

New York City had led me to the belief that the second night in these matters is frequently the most difficult. We wanted to be ready.

Mr. HARSHA. What did you think the National Guard would accomplish?

Mr. MURPHY. It would have given us more people on the streets. We could assign them along the streets that we were concerned about—the business streets in the low-income neighborhoods. They would have supplemented us, Congressman.

Mr. HARSHA. Would their presence have been a deterrent?

Mr. MURPHY. Yes, sir. I think the presence of police officers, National Guardsmen or Military, is a very effective deterrent; depending upon the order of magnitude of the disturbance, it can be controlled.

If every Friday and Saturday night a policeman controlled disturbances, they would prevent minor disturbances from flaring up—the prompt response of sufficient officers suppresses what could easily develop into a more serious disorder. It is a numbers thing—getting enough people there.

Practically, during the early days of April here, many hundreds, and even thousands of citizens violated the law. Some of them were people who never before violated it.

Mr. HARSHA. Well, their presence wasn't very much of a deterrent, then, was it?

Mr. MURPHY. Oh, as soon as we had sufficient strength—well, what happened, Congressman, was that before we had the National Guard on duty in the city, the disorder had flared up again through the afternoon;

Friday afternoon, sir.

Mr. HARSHA. Then, didn't you encounter considerable delay in getting the troops across the bridge?

Mr. MURPHY. No, sir. I don't know that we have any confirmed information about traffic delay in moving troops—but minor delays perhaps—but our motorcycle officers escorted many of those columns.

Mr. HARSHA. Why were the school children released at 1:30 p.m.? Wouldn't it have been better to keep them in school rather than to add to the confusion on the streets?

Mr. MURPHY. I was consulted briefly about that decision, Mr. Congressman, but it was made with the school authorities and Commissioner Washington. I don't have a clear recollection. Do you recall, Chief Layton, what the authority was?

I should point out, Congressman, that some students left school without being dismissed.

Mr. HARSHA. The majority of them did not do that, did they?

Mr. MURPHY. I don't have a figure. It may be that the lunch hour was cancelled, but I prefer not to say. I am not clear on the reason for that decision, but I am sure the Commissioner or the school authorities would know better than I.

Mr. HARSHA. I would like to review your comments, in view of your appearance at this Committee, that you were prepared for any eventuality.

The police on the scene at first seemed confused as to what action they were expected to take, and I understand this call came over the police radio, "Won't someone please tell us what to do?"

Was any such communication carried over the police radios?