

men under your command, and on the basis of your representation that there is reasonable doubt that you can maintain law and order in Detroit, I have directed the troops you requested to proceed at once to Selfridge Air Force Base, Michigan. There they will be available for immediate deployment as required to support and assist police and the Michigan National Guard forces. These federal troops will arrive at Selfridge this afternoon. Immediately, I have instructed Cyrus Vance, Special Assistant to Secretary of Defense McNamara, to proceed to Detroit for conferences with you and to make specific plans for providing you with such support and assistance as may be necessary.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON

[The Honorable George Romney, Governor of Michigan, Lansing, Michigan]

NOTE: The text of Governor Romney's telegram, dated July 24, is as follows:

With further reference to present Detroit problem covered in my earlier telegram to the Attorney General.

As Governor of the State of Michigan, I do hereby officially request the immediate employment of federal troops into Michigan to assist State and local authorities in reestablishing law and order in the city of Detroit. I am joined in this request by Jerome P. Cavanagh, Mayor of the city of Detroit. There is reasonable doubt that we can suppress the existing looting, arson and sniping without the assistance of federal troops. Time could be of the essence.

GEORGE ROMNEY
Governor of Michigan

See also Items 322, 325, 331.

322 Remarks to the Nation After Authorizing the Use of Federal Troops in Detroit. *July 24, 1967*

IN THE early morning today, Governor Romney communicated with Attorney General Ramsey Clark and told him of the extreme disorder in Detroit, Michigan. The Attorney General kept me advised throughout the morning.

At 10:56 this morning, I received a wire from Governor Romney officially requesting that Federal troops be dispatched to Michigan. This wire had been sent at 10:46 a.m.

At 11:02 a.m. this morning, I instructed the Secretary of Defense, Mr. McNamara, to initiate the movement of the troops which the Governor had requested.

At the same time, I advised the Governor by telegram that the troops would be sent to Selfridge Air Base just northeast of Detroit and would be available to support and to assist the some 8,000 Michigan National Guardsmen and the several thousand State and local police under the command of Governor Romney and the mayor of Detroit.

I informed the Governor that these troops would arrive this afternoon.

I also informed the Governor that immediately Mr. Cyrus Vance, as Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense, and others would proceed to Detroit for conferences with the Governor and other appropriate officials.

This plan proceeded precisely as scheduled. Approximately 5,000 Federal troops were on their way by airlift to Detroit, Michigan, within a few hours. Mr. Vance, General Throckmorton, and others were in Detroit and in conference with Governor Romney by the middle of this afternoon.

Their initial report was that it then appeared that the situation might be controlled without bringing the Federal troops from the Selfridge Air Force Base into downtown Detroit. They, therefore, recommended to the President that the troops be maintained on a 30-minute alert and they advised that they would be in continual touch with the

situation and with Secretary McNamara and me, making periodic reports about every 30 minutes.

At approximately 10:30 this evening, Mr. Vance and General Throckmorton reported to me by telephone that it was the then unanimous opinion of all the State and Federal officials who were in consultation—including Governor Romney, Mr. Vance, General Throckmorton, the mayor, and others—that the situation had developed in such a way in the few intervening hours as to make the use of Federal troops to augment the police and Michigan National Guard imperative. They described the situation in considerable detail, including the violence and deaths that had occurred in the past few hours, and submitted as the unanimous judgment of all concerned that the situation was totally beyond the control of the local authorities.

On the basis of this confirmation of the need for participation by Federal troops, and pursuant to the official request made by the Governor of the State of Michigan, in which Mayor Cavanagh of Detroit joined, I forthwith issued the necessary proclamation and Executive order as provided by the Constitution and the statutes.

I advised Mr. Vance and General Throckmorton to proceed immediately with the transportation of the Federal troops from Selfridge Air Force Base to places of deployment within Detroit—a movement which they had already provisionally begun, pursuant to their authority.

I am sure the American people will realize that I take this action with the greatest regret—and only because of the clear, unmistakable, and undisputed evidence that Governor Romney of Michigan and the local officials in Detroit have been unable to bring the situation under control.

Law enforcement is a local matter. It is

the responsibility of local officials and the Governors of the respective States. The Federal Government should not intervene—except in the most extraordinary circumstances.

The fact of the matter, however, is that law and order have broken down in Detroit, Michigan.

Pillage, looting, murder, and arson have nothing to do with civil rights. They are criminal conduct. The Federal Government in the circumstances here presented had no alternative but to respond, since it was called upon by the Governor of the State and since it was presented with proof of his inability to restore order in Michigan.

We will not tolerate lawlessness. We will not endure violence. It matters not by whom it is done or under what slogan or banner. It will not be tolerated. This Nation will do whatever it is necessary to do to suppress and to punish those who engage in it.

I know that with few exceptions the people of Detroit, and the people of Newark, and the people of Harlem, and of all of our American cities, however troubled they may be, deplore and condemn these criminal acts. I know that the vast majority of Negroes and whites are shocked and outraged by them.

So tonight, your President calls upon all of our people, in all of our cities, to join in a determined program to maintain law and order—to condemn and to combat lawlessness in all of its forms—and firmly to show by word and by deed that riots, looting, and public disorder will just not be tolerated.

In particular, I call upon the people of the ravaged areas to return to their homes, to leave the streets, and to permit the authorities to restore quiet and order without further loss of life or property damage. Once this is done, attention can immediately be turned to the great and urgent problems of repairing the damage that has been done.

I appeal to every American in this grave hour to respond to this plea.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:58 p.m. in the Theater at the White House for broadcast on radio and television. During his remarks he referred to, among others, Lt. Gen. John L. Throckmorton

who commanded the Federal troops in Detroit. He also referred to Proclamation 3795 and Executive Order 11364 providing for the restoration of law and order in the State of Michigan (3 Weekly Comp. Pres. Docs., p. 1050; 32 F.R. 10905, 10907; 3 CFR, 1967 Comp., pp. 68, 309).

See also Items 321, 325, 331.

323 Remarks to the Delegates to Boys Nation.

July 26, 1967

GOOD MORNING, I am glad that you could come over and visit with us. And I am happy to welcome you to the Capital and to the White House.

I want to commend the American Legion for giving you young Americans a chance to learn at firsthand about your Government.

I want to speak to you today because you are young and because you have lives to live. Many of you may be looking forward to careers in business.

I would like you to consider an investment. I would ask you, after you have completed your education, to give careful consideration to the investment of a few years of your lives in the business of government, in the work of public service, in the cause of America.

Our country needs men and women who are young—and young enough to dream of remaking America—as some of us did here in this Capital when I came here more than 30 years ago.

We need young people who are confident in themselves and in their ability to meet the challenges that face us today. We need young people who care—and who are willing to work for something that's more than just a paycheck—for profits measured in human happiness and satisfaction gained from helping people to achieve human health and human dignity.

So, I ask that you consider applying yourselves, your industry, your brains, your

talent, and your imagination to the problems of the land in which you live.

Emerson once said: "What is man born for but to be a reformer; a remaker of what man has made; a restorer of truth and good."

Well, that is your birthright—to be reformers.

America has always been a nation of reformers. And we have always been a people who knew and who accepted the responsibilities that that role demands.

To be a reformer is to be responsible.

It is to be a remaker—not a wrecker—of what man has made.

It is to be a restorer—not a destroyer—of truth and good.

It is, beyond all else, to respect the laws of society—to rebuild society by changing laws, yes, by improving laws, yes, by using the laws—lest we accidentally or willfully weaken the foundations of law and bring all that we have achieved crashing down upon our heads.

We have been through great trials in the history of this Nation. We have faced problems and challenges before. And in one of our gravest hours, one of our greatest Presidents left us the first commandment for a civilized society.

So here today, on the White House lawn, I should like to remind each of you—and for that matter, every American—of Abraham Lincoln's words:

"Let every American, every lover of