

TELLS OF SPEEDUP

Southward told the Senate Appropriations subcommittee for the District that several changes have been made to make it possible to move the Guard more swiftly from civilian to military footing.

Equipment now is more accessible and training programs are staggered so that some men are immediately available at all times, he said. He said it took six hours to pull together 78 percent of the Guardsmen on April 5, the day after Dr. Martin Luther King was slain.

The question of marksmen came up in a discussion with subcommittee Chairman Robert C. Byrd, D. W. Va., who asked whether orders issued during the April riots forced unreasonable delays on Guardsmen who might have needed to shoot.

The orders were that no man could load his gun and fire without clearing the decision with higher authorities. The only exception was to save a life.

Trained marksmen could be placed under the command of an officer on the scene, Southward said. The officer could simply say to the rifleman: "There's the target—get it."

Southward emphasized that he feels the use of weapons is dangerous and that care must be taken to avoid hitting innocent people.

Of the present 1,750 District Guardsmen, only 1,200 are organized into police battalions, Southward said.

He said he would like to have three more battalions, one of military policemen, one of combat engineers and one of mechanized infantry. These would total about 1,500.

Southward conceded it is always hard to recruit Guardsmen but, he added, he thinks many persons in the District are a little shame-faced that they were not out on the streets protecting their own citizens.

Julian Dugas, director of the District Department of Licenses and Inspections, also testified today and pleaded for more personnel.

He denied he is lowering standards in order to hire more Negroes. "No standards are being bent," he said. "No standards have been bent. No standards will be bent."

Dugas explained that, given a choice between a white man just out of the Army with investigative experience and a young Negro college graduate, he would hire the Negro.

"It's a simple fact. Young white people don't do too well in this town at this time," he said. Young Negroes are accepted more easily in the ghetto areas where the housing inspectors are assigned, he explained.

Byrd asked whether Dugas was accurately quoted when a reporter wrote that he intends to change the color of his department from "rosy red to brown and then to black." Dugas said the statement was "rhetoric." He said he has no intention of discriminating or lowering standards.

Byrd said, somewhat angrily, he is not interested in rhetoric.

"If a man is qualified, give him the job," Byrd said. "This Congress and this committee is not interested in supplying monies for you to increase your staff to achieve a racial mix."

[From the Washington Post, June 12, 1968]

GET MAXIMUM OF YEAR: "REMORSELESS" TRIO SENTENCED IN RIOT

(By Jarod Stout)

Three men arrested April 7 in the looting of a Southeast Washington 7-11 store were given maximum sentences of a year in jail yesterday by Judge Charles A. Halleck in the Court of General Sessions.

Halleck imposed the sentences after noting that the defendants had shown no indication of remorse, despite the fact that their actions were "without justification or excuse."

All three were charged with petty larceny after police said they found them parked 15 feet from the burned out 7-Eleven store at 5026 Benning rd. se. at about 12:30 p.m. on the Sunday of the April riot.

The sentences were the first handed down by Judge Halleck and were among the toughest yet meted out to looters. Jail terms in other cases have generally been suspended.