

RECENT LOOTING AND RIOTING

Mr. KALAVITINOS. Can you imagine a merchant who works for 14 or 16 hours a day, if he is lucky makes approximately \$125.00 per week, opens his store and during the normal course of business he has to relieve himself and he has to lock his doors for fear of mugging and thievery. Same merchant after a hard day's work approximately 8 or 9 o'clock at night closes up his place of business and goes home. Picture this merchant driving in his car towards his place of business and turning the corner to park in front of his place of business and lo and behold he finds his store has been looted and burned to the ground! Can you imagine the expression on this merchant's face, his thoughts, all of this gone up in smoke after 20 or 25 years of hard work. Then on the following day he gets a cancellation notice from his insurance company. Would you say this is bad enough?

Now, along comes Betty Furness, a political hack who has been appointed by the President of these United States as an adviser on consumer affairs and says: "Mr. Merchant, you have gouged, you have stolen from the poor of this city and of this Nation." Is that enough?

No, let's go further. Along comes Mr. Julian R. Dugas, Director of the City Licenses and Inspections who has no right nor experience to hold such a job and who has been appointed by the Mayor of D.C. and makes a statement to Mr. Merchant—"You now have a 24-hour notice to remove all the debris and to demolish your burned out building. Now that is the law, or else we shall proceed to prosecute you."

Mr. Merchant, after so many problems and too old to start over to rebuild his business, gets into his car, drives home, pulls into his garage, locks the doors, quietly goes into a box in his garage and pulls out hose—attaches it to the exhaust pipe of his car, then closes all windows in his car, slowly turns on the motor, lays his head down and slowly commits suicide.

Do the newspapers, radio, T.V. media pick up this story, the answer is no. They only cover and give a write-up when some punk calls the Head of the City Council a Honkie. And where was the police protection that this hard working citizen who for years paid his taxes for—I ask you Mr. Patrick Murphy, Safety Director—where?

So now approximately 1½ weeks after Mr. Merchant was buried, along comes a letter in the mail to Mr. Merchant's widow, who by the way has three children, from our Mr. Dugas which states, upon receipt of this letter you are now being assessed by this D.C. Government for the cost of removing the debris from the burned out property and if payment is not made up by a certain date you will have to pay 2% penalty per month. What a tragedy!!

Today, many of our business people who were looted and burned, many who were not looted and burned, are removing their display windows and replacing them with brick walls. In Europe, in Asia and even in this great country of ours, hundreds and thousands of years ago, great walls were built around their cities, village and homes. They built these walls to protect them against an invasion by armies, plunderers, and wild beasts. Are the businessmen and private citizens of this community supposed to build high walls to protect themselves