

nesses. Now, I don't speak for the entire population because we all know that not every citizen cooperates to this extent with the police.

The point I wish to make is that because of the relatively small number of police officers that this and every other city has, and when we divide the department down into its specialized branches and the tours of duty and the fact that police officers work a 40-hour week and we have leave time and sick time and court time, that at any particular moment we would have on the streets of the city, in uniform, no more than a few hundred police officers.

When the tragic occurrence that took place on April 5th, it developed in the way it did, the police, unfortunately, can find themselves just tremendously overwhelmed. When that occurs, I know of no other solution to the problem than masses, numbers of people, and that means the National Guard and Military.

During the early hours of such a situation, the police are limited in what they can do.

Now, I am familiar with the policy that Chief Layton had laid down, and which he had again reinforced to his staff and the Department last year, which was this policy:

That in the event of disorder and the police being overwhelmed by large numbers of people violating the law, either as looters or window-breakers, or starting fires—whatever the case may be—that although it might be impossible for the police officer to arrest every law violator under the circumstances, he should make whatever arrests are humanly possible for him to make.

I take great pride, and I know Chief Layton does, because we have discussed it so many times since the disorder—we take great pride in the fact that the men of this Police Department, from the very first moment, made as many arrests as they could, considering all of the circumstances.

Now, I think I should make another point at this juncture. Many people have referred to newspaper and television photographs that create the impression that police officers were standing by while people looted without control.

I would like to say, Mr. Chairman, that publicly as well as privately, Chief Layton and I have made perfectly clear that we would like to know about any situation in which a police officer failed to do his duty.

But we point out that because of the rapidly developing situation that a police commander faces at a time like this, it may be more important for him at some point to station a police officer in an intersection to prevent the flow of either vehicular or pedestrian traffic as they attempt to isolate a street.

A newspaper photograph taken from a particular angle could create the impression that the officer was standing there and permitting looting. That is never the case as far as we know. He may have had a more important assignment at that particular moment, which was to assist in controlling a particular street or section.

As I indicated from the very first moment of the disorder, our police officers made arrests, and during the days of the problem, our officers made close to 8,000 arrests. As far as I know, more arrests than were made in any other city, even cities which suffered greater damage and greater loss of life.