

As he has done before, Clark singled out the beat policeman as "the most important man in the United States today."

"He will determine whether we will have social stability, order under law, while we rebuild our cities and ourselves in the next few precious years," he told the editors.

Before yielding to despair, he said, it is well to put today's racial violence in the perspective of the Nation's and world's history.

In 1863, Clark noted, 2000 persons died in draft and race riots in three days in New York City—nearly ten times as many as in all the Nation's riots in the last five years. He also pointed to present-day riots in a disciplined society like Japan and an authoritarian country like Spain.

It took a white priest—the Rev. James E. Groppi of Milwaukee—to strike home dramatically the anger and frustration of Negro ghetto dwellers for the editors yesterday.

After three months of being tailed by policemen during the Milwaukee housing marches, Father Groppi said he drove into the driveway of his St. Boniface rectory one night and a police squad car came up behind.

At that moment, his anger exploded, the Catholic priest said, and he wanted only "to plow the police car out of the driveway."

"I put the car in reverse . . . I missed reverse and the car engine gunned. Then I got out and told the policeman to get off the property, that it was private property. He spit on me.

"This what goes on daily in the black community," Father Groppi concluded. Another speaker, the Rev. Leon Sullivan, founder of the Opportunities Industrialization Centers, told the editors that the Negro problem is much more economic than racial.

"You cannot integrate the suburbs with a relief check," he observed.

["Letters to the Editor," Washington Star, May 11, 1968]

CROSBY NOYES ON MAYOR DALEY

SIR: For years, I have read Crosby S. Noyes' articles and usually I find myself in agreement with his reasoning. His column, "Crackdown Urged on Inciters of Violence," was excellent, but he sure flunked his homework a few days before in his analysis of Mayor Daley's remarks.

I will concede that Mayor Daley's statement—lifted out of context—is extreme, but I insist that his basic reasoning had much greater merit than the drivel of the sob sisters who refuse to separate lawlessness from legitimate civil rights issue. As a country we are morally and legally obligated to improve the status of the Negro, but, certainly, we have no obligation to supervise our own destruction through lawlessness and anarchy.

Mr. Noyes erred in stating that there is an elementary principle of law enforcement which directs the police to avoid making arrests in dangerous situations. He would have been correct had he stated that police should use that force, and only that force, necessary to assure compliance with the law.

The bleeding hearts about us would have us believe that restraint and permissiveness toward those who violate our laws is the only solution to our current wave of racial disturbances. They, and he, to a lesser degree, would like us to believe that the local authorities did everything right during our last wave of violence. They did not crack down quick enough or hard enough on the looters and the arsonists. Their failure to act then and since is nothing more than an open invitation to a return engagement.

No citizen, white or black, will be safe on the streets of Washington until the police show their teeth and notify the would-be violators in advance that force will be met with superior force.

It is the long neglected duty of the administration, state and city officials, and the press, to pass the word now in this period of relative calm. Let there cease to be doubt in anyone's mind of our willingness and ability to enforce our own laws, by whatever means are necessary, up to and including the blunt warning of Mayor Daley. This anarchy can be stopped and it can be stopped now, but it will take more than promises and long term ghetto programs.

Let us proceed with meaningful programs, but let us also show a determination to return to constitutional government. If the laws aren't right, let's change them, but not ignore or violate them or permit them to be violated. I'm not willing to wait "until law-abiding people in both communities decide they have had enough and begin to work together to cure the conditions on which violence breeds." That's