

in the heart of the Negro community to be used for the medical school. It is indeed regrettable that it was not until after the incidents of mid-July that any effort was made officially on the part of the City, to meet with the Board of the Medical School urging that they reconsider the need of such acreage and that a special program for relocation and redevelopment be pursued. I am hopeful that such discussions which have been initiated since the Newark outbreak may result in a limitation of the acreage to be given for the medical school and also the development of a modern urban complex which will provide adequate housing that the people of this area can afford, increased jobs and employment opportunities as well as facilities for the social improvement of the community within this area of the city. Had these discussions been undertaken before the city exploded the explosion might not have occurred.

In the face of the foregoing problems, tensions in the city were heightened as a result of the feeling of lack of concern with the problems already referred to.

It should be made abundantly clear that these problems were not created by the United Community Corporation. Nor did we create or precipitate the incident which triggered the events of mid-July. To the contrary our entire course of conduct was designed to relieve community tensions and we did within our power to prevent the outbreak.

The outburst in Newark was precipitated by a charge of police brutality against a Negro taxi driver. Immediately upon our being informed that a group of people had gathered at the police precinct where the brutality was charged to have occurred, I, as president of this corporation, in the company of our acting director and one of our vice presidents went to the scene. We found an angry, hostile crowd vocally expressing its discontent. We sought to disperse the crowd, assuring them that this grievance would be lodged with the appropriate authorities of the city to prevent any recurrence of such alleged misconduct.

Despite our efforts to urge the crowd to disperse and go home, they were so enraged by the time we arrived that we were unable to persuade them to do so. We then sought to channelize the hostility of the crowd away from the precinct and attempted to organize a peaceful demonstration moving away from the precinct. At one point it appeared that we would be successful in our efforts but, unfortunately, because of the precipitous action and indiscretion on the part of the police, the course we had pursued was nullified.

Once the outburst started, our corporation, through its Board members, officers, and staff, took every reasonable measure to restore peace and order to the community. We had meetings with the Mayor of the City and the Governor designed to explore measures which would enable us to restore normalcy to the community. Members of our staff, our Board, and our officers spoke over the radio and through other media of communication urging the community to return to a state of normalcy. In addition, we helped organize a group of community leaders to work throughout the affected area with specially designed armbands with the endorsement of the governor in a further attempt to calm the community. Furthermore, when it became apparent that there would be a great need for food, medicine, and other essentials for the innocent victims of the disturbance, we organized an emergency relief operation which distributed 200 tons of food (dispersed at 13 different centers in the affected parts of the city) and provided other direct assistance through an Emergency Relief Committee for those in need.

I responded to a request of the Governor, to plead with a sniper at Scudder Homes, to cease his firing when the lights were out in the project. I responded to this request with full knowledge of personal danger that I would be facing. I was deeply concerned that many innocent people had been injured and killed inside their homes from ricocheting bullets and to prevent this from recurring I responded to the governor's request.

The UCC office became the headquarters for Negro leaders and people from the ghetto who were seeking to restore order. We established contact with the Governor and his staff and Oliver Lofton, Director of our Legal Services Project was designated by the Governor as spokesman for various community groups. Through this medium the Governor was able to keep in touch with the people inside the ghetto. We responded to the Governor's request to provide attorneys for the hundreds of persons arrested. Our Newark Legal Services Project attorneys worked in cooperation with the Public Defenders Staff to expedite the processing of all prisoners.