seated back here is  
7 Inspector Bernard Winckoski, in charge of the research and  
8 planning for our Detroit Police Department. Next to Mr.  
9 Winckoski is Mr. Ron Hewitt, who is the field manager of a  
10 neighborhood conservation office, which is located down on  
11 12th Street and an office which had been operating and  
12 operated during the course of the riot. Next to Mr. Hewitt  
13 is Mr. Alvin Harrison, who is a member of the new Detroit Committee  
14 and also associated with the neighborhood legal services in  
15 Detroit.

16 And certainly, all of these gentlemen are here to  
17 assist this Commission in answering any questions which you  
18 might have or assisting me in the presentation today.

19 I would like to preface my remarks to this Commission  
20 this morning by pointing out that this is not the first time I  
21 have appeared in this city or before any major public forum to  
22 speak about the great crisis in the American cities, or for that  
23 matter, in my own City of Detroit. It is a fact that for the  
24 last five years, better than five years, I have repeatedly  
25 raised my voice and warned that the American cities are in a

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393

1 great state of crisis, so deep and I think so abiding that our  
2 national destiny is threatened. A year ago I had the oppor-  
3 tunity to tell the Ribicoff Committee that we must make sure  
4 that everyone in this Nation begins to think about the larger  
5 questions, begins to realize that the warfare on our city streets  
6 is just as important to our national destiny as some consider  
7 the warfare in Southeast Asia, and this same theme was echoed  
8 last fall in an address I made when I was privileged to serve  
9 as President of the National League of Cities. I have served  
10 on a number of commissions and committees appointed by both  
11 President Kennedy and President Johnson and I recall very well  
12 back in 1963 pointing out to the National Association of  
13 Housing and Redevelopment officials at their national convention  
14 that the cities face such a tragic situation that it is really  
15 nothing less than a national shame. And again, last fall the  
16 same theme was emphasized to the Conference of National  
17 Organizations. I said that our treatment of Negroes has been a  
18 national disgrace. I believed it then, I still believe it,  
19 that our laws and our customs and our attitudes are changing now  
20 but I would only hope then that they change fast enough to  
21 match the impatience of so many forgotten Americans.

22 So, Mr. Chairman, I have said repeatedly at the  
23 White House and before various committees of the Congress that  
24 we are really at a time in our country's history when the  
25 cities should be breaking out of their shackles, but I would

mbh/6

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394

1 have to say with all candor to you and the members of your  
2 Commission that they are not. And, I think it is acknowledged  
3 by many objective observers that Detroit has used Federal  
4 programs with great effect, that it has had by many  
5 standards some degree of progressive leadership, certainly in  
6 our school system, and I hope in our city hall and its  
7 relations with the Negro community are among the best in the  
8 country.

9 In an interesting study just released over the  
10 weekend of school systems in six cities, done at the Center of  
11 Urban Education in New York City, Detroit was cited, "as having  
12 the most open participatory system encouraging wider public  
13 participation", and that same study highly praised the  
14 policies of school superintendent Drachler, who is with us  
15 today and I am sure will have some further comments about the  
16 school's relationship with the problem under discussion. But  
17 still we have to conclude that we have not, all of us,  
18 representing our city, have not done enough.

19 I had an opportunity two months ago in Hawaii to  
20 speak to the United States Conference of Mayors of which I  
21 was then President and I said that our problem is quite clear,  
22 that the great social and physical programs for rebuilding  
23 the cities and upgrading the quality of American life are  
24 still largely regarded in this country as frills and that  
25 instead of moving up the cities on the national scale of priority,

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395

1 we seem to be slipping. And in the spring before NIPA, the  
2 National Institute of Public Affairs, I did say that everything  
3 in the nation is not going to be all right. My words  
4 that night were that I do not mean to preach blood and thunder  
5 but there is a good deal of thunder that can be heard and blood  
6 even in April had already been spilled, and since that night  
7 in April, much more blood has been spilled. So, I think one  
8 of the questions that certainly has to be posed today before  
9 this Commission and during the course of your hearings, I would  
10 submit, Mr. Chairman, and distinguished members of the Commis-  
11 sion, is really how many more warnings does our Nation need?  
12 And I think how many times more must mayors and many other public  
13 officials go before the Congress and before the Administration,  
14 before the leaders of this Nation, with the very simple  
15 message, that all of us are in this urban boat together and  
16 that the boat frankly, is full of holes. And I would like  
17 now to turn briefly our attention to the Detroit problem.  
18 I think we probably should begin with a very brief description  
19 of Michigan and Detroit and maybe even a brief bit of Michigan  
20 riot history, unfortunate as that might sound. First, of  
21 Michigan's approximately eight million citizens, roughly ten  
22 per cent are Negro. About 70 per cent of all the Negroes in  
23 the State live in the Detroit metropolitan area where roughly  
24 half of the state's population is centered. Detroit's Negro  
25 population today in the city itself is estimated at over

mbh/8

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396

1 600,000 of a population of 1.6 plus million.

2 Detroit is, like many other cities, as I am sure  
3 you know, surrounded by a very extensive group of suburbs.  
4 There are about 200 separate units of government in the  
5 metropolitan area. And the suburbs now contain the bulk of  
6 the metropolitan area population and only a very handful have  
7 any Negro residents, very slight.

8 Detroit is a flat city, as most of you know, divided  
9 roughly in half by a street known as Woodward Avenue, and much  
10 like Los Angeles, is primarily filled with single family  
11 homes.

12 Back in 1943, Detroit was the scene of a major race  
13 riot, maybe the major race riot in contemporary American  
14 history but it was a riot of an entirely different nature than  
15 that which occurred just a couple of weeks ago in Detroit.  
16 In 1943, some 34 people were killed and property damage  
17 was limited to about \$2 million. It lasted two days and finally  
18 was put down by Federal troops sent by President Roosevelt.  
19 But it was characterized by mobs of whites and Negroes  
20 attacking individuals and crowds of the other race. Frequently  
21 individuals were chased by mobs and badly beaten or killed  
22 and it was sparked by many false rumors, particularly in the  
23 Negro community, and there were instances of pitched gun  
24 battles between both mobs and police.

25 And in recent years, there have been other out-

mbh/9

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397

1 breaks of a racial nature in a number of Michigan cities,  
2 including cities like Lansing, the capital of Michigan, and  
3 Benton Harbor, located over on the western part, across from  
4 the City of Chicago, as you know, Governor. And for the most  
5 part, during these years Detroit has remained quite calm,  
6 particularly compared to some of the things which have  
7 happened in other major cities.

8 Back in August of last year, 1966, police arrested  
9 four men for loitering at the intersections of Pennsylvania and  
10 Kercheval, out on Detroit's lower east side, and a crowd at  
11 that point of about 75 to a 100 people gathered and windows  
12 were broken, although there were no verified instances of  
13 looting, it was assumed there was. There was some attempt  
14 at fire bombing. None of it succeeded and there was no  
15 sniping and police reinforcements at that point converged upon  
16 the area and at 10:00 p.m., our Police Department organized a  
17 sweep of the area and dispersed the crowd. The police were  
18 on full alert, four-man scout cars patrolled the area very  
19 intensively and the outbreak was in an area of only minor  
20 stores and largely single family homes. There were a number  
21 of small instances the first night and few arrests were made.  
22 The next night the streets had been cleaned by our Department  
23 of Public Works and the stores boarded up and thank goodness, a  
24 good summer rain began to fall, and civilian police, their  
25 peace patrols, were active and the second night there were some



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398

1 43 felony arrests by our Detroit Police Department. There  
2 were no deaths, a few injuries and the arrests totaled just  
3 under 60. By the end of the third night, August 11th, things  
4 were very quiet. And early in the incident a car was stopped  
5 with several people inside who were members of what was popularly  
6 characterized as an extremist Negro organization and the  
7 car contained a considerable amount of guns and ammunition,  
8 was heading for the Pennsylvania Kercheval neighborhood. And  
9 a detailed study of this Kercheval incident so-called, has been  
10 submitted to this Committee as part of our overall report.  
11 I merely mention this as background in the great difference  
12 between what happened a Year ago, for which the city was  
13 acclaimed, and what happened just this year.

14 And with this brief background, I would suggest,  
15 then, we direct our attention to the tragic events in July,  
16 starting on July 23, 1967.

17 I think it should be emphasized, though, that from the  
18 beginning, that both the incident last year in Detroit and  
19 this year's tragedy are really not just Detroit happenings,  
20 so-called. They are part of a national picture of deep discontent in the American cities today and if I had one point I  
21 desire to emphasize to this distinguished Commission it would  
22 be that point, because the explosion that ripped Detroit had  
23 many points of origin over a long, long period of time.  
24 It has had its links with events of recent years in this city,  
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399

1 Washington, D. C., and Birmingham and Tuscaloosa, Alabama,  
2 in Jackson, Mississippi, in Cambridge, Maryland, in Kansas  
3 City, Missouri, in the Watts district in Los Angeles, in  
4 Harlem, Bedford Stuyvesant, New York City, on the southside  
5 of Chicago, and yes, even in the cotton field of both the  
6 great states of Louisiana and Texas.

7 The fact is that up to date, in 1967 alone, there  
8 have been disturbances as you know, of major proportions  
9 ranging from minor incidents to riots in 59, 59 cities in the  
10 United States, cities, I might add, containing almost half the  
11 population of the United States. -- in the east, in the south,  
12 midwest, southwest, and far west. And some of these eruptions  
13 were far more violent than others. Last year the count was,  
14 as I recollect, some 37 cities. And there has been no discernible  
15 relationship between the location or degree of violence in these  
16 disorders to social or economic or governmental factors. If  
17 there was a pattern, it was sort of a crazy quilt pattern, and  
18 it is clear from our experience that you cannot extinguish a  
19 single flame in a general fire. You have to extinguish the  
20 entire fire and in the process dampen down all the sparks  
21 and ignition points because the explosion in Detroit was  
22 really just one flame in what might be termed a nationwide  
23 fire. A spark fell in Detroit and ignition took place. Newark  
24 seemed to set the sparks flying but the elements of the combus-  
25 tion was there, even before Newark. And Detroit itself in

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400

1 turn dropped sparks on about half a dozen other Michigan  
2 cities in that same week. But the elements of the combustion  
3 were still there for many, many years.

4 Every city, it is true, has its individual aspects,  
5 its strengths and its weaknesses, and we thought in Detroit  
6 that we were in a stronger position, at least in terms of  
7 human relationships, than many other cities, and many outside  
8 observers agreed that we were and I believed that we were, and  
9 still do. But the difference, and this is important, I think,  
10 wasn't deep or fundamental to forestall the catastrophe  
11 which happened in that city. We certainly in Detroit discovered  
12 to our sorrow that we were not in fact, in the words of  
13 Donne, an island. We were part of these nationwide eruptions,  
14 and the places where they occurred were almost incidental,  
15 just as the incidents which ignited them were almost also  
16 accidental.

17 There is a widespread belief that the rioting in  
18 Detroit was the work of conspirators, that the police needed  
19 more power to crush rebellions and that the great social  
20 programs which had enjoyed some degree of success in that city  
21 are now bankrupt failures. And, I would say from the evidence  
22 that we now have that the influence of conspirators was very,  
23 very slight, small.

24 I would say certainly that our city, like every city,  
25 needs more police officers, but that our present laws generally

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401

1 are adequate to cope with the riot situations. And I would say  
2 that the social programs are still very relevant and still  
3 badly needed, and in the remarks to follow, I would hope  
4 that we would be able to touch on these matters, but it is  
5 important, I think, to understand from the beginning that there  
6 are no single answers or easy assumptions to make about Detroit's  
7 riot. Such unfortunately simplistic approaches are all too  
8 often part of American thinking today.

9 The basic issue in Detroit is the same issue which is  
10 really bringing this nation to its most frightening domestic  
11 crisis since the Civil War, and it is really in many ways  
12 the same Civil War issue, race, around which most of this  
13 rioting swirls.

14 But, before getting maybe to this larger picture,  
15 we would like to take a look at least for a few moments, to some  
16 of the factors involved in Detroit's riot. The riot began  
17 spontaneously and fed really on the images of about a 100  
18 other cities. It quickly exploded beyond the capacity of the  
19 local police to handle and literally, and figuratively, just  
20 roared right out of control. It did not start, as some might  
21 assume, at least we do not believe that it did, from a  
22 specific justified grievance in the Negro community. There  
23 was no overt act of police brutality.

24 The riot began with a rather ordinary raid at 3:45  
25 a.m., which would be Sunday morning, July 23rd, on an illegal

1 after-hours drinking establishment known as the Blind Pig,  
2 in Detroit. I could not really explain to you -- maybe our  
3 Police Commissioner could -- where that term derives its meaning  
4 and apparently it is unique to Detroit, but the Blind Pig is  
5 something rather well-known in Detroit. It is an illegal  
6 after-hours drinking establishment and it was on this street  
7 known as 12th Street, a street very busy with a lot of  
8 celebraters on Saturday night at an hour, and the crowd was  
9 jovial as these 83 people who were arrested in this Blind Pig  
10 were being transported to the police station. There is no  
11 record at least that the police were unduly rough or profane  
12 or impolite in handling this particular series of arrests.  
13 It took an hour to get all of those arrested into paddy wagons  
14 and during that time -- the reason it took that long, by the  
15 way, was because normally in these kinds of raids, there are  
16 no more than 15 to 25 people drinking, but for some  
17 unexplained reason there were 83 that night. The police Captain  
18 miscalculated the amount of equipment he needed to transport  
19 these people and it took an hour instead of normally taking  
20 15 or 20 minutes to transport the 83 people. But the crowd  
21 did grow to about 200 at that point, which is 4, 4:30 in the  
22 morning, and as the last police car was leaving the scene,  
23 with the last of these defendants, a stone or a brick was  
24 thrown through the rear window of that particular police scout  
25 car. The police didn't stop but they drove away, and of course,

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403

1 this really wasn't the first time this summer, any summer  
2 for that matter, that a large group had congregated during an  
3 arrest or a raid but this time the crowd didn't go home. It  
4 was an extremely hot night, I might add. Instead, it began to  
5 loot some of the nearby stores on 12th Street. Other police  
6 cars arrived and were stoned and they left at that point  
7 without making arrests. And a detailed sequence of the riot  
8 events will be presented to the Commission later in the course  
9 of this submission.

10 And, I think it might make some of these things more  
11 understandable, but at this point let me make just a couple  
12 of personal observations. I certainly don't propose today,  
13 and I cannot nor would I affirm that everything I did or  
14 which was done in my name or by virtue of whatever authority  
15 I possess as the Mayor of the city, during the hours of  
16 destruction and violence was in every respect the best that  
17 could have been done. I say that most candidly. Hindsight  
18 is always a very great instructor and I have, as all of us  
19 at this table, learned much from the most desolating days  
20 in our city. Yet, I cannot honestly say that today, under the  
21 circumstances of the hour and with the information that I had  
22 at that time, with rumor, by the way, having almost as much  
23 authority as fact, that I could have done much better than  
24 that which I did.

25 Moreover, I am not sure that even such improvements

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404

1 as hindsight might recommend would have made any great major  
2 difference in the results. The question might be asked, could  
3 the Milwaukee pattern be applied to Detroit or should it have  
4 been? Perhaps, but it is interesting to observe that it  
5 rained hard in Milwaukee the next night after that first night  
6 as it did in Detroit in 1966 when we had trouble and in both  
7 instances the rain greatly dampened the danger, and yet it  
8 rained at the same time in Newark without any appreciable  
9 effect.

10 The main object of our city's efforts to head off  
11 summer riots had been to remove instances of community  
12 friction. I set up a 24-hour Mayor's summer task force early  
13 in the summer, late spring. It was organized to keep an eye  
14 on trouble spots and to report danger and deal promptly with  
15 grievances and dispel rumors. For example, just three weeks  
16 before the riot, there was a very unusual multiple car accident  
17 at a nearby intersection. 19 people were hurt in that  
18 accident and word quickly spread that an injured Negro man  
19 was denied a place in the crowded ambulance and that his  
20 seat had been given to a white woman who had been less seriously  
21 injured. And city employees quickly picked up this rumor and  
22 found out the truth -- the white woman in fact, was pregnant --  
23 and spread this word throughout the nearby community and  
24 that particular incident died almost as quickly as it  
25 started.

mbh/16

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405

1           Also along with the summer task force in the Mayor's  
2 office, the city had a wide range of summer activities at some  
3 589 different recreation locations with in the city, an  
4 increased number of swimming pools in operation, full range  
5 of poverty programs which included employment, job training,  
6 work experience, family counseling and similar programs. Of  
7 course, none of these programs, it is true, were in operation  
8 early Sunday morning when the Blind Pig was raided. It should  
9 be pointed out that in just about every instance these programs  
10 were funded at levels well below the recognized need in the  
11 city.

12           Later, I am going to ask Dr. Drachler, who will  
13 comment more fully upon the broad range of programs that the  
14 Detroit public school system had in which we had over 100,000  
15 children in summer school or in some organized activity about  
16 which he will speak.

17           Also a package of summer programs had been funded,  
18 Mr.Chairman, but these programs were late in starting because  
19 of a delay in funding and didn't go into operation until July  
20 17th, six days before the riot. The Labor Department also  
21 had funded under the Urban Areas Employment program a massive  
22 drive for employment among slum dwellers. However, this  
23 program was not in full operation as yet. The Mayor's Summer  
24 Task Force was in operation with an early warning system out on  
25 the street, and that early warning system had helped dispel some



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406

1 rumors, including that one about the 19 people injured in the  
2 accident, but it should be noted that there was no advance  
3 warning from this early warning system when this particular  
4 riot broke out.

5 The Police Department had a rather well-developed  
6 and battle-tested riot plan which had been praised and used  
7 as a model by many departments all over the country, and the  
8 Department I might also add, was barely recovering from a very  
9 bitter labor dispute in which more than a 1000 of the 4600  
10 men in the Police Department had called in sick as part of a  
11 work stoppage or strike action. And this could well have had  
12 some effect. We have said, or I have said that Detroit's  
13 riot didn't start from any specific incident which might arouse  
14 the passion of a mob and I think it should also be made clear  
15 that it is at least my judgment and those of us charged with  
16 responsibility in the government of our city that it did  
17 not start from the work of revolutionaries who belong to the  
18 black extremist movements. Extremist groups, it is  
19 true, do exist in Detroit and have for some period of time and  
20 they were involved very deeply in this 1966 incident, about  
21 which I spoke. But this year from all the information which  
22 we have in our possession, they cannot be credited with causing  
23 the explosion. In fact, the discussions were among the  
24 extremists that 1968 was the year for the city of Detroit.

25 The people out on 12th Street early that Sunday

mbh/1

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407

1 morning when this Blind Pig was raided, were people really of  
2 no distinct class. There were some drunks and some drifters  
3 and some middle class, perhaps even a few wealthy people, some  
4 hustlers and petty gamblers and factory workers and some  
5 prostitutes. Just a conglomeration of night people out for  
6 some vice related activity or something to eat or even maybe on  
7 their way home and all of these people had no direct connection  
8 that we know of with any of the extremist groups in the city.

9 Those who came and increased the crowd to 200 there at  
10 the very beginning apparently were residents from a large  
11 number of high density apartment buildings right along 12th  
12 Street and there is still no evidence that there was a  
13 significant number of extremists among this group. Police  
14 have since the riot arrested one young man for goading that  
15 crowd into action, but for one or two persons to be able to  
16 turn a relatively friendly crowd into groups of looters points  
17 to the fact that the seeds at least in my judgment, or the  
18 powder keg must have been present. There was a common  
19 atmosphere which both the extremist and the non-extremist breathe,  
20 and that common atmosphere is really the quality of life for  
21 many if not for most who inhabit the Negro or Puerto Rican or  
22 Mexican-American ghettos in every city across the country. These  
23 people have a shared experience of slum living, not just by  
24 the quality of their housing conditions, but by the quality  
25 of their life itself, their living conditions. I mean the

mbh/1

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408

1 overall conditions of degradation and disorganization and  
2 poverty in which the young, and it is a fact, grow up without  
3 any hope of legitimately sharing in the supposedly fruits of  
4 a highly wealthy, materialistic society. That affluent society  
5 which is within their sight but in every instance almost beyond  
6 their reach, and it is this slum atmosphere of the ghetto which  
7 breeds and cultures the extremists, the militant haters and  
8 the social outlaws and demagogues who regard the violation of  
9 the law and violence as really their only way of making their  
10 mark and obtaining their share. And, it is this atmosphere  
11 which was present on 12th Street in Detroit that early Sunday  
12 morning and elsewhere in Detroit on many succeeding hours and  
13 days, and as far as our information now goes, it happened to  
14 ignite and explode.

15 Detroit's experience was that there was no single  
16 incident and no rallying point. As Bayard Rustin observed  
17 just Sunday, I think, in the Sunday New York Times, he said,  
18 "Although it may be of some interest to search for a pattern,  
19 no very profound purpose is served by concentrating on who  
20 struck the match. There are always matches lying around.  
21 We must ask why there was also a fuse and why the fuse was  
22 connected to a powder keg."

23 And we can conclude that in Detroit there were many  
24 matches lying around, and I would like to take a look for a  
25 moment, at what happened when the match was lit. We have a film

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409

1 on the early scenes. You will see on the film's first few  
2 seconds will give you a taste of the crowd on the street that  
3 Sunday morning, about eight or 9:00 o'clock in the morning,  
4 and this is not a professionally cut or edited film. It is one  
5 that we put together very briefly in the last few minutes,  
6 but I think it will give you some flavor, some idea of what  
7 was happening out on that street.

8 (Comments of Mayor Cavanagh during presentation  
9 of film and sound track.)

10 This is 12th Street early Sunday morning, several  
11 hours after that Blind Pig was raided. Some of the leadership  
12 is attempting to get people off the street. You can see  
13 obviously it does not work. The first that were started in the  
14 first instance were relatively minor. They soon grew to major  
15 fires and our Fire Department arrived and tried to put them out  
16 and there was some attempt to protect them by our Police  
17 Department. But, as the police would move into one store, the  
18 looters would move down the street. This is a group of our  
19 riot commandoes that arrived on the scene. You can see obviously  
20 there aren't many of them.

21 During that period of time the -- this shows some  
22 looters .

23 This is Congressman Conyers attempting to quell the  
24 crowd and he was shouted down. That is in his district. You  
25 see both the Negro and a white woman. The same lady that

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410

1 picked up the slip.

2 This is the next day on another -- that is the  
3 principal street in the city, Woodward. The stores are being  
4 looted and the police responding.

5 These are some of the fires that burned both Sunday  
6 night and Monday morning. Every piece of fire equipment in the  
7 city was used, plus that from 41 other communities brought  
8 into the city, all of which was committed to the so-called  
9 inner-city fighting fires. The rest of the cities and  
10 suburbs were stripped of any fire fighting equipment. That  
11 was not generally known.

12 This is Sunday night. Looting and burning that  
13 Sunday night. These are scenes of some of the prisoners  
14 that Sunday night starting to be brought into our central  
15 criminal court, called the Records Court in the downtown part  
16 of the city. You see no National Guardsmen. They were at  
17 that time on duty. The Fire Department had considerable  
18 difficulty fighting many of the fires initially because the  
19 police were deployed in many other instances of law enforcement.  
20 At one point they had to pull out, subsequently the National  
21 Guard rode shotgun, so to speak, on every piece of fire  
22 equipment that the Fire Department sent out. They had crews  
23 of three or four National Guardsmen to protect the fire  
24 fighters while they were fighting fire from people sniping  
25 and throwing rocks and bricks. Really, the sniping started

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411

1 more Monday than it did Sunday. Sunday it seemed to be burning  
2 a lot of buildings and looting.

3 As the riot continued Monday, the sniping started on  
4 these relatively low-rise buildings along 12th Street. They  
5 are two and three story buildings. You see some of the  
6 magnitude of the fires and the tremendous job that the Fire  
7 Department had. They performed heroically. Two firemen were  
8 killed as a result of the riot. A number, of course, injured.

9 This is a scene at the state fair grounds, as the  
10 Federal troops arrived. That is Monday night. We sent our  
11 transit system buses out to Southridge Field to bring in these  
12 troops. They didn't have the mobility to get into the city  
13 since they were airborne troops.

14 More scenes of fires. Here is one National  
15 Guardsman guarding the fire truck.

16 This is at our principal general hospital, Emergency  
17 Hospital, in downtown. Next, police headquarters.

18 This is a man that was shot.

19 This is a scene from one of our main streets showing  
20 the smoke rising over that section of the city. This aerial  
21 shot is not too good, but that was Monday evening when  
22 some of the fires were still burning. You can see their  
23 relationship to the downtown section. Some were still burning  
24 and many were started Monday. The Fire Department had its  
25 biggest response, I think, Monday night. You can see, when it

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412

1 is described as Berlin in 1945, what it did look like.

2 The stores were looted and whole blocks burned out.

3 This is on the east side. It spread Monday night to the  
4 east side of the city and when the Federal troops came in,  
5 they occupied the east side of the city and the National Guard  
6 stayed on the west side.

7 That is along 12th Street again, showing the  
8 extent of the fire damage. Maybe Grand River which is a  
9 street very near 12th Street. I had the opportunity to fly over  
10 the city at 8:00 o'clock Sunday night in a helicopter and it  
11 looked like, well, the most desolating thing I ever have seen  
12 or hope to see.

13 The signs as you can see, didn't always work.

14 This says "black, don't burn". You can see what  
15 happened.

16 That concludes the film.

17 Mr. Chairman, there was no attempt here to put  
18 together a professional sequence of events. Just to give you  
19 some idea of the desolating nature of the fires and the rioting,  
20 burning. You have seen some pictures, heard some of the sounds  
21 of the rioting. It obviously is neither the most dramatic or  
22 complete picture of what went on but it does, I think, give  
23 you some realistic sense of riot action.

24 The early pictures of the rioting and looting, the  
25 beginnings early Sunday morning, show an extremely high

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413

1 percentage of young men particularly. We will submit to you,  
2 as a matter of fact, they are part of your folder, pictures at  
3 the very back, copies of news pictures taken at that time, and  
4 you will see mostly young men out on the streets there. That  
5 is 12th Street there at the very back of your folder. And,  
6 there are really two sets of pictures. One of looting, the other  
7 of some damage. But the first five or six pictures show the  
8 rioting and the looting as it started early Sunday morning and  
9 if you look at them, you can see that most of the people in  
10 those pictures are male, practically all of whom are young  
11 people.

12 The statistical data which also forms part of the  
13 presentation which you have there, indicates that over 50 per  
14 cent of those arrested during the course of this riot were under  
15 the age of 25. They were between the ages of 17 and 25. Then  
16 you have to add into that close to 600 young people that were  
17 arrested that were under 17. So, you have of the total number  
18 arrested, a figure roughly 55 to 60 per cent being under the  
19 age of 25. There are some pictures which indicate that and we  
20 will briefly allude later in the presentation to some of the  
21 statistical data which I am sure you will be interested in.  
22 But these young men are really the fuse, I think. For the  
23 most part they have had no experience to really productive work  
24 and they have no stake really in the social arrangements of  
25 our life as you and I and most Americans understand it. For



mbh/25

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414

1 the most part, I think they have no foreseeable future except  
2 maybe a future among the hustlers and the minor racketeers, and  
3 for the most part they are cynical and here hostile and they  
4 are frustrated and angry, and sometimes they are not even  
5 sure what, at least at a system which as far as they see,  
6 has included them out, and at the same time they are filled  
7 with a very curious mixture of bravado and youth and a code  
8 of behavior which is generally hostile to authority. And the  
9 extremist, of course, always turn up after these things start.  
10 They are what I would call the unchosen leaders of potential  
11 rioters. When a substantial number of people in a community  
12 come to feel that law and order is their enemy and their  
13 oppressor, that community is in danger, and such groups  
14 exist in most of our American cities today. In our case  
15 it seems clear that it was not until looting really became  
16 widespread and was joined, I might add, by both white and  
17 Negroes alike with almost a cardinal like spirit at times,  
18 that the riot really got out of hand, and at that time it was  
19 not just the young rebels any more. They led, but they were  
20 followed by housewives and well-dressed men in good cars,  
21 and you can see many young children, seven, eight, nine, ten  
22 years of age, visiting those stores. Some of these men, by  
23 the way, interestingly enough, had stood for a time protecting  
24 some of these stores and yelling at the looters but then gave  
25 up and joined the looting themselves.

mbh/26  
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415

1 Again, I would emphasize that it is our judgement  
2 that there was no specific justified grievance which sparked  
3 the outbreak. The city had made a maximum effort to use all  
4 its possible resources over a long period of time to lessen  
5 tension among the races and improve housing though I don't  
6 think we did far enough in the field of housing and I think  
7 our administration, I would candidly admit if I had to in this  
8 room, and I would, had been deficient in estimating the need,  
9 the housing needs particularly in the low income areas of our  
10 city in the first few years of our administration, and we have  
11 tried to make up in the last year and a half for this, but it is  
12 a long, slow, difficult process.

13 But certainly, in the field of education and jobs for  
14 young Negroes, a great deal of effort had been made in our  
15 community. But it is obvious that what we did could not  
16 prevent a significantly large percentage of our population  
17 from probably feeling alienated enough to violate the laws  
18 that you and I live by, society's laws. But the powder  
19 keg that these young men ignited is really the social background  
20 and this social background is simply that for the overwhelming  
21 majority of the Negro population, oppression and segregation  
22 are still too much a part of life, and it is true that there  
23 have been changes in these patterns in recent years, and I  
24 think in Detroit among most of the northern American cities,  
25 these changes have been perhaps most meaningful and the most

mbh/2366

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416

1 far ranging, but despite this, it is still abundantly clear  
2 to me and to many of us that significant number of  
3 Americans, the American white middle class, has never accepted  
4 the Negro as a neighbor, as a fellow worker, or as a contribut-  
5 ing member to American society. And this sort of constant  
6 arms length treatment does feed back, and I don't think you  
7 should make any mistake about it, does feed back through the  
8 entire fabric of the Negro community and creates the social  
9 background of estrangement and frustration that makes up this  
10 large powder keg.

11 And, for those who feel that the total answer to  
12 this situation, to the dangers whose manifestations we have  
13 seen, is simply more guns and clubs and force, I would say  
14 that they are wrong and they are catastrophically wrong.

15 Of course, the increased availability and certainly  
16 the more effective use of peace-keeping forces is very  
17 vital and extremely essential, but for those who cherish the  
18 thought that the situation nationwide can be dealt with simply  
19 by sterner measures of force and repression are really deluding  
20 themselves.

21 Repression without channels of release is a Molotov  
22 cocktail. It takes only one match to set it off and then its  
23 destructive effects as we have seen here on this film, can  
24 spread everywhere.

25 I am not sure how much there is to be learned from

mbh/2

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417

1 a prolonged consideration of the fine details of the actions  
2 taken or not taken under the riot conditions. To speculate on  
3 what might have happened if a particular action had been taken  
4 at a particular moment is at least in my judgment, rather vain  
5 and without major significance.

6 What if a particular policeman or a particular  
7 National Guardsman had done or had not done a particular act  
8 at a particular moment and what if a certain looter had done  
9 or not done a certain action at a certain moment, such as  
10 breaking a window or snatching the first loot out of that store  
11 window.

12 What if, in fact, the police had refrained from  
13 raiding that Blind Pig early Sunday morning and if there  
14 had only been, say, 50 people inside that after-hours drinking  
15 establishment instead of 83 and if the police action, instead  
16 of taking an hour, had taken only 15 minutes which was the time  
17 required, that hour, for the crowd to gather.

18 I think to ask and answer such questions is really  
19 in many ways sort of useless and certainly in my judgment,  
20 it is almost as useless to suggest that if yesterday was  
21 Saturday instead of Monday, today would be Sunday rather than  
22 Tuesday and none of us would be sitting here at this hearing.

23 However, I think that a broad examination is  
24 important and does lead, Mr. Chairman, to important conclusions.  
25 For example, there is no question about the fact that the

mbh/29

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418

1 National Guard does need much more training and much greater  
2 degree of integration as this Commission, I see, has already  
3 recommended. And, until these recommendations are implemented,  
4 the National Guard really cannot be considered very effective  
5 force in these kinds of situations. And, I do have some sugges-  
6 tions which I would like to make toward the end of this  
7 presentation.

8 First, let me just turn for a moment to a concise  
9 sequence of events in the course of the riot which is "B".  
10 Rather than run through them all, I think I might just  
11 highlight a couple of them because they form part of the  
12 record. But, at 3:30 Sunday morning, this Blind Pig was  
13 raided. And the first rock about 5:10 was thrown and the  
14 police began to gather, staging at a hospital not far from the  
15 riot area. The street patrol strength of the Detroit Police  
16 Department at that point was at its lowest. It is almost like  
17 Pearl Harbor, because our crime rate in the city on Sunday  
18 morning is lower at that period of time than any period of  
19 time, 24-hour period of time of any other day in the week. And  
20 most of the crime is relatively slight. And to put our  
21 maximum force on the streets six or seven days a week of  
22 necessity, at least up until that point, the number of police  
23 throughout the city on the street at that period of time was  
24 very, very slight, compared to the maximum capability of the  
25 Police Department.

mbh/3

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419

1 That afternoon, about 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon,  
2 skipping along on Sunday afternoon, we had already for several  
3 years had plans with the Michigan State Police and the National  
4 Guard through the Governor's office, and so on. We had met  
5 repeatedly. We had made plans for mobilizing them, so that  
6 afternoon about 2:00 o'clock I requested that the State  
7 Police come into the city. There were supposed to be about 350  
8 available within 45 minutes or an hour. It turned out, as it  
9 always does in those situations, and I am not saying this  
10 in any critical sense at all, instead of taking 45 minutes  
11 or an hour it took about three hours for these men to mobilize  
12 and get in. The reason for my first request to be made to  
13 the State Police is because they are professionally trained  
14 police officers and have a greater degree obviously, of pro-  
15 fessionalism, which they could respond more quickly to the  
16 situation.

17 However, I was also cognizant of the fact that in our  
18 state police in the State of Michigan, there is not one Negro,  
19 not one in the entire state police force. So, this has to be  
20 a consideration of mine when we ask for outside help and at  
21 the same time we don't really know how serious the situation  
22 is, and I would have to say that even at 2:00 o'clock in the  
23 afternoon, I didn't know we had the kind of full blown riot  
24 which we had. The information that I was receiving was mixed  
25 information. I was first at the Mayor's Summer Task Force

mb 5/31

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420

1 command post in city hall, right in the Mayor's office, then  
2 moved to the police command post, at police headquarters, a  
3 few blocks away. But as I said, rumors at that point took  
4 on sort of authority of fact and you had to make judgments on  
5 the basis of the rumors and the facts that were coming to  
6 you at that point.

7 I don't say that in any way as a defense or none  
8 defense for any action I took or should have taken. But, at  
9 2:00 o'clock the request was made and it wasn't until a couple  
10 of hours later the state police started to come in. But it  
11 was about 4:00 o'clock, a little after 4:00, when we requested  
12 the help from the National Guard, and since there was some  
13 mobilization of National Guard on a Sunday anyway, the day  
14 when they normally train, and there are several armories  
15 right in Detroit, on the perimeter of Detroit, they were more  
16 readily available, a couple of battalions, and they moved into  
17 the city within the space of a couple of hours, too.

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rb-1

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421

1           The Governor -- earlier that evening, at about  
2 seven o'clock or seven-fifteen, I put a curfew on Cincinnati,  
3 effective nine o'clock, nine until five-thirty in the morning.  
4 This subsequently was superseded by the Governor's emergency  
5 proclamation which he made about nine-thirty or ten o'clock,  
6 if I recall correctly, and that emergency proclamation not only  
7 put a curfew on but it prohibited the sale of gasoline, and  
8 we had earlier that day, from the very first, the police depart-  
9 ment closed up on a voluntary basis all the bars and liquor  
10 stores in that whole area. We closed down some of our  
11 principal parks, and by the way, one of the reasons we did  
12 that, an island park in the middle of the Detroit River was  
13 that the last race riot in 1943 started on that island and it  
14 is extremely difficult -- it is a large island, as you know,  
15 about eleven hundred acres -- extremely difficult to police,  
16 and we were very fearful that there would be an outbreak there.  
17 So that island was closed at ten o'clock in the morning. I am  
18 skipping over many of the things that the police did in the  
19 first instance.

20           That Sunday night and on into Monday morning we had  
21 indicated publicly that we were hopeful that the normal business  
22 could resume in the downtown area which was about four or five  
23 miles away from the riot area, even though Sunday night there  
24 had been a couple of isolated incidents happen in the downtown  
25 area of a couple of major clothing stores that were broken into.



1 If anyone was unfortunately enough to sell Italian knits  
2 seemed to get broken into at least along some of those major  
3 streets in downtown Detroit.

4 But we had requested that morning , about eight  
5 thirty in the morning, the Governor and I joined in a tele-  
6 gram to the President asking for deployment of Federal troops,  
7 and I am sure you are as familiar as I am, having read the  
8 paper, those things which occurred during the course of that  
9 night, on what constituted a request and what did not, and I  
10 will be happy to respond to questions on that, but I am not sure  
11 that at least at this point in time it would serve any purpose,  
12 even though I have some fixed opinions on it.

13 CHAIRMAN KERNER: I just want to be certain you under-  
14 stood that. At this time it is not a fact-finding hearing, we  
15 are seeking background information.

16 MAYOR CAVANAGH: For that reason, Mr. Chairman, I  
17 will pass over it.

18 But the Federal troops did arrive late that afternoon  
19 and they were stationed at Selfridge Air Force Base which is  
20 about 22 miles outside the city. Mr. Vance, representing the  
21 President, as you know, came in to the city with General  
22 Throckmorton, met with the Governor and myself. About five  
23 o'clock that evening we toured the riot-stricken areas. I was  
24 most anxious to have the deployment of Federal troops at that  
25 point. I recognized the fact that Mr. Vance felt, representing

1 the Federal government, that an independent assessment should  
2 be made by himself, and that was made during the course of that  
3 evening. Subsequently roughly around ten or eleven o'clock  
4 in the evening, the use of Federal troops was authorized. This  
5 was Monday night, and at that point, as I pointed out earlier,  
6 the rioting and burning started to break out on the east side  
7 of the city, east of Woodward. The lower east side. So the  
8 decision was made by General Throckmorton to deploy the air-borne  
9 troops, 1011 and 82, on the east side and the National Guard  
10 and the west side, points out roughly the east side of the  
11 city, using this map.

12 MR. ANGOTT: This area right here.

13 MAYOR CAVANAGH: East of Woodward, which is the  
14 principal street, north and south.

15 Well, the National Guard, as I say, was Federalized  
16 and Throckmorton did move in with the troops and meanwhile there  
17 was an increasing number of arrests, just a staggering number.  
18 We have the number here. Over 5,000. But the detention facilities  
19 and even the court process just staggered, and the court process  
20 figuratively broke down. The criminal court judges started to  
21 sit around the clock. Arraignments and bail were set very high  
22 for most of the initial prisoners because the courts made the  
23 determination not to allow them back out on the streets in the  
24 midst of this rioting. But, for example, our county jail, which  
25 is located in the downtown section right across the street from

rb-4

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424

1 police headquarters has room for 1200. They had 1900. The  
2 Youth Home which has room for 120 people had up close to 600.  
3 We had to ship prisoners prior to any examination or anything,  
4 after they were arraigned, ship many to this Jackson State  
5 Prison and we had problems in doing that. We had to convert  
6 all sorts of the public facilities and it was not very satis-  
7 factory, frankly, for anybody, certainly not for the prisoners,  
8 many of whom were arrested even for minor violations like  
9 violating a curfew. And about fifty per cent of those that  
10 were arrested, by the way, had previous arrest records. Fifty  
11 per cent had not. These are figures that you have in your report.  
12 Unfortunately we do not as yet have, but we will be happy to  
13 submit, and I am sure you will be interested in it an analysis  
14 of those that had jobs and those that did not have jobs. One  
15 of the papers did a rough survey on the average income of the  
16 rioters but they just spoke or addressed themselves to those  
17 that were arrested that had jobs. They said their average  
18 income was \$117 a week. But that isn't the real question. The  
19 question is, the answer to it is I think how many of those  
20 arrested had jobs and how many not.

21 CHAIRMAN KERNER: We would be very interested in  
22 those figures, analysis.

23 MAYOR CAVANAGH: We are trying to develop that.  
24 The tremendous crush of prisoners and defendants and court  
25 work has just placed an almost unbelievable strain upon the

rb-5

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425

1 records process of our police department, but as soon as we  
2 develop it, we will be happy to submit it to you.

3 Without going through all those days of the riot  
4 which are explained in this, the highlights, so-called, the  
5 sequence of events, let me just turn to the end of what we  
6 call the sequence of events highlights and give you some general  
7 figures, which is just before this blue cover, light-blue cover.

8 In a week, or in eight days, from Sunday, the 23rd  
9 of July, to Monday, July 31, which is roughly a week, seven or  
10 eight days, noon on Monday, there were some 1682 fires in the  
11 city. There were 6892 people arrested. A total of 386 treated  
12 for injuries. We have no idea how many more were injured that  
13 were never treated in hospitals. By that day there were 40  
14 people killed. That has been increased now to 43. Just last  
15 night another man died, making the 43rd fatality of this riot.

16 After that blue cover there is a far lengthier detailed  
17 sequence of events that I will not bother to go into at this  
18 point, but we first have the highlights of the sequence and then  
19 the sequence itself.

20 Then we go to an orange cover which has some statis-  
21 tical data I am sure the Commission will be interested in, not  
22 all of which I would propose to get into right now. But it  
23 breaks down the charges made against the males that were arrested  
24 during that week's period of time and the kinds of things with  
25 which they were charged, and of course the majority were charged

rb-6

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426

1 with three major categories, one, entering without breaking,  
2 which is looting, or breaking and entering a business place,  
3 and violating curfew. This represents about 60 per cent, I  
4 would say, of all those arrested that week, were arrested for  
5 one of those three charges. And the same figures would obtain  
6 for the women that were arrested during that period of time.  
7 There were 6345 men arrested and 862 women. But there is one  
8 category I know that the women are quite high in, relatively  
9 higher than the men, and that is larceny from a building, which  
10 means that once the building was broken, the women entered and  
11 took goods there. There is this analysis of prior police  
12 records of persons arrested and I do not submit that that  
13 necessarily is conclusive of anything. It is just that at the  
14 time that was really all we had to do, all we had the ability  
15 to do, was to ascertain from the arrest records whether they had  
16 been arrested in the past or not. This is not convictions, I  
17 emphasize, it is arrests, and about half were under 25, as I  
18 say, and then you have to add to that another 622 people who were  
19 under the age of 17 that were arrested.

20           There is a lengthy breakdown on juveniles that were  
21 detained during this race riot and their age, their race, and  
22 the charge that they were accused of, the crime, the offense  
23 that they were accused of. The interesting thing is that I  
24 think the highest percentage of whites arrested were arrested  
25 for looting and there were many instances of both Negroes and

rb-7

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427

1 whites arrested in the same store, teamed up together. Some  
2 of the stores in the downtown area particularly. And there  
3 were whites arrested for sniping, sniping at our police officers  
4 down on the street or anyone that was down on those streets.  
5 We arrested a number of whites for that purpose.

6 Let me now just try and come to some conclusions  
7 here for you, and as I have said, we have attempted in the past  
8 to move as effectively and as swiftly as we could to use existing  
9 Federal programs. Last August in this testimony before the  
10 Senate Operations Subcommittee, the Ribicoff Committee,  
11 I submitted some details of the Federal grants received or  
12 pending during the period of time from July 1, 1962, to July,  
13 1966, which can serve as part of this record.

14 We had requested very briefly \$581 million in Federal  
15 funds. There had been granted \$169 million in Federal funds  
16 for various programs. There was \$391 million still pending,  
17 and we were denied some \$20 million. Detroit has been as active  
18 a city in the Federal-city relationship as any city in the  
19 country. Since that time, since last Summer, \$61 million in  
20 additional Federal grants have been received in a variety of  
21 programs, from expansion of health services for residents of  
22 poverty areas to urban areas job contracts, the urban areas  
23 employment. The summary is attached.

24 There has been a great deal done, but there is so  
25 much more to be done, and in reviewing the testimony of the

rb-8

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428

1 Ribicoff hearings for presentation here today, I came across  
2 something that I said in response to a question I think of  
3 Senator Javits or Senator Ribicoff, I am not sure which one  
4 it was. But I said, "I know how inadequate so many of our  
5 programs are, and this is why I find it difficult to accept  
6 compliments," compliment apparently had been paid to Detroit  
7 "because I know right down on the streets that as much as we try  
8 we really don't get down to the streets. In all of our  
9 agencies and among all of our people we really aren't too sure  
10 that is happening. We do have programs to combat poverty.  
11 Youth employment, adult employment projects, manpower development  
12 skills, training centers, juvenile delinquency control activities."  
13 I think as administrations go, certainly we have tried hard to  
14 listen to the people on the streets and translate their views  
15 into some kind of programs that mean something to people.  
16 Community Relations programs have been backed by some very strong  
17 executive order and there have been some very special incentive  
18 training, different than a lot of communities, for police  
19 personnel. But it is clear to me, particularly now after that  
20 terrible week of rioting, that despite our rather massive  
21 efforts, and I say massive in relation to maybe some other  
22 communities, that, number one, there is certainly an underclass  
23 in our urban society who have not been reached and for whom  
24 there are few programs which touch them and give them any  
25 adequate degree of hope. Since the riot, I might add that a

rb-9

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429

1 number of very specific steps have been taken to meet the  
2 emergency needs obviously of the riot victims, including a  
3 provision for food and shelter and clothing and the like, and  
4 I might add that the private agencies and individuals have  
5 responded magnificently to meet these needs. Mr. Strickarts,  
6 who is the general counsel of Wayne State University, an urban  
7 university located in Detroit, used to be on my staff and is  
8 former city Comptroller, has come back to head up this effort  
9 on behalf of the city, on leave from Wayne State University,  
10 and this was the Mayor's Development Team that we set up. But  
11 I think we have to throw away the textbooks as we now do the  
12 planning because we had followed the textbooks, so-called,  
13 a figure of speech. We have to increase our efforts to  
14 involve the community as we do this planning, even though we  
15 had developed some advocacy planning techniques out in neigh-  
16 borhoods, and so on. And we have to find some way that we haven't  
17 found really to reach the more militant as well as many of those  
18 who have given us the hope. And we have to work with the Citizens  
19 Resources Committee which we set up called the New Detroit  
20 Committee headed by Joseph L. Hudson, Jr., who is president of  
21 a major department store. But that isn't simply, notwithstand-  
22 ing some of the criticism that has been rendered against the  
23 composition of that committee, it is not simply a blue ribbon  
24 committee. It has a number of neighborhood people on it, a number  
25 of people that have to be classified as extremely militant



rb-10

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430

1 people that have never been connected with any official or  
2 semi-official governmental or quasi-public effort in the past.  
3 But in everything that has been said today, I hope we have  
4 emphasized the role that the Federal government has in helping  
5 to create what I term the "livable city." But local government  
6 certainly has a role and a responsibility and even exceeding  
7 some of the things that we might be doing now, there is increas-  
8 ing evidence of an awakening in the state halls, although it is  
9 slight, I might add, and by businessmen, since we are here in  
10 the privacy in this room, yet on the record, we have to say that  
11 Michigan, which is principally an urban state, and  
12 I am not saying this in partisan politics in any way because  
13 it is true under both Democratic and Republican administra-  
14 tions, the Legislatures have never really responded in any way  
15 to the needs of the urban areas. And I am not just talking about  
16 Detroit. Grand Rapids, Flint, and some other places as well.  
17 I think we have to take some very firm measures to  
18 assure the maintenance of law and order and we have to meet the  
19 emergency needs which are caused by the extensive damage running  
20 into hundreds of millions of dollars and to relieve the suffering  
21 of the innocent victims of the riot. Get rid of this old  
22 syndrome that people sometimes down here say let's not reward  
23 rioters. I think that is absurd, frankly. There is no talk  
24 about rewarding people that riot. But it is like saying let's not  
25 treat tuberculosis, to those that are afflicted by it. I just  
do not think it has any sense in logic or in purpose.

1           We have to eliminate the causes of civil disorder.  
2 and to restore law and order in our communities, to modernize  
3 our techniques, number one, for dealing with mob action, adopt  
4 some of the latest scientific devices that really re-vamp our  
5 plans for dealing with civil disorder by planning for more  
6 effective and fluid governmental response and towards this  
7 end, Mr. Chairman and members of the Commission, I requested  
8 planning assistance from the Secretary of the Army, who probably  
9 is the repository of more, at least in a governmental sense,  
10 operational planning talent than any other agency in the country,  
11 and I have attached a letter to this which indicates what we  
12 had asked for. And I would support certainly Federal legislation  
13 which would grant aid directly to the cities in training,  
14 equipping and paying police officers. There is need I think  
15 for a police force, an expanded police force, in most of the  
16 major cities in America. I made this suggestion a couple of  
17 weeks ago.

18           There has been some favorable response to it and I  
19 think it has some sense. I think in many ways this suggestion  
20 of locating additional police in all of our major cities in  
21 in the country, ten or twelve major metropolitan districts  
22 in which most of the population is located, I think they ought  
23 to be trained and paid for by the Federal establishment, a  
24 thousand maybe additional men, but attached to the local police  
25 departments that can be used or mobilized and Federalized when

rb-12

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432

1 there are problems in any city. But I think it really gets  
2 at two things. It helps to maintain law and order and gives  
3 to police departments additional men, material and money which  
4 normally they would not have, yet there still is a Federal  
5 interest, and that is that you have a highly professional  
6 trained group of men that is available immediately to be pulled  
7 from Detroit to Cleveland, or into Chicago, let's say, or some-  
8 thing of that kind.

9 I think merely giving the National Guard an additional  
10 week or two of riot training does not really get at this problem  
11 and the problem as I see it is twofold.

12 I have asked our Governor, just within the last few  
13 days, and he has not had an opportunity to respond to, consider  
14 the formation of special National Guard riot battalions, to  
15 be located in the metropolitan areas, maybe two or three in  
16 each of the major metropolitan areas in the state. Probably  
17 that many might not be needed in all of the metropolitan areas.  
18 To provide skilled and speedy response to civil disorders. In  
19 other words, train these battalions specially but make sure  
20 they are located in Detroit or Grand Rapids so they can respond  
21 quickly. But I think this is another thing that I would like  
22 to propose today for your consideration and eventually when you  
23 make recommendations, I think the recommendations, I would most  
24 respectfully suggest, ought to take on this sort of cast, and  
25 that is that we have to face up to the need to consider and

rb-13

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433

1 accept a somewhat new principle on which to base both Federal  
2 programs and appropriations. The principle, and I might be  
3 controversial, although I do not think it should be, the  
4 principle of reparation for a longstanding injustice dating  
5 back generations preceding ours.

6 As the distinguished Mayor of your principal city,  
7 Governor Kerner, said to me yesterday, that the Mayors are  
8 bearing the brunt principally of generations of neglect, that  
9 what is happening in the American city today is not the fault of  
10 any one mayor or one person. It is the fault of not even just  
11 the people that are living today, but of generations preceding  
12 us. And I am speaking now about the injustices of great discrimina-  
13 tion and the denial of equal education, equal vocational profes-  
14 sional opportunity for advancement and progress. This has gone  
15 on for years and is still with us, whether we like to acknowledge  
16 it or not it is a fact. And the price that they have paid for  
17 these generations of injustice is almost without calculation.

18 Now, I think the Nation must begin to make repara-  
19 tion for the deeds of not just of our own but of past genera-  
20 tions and this principle of reparation is not a new one, you  
21 know. It is recognized rather clearly in international law.  
22 In recent years the West German Republic made very substantial  
23 deliveries of both goods and equipment to many countries in  
24 Europe and most recently to Israel in the name of not just  
25 the living but the dead as well. And I am not talking about

rb-14

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434

1 just individual reparations in money. Even in international  
2 reparations the world has learned by some very bitter  
3 experience that money alone neither pays for the injuries  
4 of the past nor buys a secure future. I am talking about  
5 reparations in the form of very special work training programs  
6 and special educational programs, special community construc-  
7 tion and reconstruction programs involving and including both  
8 housing and business, involving efforts not just by government  
9 but by business and private public organizations, by the  
10 schools and the universities.

11 And this requires something else that many of us  
12 have spoken about for a number of years, and that is a re-  
13 ordering of our national priorities, and this is not said in  
14 the form of a cliché. Place the needs of our cities high  
15 enough on this national agenda which we have, although at  
16 times we do not recognize we have it, so that this reparations  
17 principle can have some meaning and some effect, because it is,  
18 and I am sure we would not find any disagreement in this room,  
19 it is just as important if not more so, but it certainly is just  
20 as important, Mr. Chairman, to our national destiny that we  
21 deal with the causes of the warfare out on the streets of the  
22 big and small cities in America as it is to conduct a war in  
23 any part of the world, whether it be in southeastern Asia or  
24 any place else. And I think in doing some of these things we  
25 have to reorganize, too, the Federal establishment, the

1 and the agencies, to make them far more responsive to urban  
2 needs and to assure really a coordinated effort which emphasizes  
3 innovation.

4 I think we know now finally, after the Detroit  
5 experience, as I said, it certainly should receive and I hope  
6 it does receive as sort of a watershed in American history,  
7 the turning points, should be the turning point, either back-  
8 wards, which is a possibility, or moving forward really into a  
9 greater age of hope and action, I might add, not just hope.

10 We have to write really a new textbook for the  
11 two Americas that we are faced with in every city in the country.  
12 Block grants, e.g., to cities would provide flexibility and  
13 fix responsibility where it belongs, to write in the community.  
14 But the funds available must be of a magnitude which will have  
15 some kind of an impact on the problems. To propose to conduct  
16 a war on all the influences which blight our urban society  
17 today, with a bow and maybe a couple of arrows, will merely do  
18 something none of us wants, heighten the tensions and lead to  
19 further explosions.

20 I think we have to learn much more about our problems  
21 and encourage urban research and innovation. It is pathetic  
22 to me and I am sure to many that we should spend so much money  
23 on attempting to find cures for the ills of our body and yet  
24 have done so little in many respects to seek cures for the  
25 ills of our urban society, and they are ills. I think we have

rb-16

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436

1 to engage in a massive program to encourage private enterprise  
2 to create jobs in the areas and train slum dwellers and a lot  
3 of political people, including myself, talking about it all  
4 the time but I really think it is the obligation of the national  
5 administration, notwithstanding whatever party it might be, to  
6 point out the areas where the private sector should be moving  
7 and to propose the specific tax incentives and the tax credits  
8 or the vast amortization of the various enterprises in the  
9 slums. Today in the Federal legislation we provide tax credits  
10 for those private enterprises that use pollution control devices,  
11 for example, but we have not provided any similar credits for  
12 business investments which can help to eliminate the pollution,  
13 the worst pollution, and the stifling of the human spirit. And  
14 for those who would not otherwise be employed in this country,  
15 and there are many of course, there is a need I think to em-  
16 phasize the very legitimate role of the public employer as the  
17 employer of the last resort, which would be principally the  
18 United States government but it would also be the state and local  
19 governments. But the government with the greatest resources  
20 should indeed be the employer of last resort. I think that  
21 should be -- that should go right into the fabric of whatever  
22 program this country develops.

23 There are many things that we could detail which you  
24 know better than I do which should be done to make our cities  
25 more beautiful and more habitable but cities just do not have the

rb-17

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437

1 funds to begin to do all that must be done. Yet I think  
2 they can provide some very meaningful jobs for those who will  
3 not be able to get a job in the private market. This could  
4 be done certainly in a reconstruction and urban Public Works  
5 Act, not the usual kind of Public Works Act, all of which is  
6 needed, of course, but we found from experience in the last  
7 accelerated Public Works Act, Detroit I think was the most active  
8 city in America, more active than most of the states, in develop-  
9 ing various programs under the accelerated Public Works Act but  
10 we found it did very little as far as hardcore unemployment. It  
11 did provide badly needed public facilities in our communities.  
12 I am not questioning that, but it was a bonanza to the private  
13 contractors and the urban construction industry and building  
14 trades people.

15           So I think that we can develop and design a reconstruc-  
16 tion and urban Public Works Act which would combine training  
17 with the public sector activities and designed principally to  
18 emphasize employment of the ghetto area residents and having  
19 them rebuild the areas that have been devastated as well as  
20 rebuilding those areas, most of which are blighted. And in a  
21 variety of ways, something that frequently is not talked about  
22 but is an extremely serious problem in in every big city or smaller  
23 city, we should make it possible for our Nation to use the  
24 potential female labor force by, for example, creating a network  
25 of day care service centers for children which will use the time



rb-

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18

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438

1 to advantage by giving some real meaningful experience instead  
2 of just caring for them. It is interesting to observe I  
3 think the last time I looked in our city, not unlike probably  
4 most cities, the Negro female unemployment was about 38 per  
5 cent, if I recall correctly, of the eligible work force in that  
6 community, and relatively little if anything is being done  
7 nationally and in many instances locally built. I think we  
8 have to take steps, too, to provide insurance and reinsurance  
9 to those willing to invest and live in the so-called high-risk  
10 areas that the insurance companies have designated, American  
11 ghettos. The State Insurance Commission here has estimated  
12 there is about a \$144 million property loss as a result of  
13 the Detroit riots. Our fire department estimates it will  
14 probably be closer to \$200 million. But only \$84 million of  
15 this was insured, according to the State Insurance Commissioner.  
16       Getting insurance to rebuild or create a new environ-  
17 ment in the slums will be increasingly more difficult now than  
18 ever and the private lending institutions, the private banks  
19 will admit privately if they were reluctant in the past it is  
20 almost absurd to think they are going to put money today into a  
21 12 street area that has been devastated in the manner in which  
22 it has.  
23       So disaster insurance and reinsurance I would mention  
24 is presently available for crops in this country and for loss  
25 from national disaster, and it should be extended certainly to

rb-19

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439

1 cover riot damage.

2 I think we have to assure to each child in America,  
3 too, that he will get the same quality education. It must  
4 be of high quality no matter where he lives, whether it be  
5 in slums or suburbia.

6 The urban school situation, with all deference to  
7 many of the innovative things that have been done in Detroit,  
8 I think most of us would agree, like the condition of life  
9 in too many of the American cities, borders at times upon  
10 being disgraceful because it emphasizes the inequality which  
11 affluence has made possible. Public education has to be  
12 both quality and equal education. I think, too, Mr. Chairman,  
13 there should be established an urban development fund in this  
14 country and urban development corporation to create finally  
15 the function underpinning and the management capabilities  
16 needed to create the livable city. The funds could be a revolving  
17 one which encourages the investments in low-cost housing, in  
18 technological innovation, slum area based industries and  
19 creative solutions, but it should be a risk-taking activity and  
20 should lean much more heavily than we ever have, because we  
21 have not leaned hardly at all, upon the real genius of American  
22 enterprise to support their investments through the use of this  
23 Urban Development Corporation, the encouragement of new firms in  
24 Negro business enterprises in slum areas certainly would provide  
25 employment, reduce tensions, stimulate personal ambition among

rb-20

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440

1 Negro youths and provide a more stable community base. The  
2 needs for decent housing is probably the most obvious. At  
3 the same time, probably the least talked-about in America.  
4 It is estimated if I recall correctly that we need about \$2  
5 million new housing starts a year. Last year we had fewer  
6 than at any time in the history of America since 1946. Less  
7 than 800,000. Most of these in the middle-income or upper  
8 middle-income areas. A low-cost housing program which  
9 emphasizes home ownership is needed and it must be designed  
10 in so way, and I believe that it can, to make it possible  
11 for people on welfare to make payments. The technology  
12 exists. The barriers created by the building trades will just  
13 have to be overcome and they can't be overcome unless they  
14 are overcome nationally. Fits and starts could be done locally  
15 but it has to be done nationally, and this involves making  
16 the necessary subsidy that will have to be provided. The  
17 health problems of the slum dwellers just are not being met  
18 by existing medical facilities. The vast expansion of neigh-  
19 borhoods comprehensive treatments and emergency care in  
20 centers I think will tend to eliminate the existing imbalance,  
21 The deep resentment, too, it was interesting for me to observe  
22 while watching the film, credit offices and small loan offices,  
23 they all went in that neighborhood.

24 There is a deep resentment of those that take ad-  
25 vantage of the slum dwellers' lack of sophistication in handling

rb-21

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441

1 money and in selling shoddy goods and overcharging for what  
2 he gets. That is a great source of discontent.

3 I think a consumer services and consumed protection  
4 program which is tailored to eliminate this situation is badly  
5 needed. There is an urgent need, too, I might add, Mr.  
6 Chairman, I think for a census to be conducted of the major  
7 cities in American in order to reveal the facts about unem-  
8 ployment, delapidated housing. I know traditionally big  
9 cities have been sort of opposed to census being held other  
10 than once ever ten years but recent studies have indicated  
11 very clearly that the census made in 1960, for example, which was  
12 similar to the census made in 1960, missed counting particularly  
13 a number of males, Negro males, because no serious attempt  
14 was made to find them down in the slum areas and the ghettos.  
15 So I think that to achieve above all else, Mr. Chairman, the  
16 goals which I have just set forth, required something more than  
17 the Congress merely appropriating a little more money which  
18 I think they obviously should do, but I think the first step,  
19 and I think we have to recognize this, it requires really a  
20 great mobilization of public opinion through the exercise of  
21 leadership by the President of the United States, the National  
22 Administration, and the great weight of his office.

23 I am convinced of one thing. We can form all the  
24 urban coalitions we want of mayors and civil rights leaders,  
25 labor leaders, businessmen, distinguished governors such as

1 yourself, and we can try to persuade the Congress to  
2 appropriate more money for some of the existing progams and  
3 it really is not going to get at the heart of this thing until  
4 we have really, I almost hate to use the words, it is the only  
5 one that comes to mind immediately, but a really crusade  
6 mounted and led by the President of this country. And I think  
7 then and only then, in some of the things we have talked about  
8 today, really being accomplished. We have gone over a great  
9 deal of material here this morning quickly, but my purpose  
10 here was to inform you to some degree of the needs of certainly  
11 Detroit but really the needs of America's cities that have been  
12 dramatized in a tragic way which the riots which you have been  
13 commissioned to investigate, because the cry from that ghetto  
14 cannot go any longer unheeded, I do not believe.

15 While some may think they have responded to this  
16 cry, some of us thought so, the response has been small and  
17 slow in relation to the magnitude of the needs. You have learned  
18 I am sure this morning something about Detroit, its people.  
19 We have described the riot. We have attempted to identify  
20 the causes. We have tried to convey the great sense of urgency  
21 which really possesses all of us. This urgency I think has  
22 to grip not just people in the cities but has to grip this  
23 Nation and this Nation's leaders and the conscience of this  
24 Nation which we have made some specific recommendations to aid  
25 you in meeting the President's charge to this Commission. We

rb-23

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443

1 have tried to answer these three basic questions, what  
2 happened, why did it happen, and what can be done to prevent  
3 it from happening again and again?

4 And our recommendations I think place great emphasis  
5 on the last of these three very important questions. Detroit,  
6 like a lot of cities, has been called a city of hope in the  
7 past, hope that the problems of the cities could be solved  
8 and that the urban sprawl could be managed. I might say that  
9 hope still lives even in that city, even after this very  
10 tortuous process that it has been through. But fulfilling  
11 that hope is not just Detroit's problem, because I think it  
12 is the Nation's problem. It will take an aroused Nation,  
13 mobilizing all of its resources to solve this problem and it  
14 exists coast to coast and border to border.

15 I was interested in reading just a few days ago  
16 that Stokely Carmichael had called me an idiot from the  
17 sanctity of Havana, for saying that the Negro problems could  
18 be solved in the capitalist society. I still maintain that it  
19 can be solved and I think that we have to do it because really,  
20 and this is not just idle rhetoric, the future of this Nation  
21 and the balance of the twentieth century hangs in the balance  
22 by what we do today and really in many ways what this Commis-  
23 sion recommends to the President of the United States. You  
24 have a rare opportunity that has not been given in contemporary  
25 American history to my knowledge to any other group of men or  
women to make the kinds of impact upon our country on our

rr-24

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444

1 society that needs to be made, to turn this country around,  
2 and to use a colloquialism, to turn it on, and this is why  
3 we are here today and we most urgently and respectfully  
4 submit to you, Mr. Chairman, and members of your Commission,  
5 this presentation which we have just made.

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN KERNER: Thank you very much, Mayor  
8 Cavanagh. I think we might take a ten-minute recess at this  
9 time and then reconvene in ten minutes.

10 (Recess.)

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