

my colleagues and I on the city council in Newark and also those in the police department have something to contribute.

First of all, I would like to go on record by saying that the community action programs in the city of Newark have definitely played an important part in setting off the riots in the city of Newark.

Basically, the situation must go back about 4 years when a group of people called the Students for Democratic Society came into Newark primarily to help in the ghetto areas by training people.

As soon as they got there, this became the last thing that they wanted to do. Instead, they started to try to organize in the poor community and tried to set off incidents—mind you, we are talking about 4 years ago—which could then have started a riot, such as picketing a police station over something very small, picketing the Hoegard Home for Children who have no parents, and picketing some of our major department stores.

These are instances that happened 3 or 4 years ago. Now, how does this tie into the antipoverty program?

When the program came to Newark and the community or the poverty boards were formed, this group of Students for Democratic Society, who at this time also called themselves the Newark Community Union Project, took over one of the poverty boards.

This was Area Board 3. It is one of the boards in the area that I represent in the city of Newark on the city council. Through their means and methods they were able to contribute both directly and indirectly to the causes of the riots in the city of Newark.

We have had instances where they have picketed merchants. As a matter of fact, not too long before the riots started through their area board, and I don't say necessarily that the particular paid staff was on the picket line, but certainly their influence was there and they were standing nearby and the police department can verify those who were arrested.

They put a merchant who employed eight Negroes and supported his own business out of business. This merchant ran a grocery store in the shopping area in the Clinton Hills section which was hit very badly by the riots and I don't think it was the intent of the poverty program to destroy the small businessmen of this country.

They threatened to put this man out of business and they threatened to put other businessmen out of business, too.

The programs funded for this area sent representatives around trying to collect a \$10 membership from merchants to belong. I don't think this was the intent of the poverty program in trying to blackmail merchants but this has happened in the city of Newark.

This area board was the leader amongst the other eight area boards in setting off or helping to set off the incident that happened on the Thursday night, I think it was the 13th of July, that set off the actual riot in the city of Newark.

Actually, it was Area Boards 2 and 3. A fellow by the name of Kennedy for Area Board 2 called a meeting—what we called a peaceful meeting—in front of the fourth precinct. When he was advised—and I think this was on the television—or questioned that this might cause some problems he said no it was to be a peaceful meeting and to calm people down.