

Mr. Dowdy. On the Thursday night that this stuff started, at about 9:30 p.m. it stated that Murphy finished his 16th news briefing by Lieutenant Fry—then it goes on down here and it says: "Murphy tells a reporter, We are giving it the light touch. There are no great numbers of men visible and he drives off in an unmarked Ford."

Now, did you tell the reporter that, "we are giving it the light touch"?

Mr. MURPHY. I have no recollection of making that statement, sir.

Mr. Dowdy. Was that your attitude that night?

Mr. MURPHY. No, sir. I don't believe in a light touch in police work. Police work is a very serious business and light touches do not accomplish submission.

Mr. Dowdy. Now, you came here in December, 1967, I believe.

Mr. MURPHY. Yes, sir.

Mr. Dowdy. You said that you checked over the provisions that were made for emergencies?

Mr. MURPHY. Yes, sir.

Mr. Dowdy. Did you find them to be adequate?

Mr. MURPHY. Yes, sir. We made some minor revisions and we intensified training, and we made some revisions in planning; but basically, they are adequate. All the time, they were building in, and Chief Layton had been building into his planning, knowledge gained from other cities and their experiences.

Mr. Dowdy. I won't attempt to ask you to do it now, but I want you to make a list for the record of the changes you made in the existing provisions and orders and improvements you made in them.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
June 27, 1968.

Mr. JAMES CLARK,
Clerk, House District Committee, U.S. House of Representatives,
Longworth Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CLARK: This is to acknowledge your recent letter requesting me to enumerate any specific orders I issued or policies I established regarding the handling of civil disorders.

Following my appointment as Director of Public Safety I reviewed all existing policies and memoranda of the Department pertaining to the prevention and control of civil disorders and my overall reaction to these materials was one of approval and praise.

During the months preceding the disturbances in early April I attended many meetings with Chief Layton and other officials of the Department and participated in the planning discussions. My best recollection is that all the suggestions and comments were in the nature of minor refinements upon the existing plans and I in no way substantially modified any major policy decision.

Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your inquiry.

Sincerely,

PATRICK V. MURPHY.

ARRESTS

Mr. Dowdy. Now, somebody was responsible for these policemen being ordered not to make arrests. Do you have any idea who it was?

Mr. MURPHY. No, sir. As I stated earlier, our police officers made a very large number of arrests.

Mr. Dowdy. While this looting was going on, this first night?

Mr. MURPHY. Yes, sir. We made arrests.

Mr. Dowdy. Now, maybe you don't keep up with things very well. I have here a report of the arrests that were made all during the month of April.