

It remained at a normal level compared with the same day a month previously, stayed at that level until about 1:00 o'clock in the afternoon. Prior to that, about the late hours of Friday morning, 11:00, 12:00 o'clock, we began getting reports of further window-breaking and other things of the same character, but the frequency did not go above the normal level for a month previous until about 1:00 o'clock.

POLICY IN EFFECT

Mr. HORTON. Now, Chief, it has been alleged that there were orders that the Police should not use any force and instead give it the "light touch."

Did you have any such orders, or did you have any instructions which were different from the instructions of the Public Safety Director?

You heard his testimony yesterday.

Chief LAYTON. No, sir. There were no instructions given to the Force to fail to arrest looters. Actually, it is our policy, which as other cities have been hit by riots and disturbances, we have attempted to gain experience from discussing this kind of problem with officials in other cities and with seminars and meetings, and various kinds of other police officials in preparation for this.

I, myself, said, in briefing my staff, my top level staff, early last year, that it was our policy to positively arrest looters to the extent that it is humanly possible to do, recognizing that in a situation of this kind where there are large numbers of people involved and serious law violations, that it is more than officers can cope with.

But I had said to our officials that I expected them to arrest looters if we should be unfortunate here in the District—so unfortunate as to have something of this kind happen. I wanted every officer to make arrests to the fullest extent that it was possible for him to do.

So that our policy is one of positively making arrests in this kind of situation.

Mr. HORTON. Were there any special instructions to any of the officers under your command, either by you or the Public Safety Director, that they should play it with a "light touch", or that they should or should not arrest violators?

Chief LAYTON. There was positively no directive or order, or in any way, to members of the Force not to arrest looters. I have no knowledge of any statement being made as you inquire, "Give it a light touch." There was a period of time during the evening on April 4 where we were assembling forces there to move up 14th Street to disperse the crowds when there were more people there than the men readily available could handle effectively.

But we assembled the officers and vehicles and transported them to that scene. When there was a sufficient number of officers there, they did move forward. The specific orders that were given to those officers were to arrest, to make arrests. This was the assembling of our Civil Disturbance Unit, which the order went out a little after 10:00 o'clock.

As I say, they were placed in the vehicles and went to the scene. They were given specific instructions that they were to follow our instructions of making arrests.