

Mrs. HOWARD. Thank you.

Mr. WHITENER. This concludes the list of our witnesses. Unless there are some others that we do not have on the list, we——

Mr. PARKS. I should like to speak.

Mr. WHITENER. Give your name for the record.

Mr. PARKS. Samuel J. Parks.

STATEMENT OF SAMUEL J. PARKS, 1914 7TH STREET, NORTHWEST

Mr. PARKS. I should like to speak to some of the questions that have been raised. There were several questions raised by Mr. Winn and yourself, concerning which I think I could give for information as to what happened individually to me.

Mr. WHITENER. Would you give your address and your business for the record?

Mr. PARKS. My home address or my business address was at 1914 7th Street, Northwest. That is in the block that was destroyed which some of the other witnesses referred to.

To go back about six or eight months ago, two officers came into my place and told me that they were from the riot squad and they were checking all of the establishments that had guns, that is, that sold guns, hand guns. And they wanted to know how many hand guns we had, how many rifles, how many shotguns did we have.

Mr. WINN. What business are you in?

Mr. PARKS. We are jewelers and pawnbrokers. So, I took them down to our basement compartment where the guns are kept, and there were approximately 40 guns, and they made a record of each and everyone of them. I said, "What is the trouble about?" They said, they wanted to know the number because they might have some trouble, so that they could take these guns out and keep them from falling into the hands of the Black Muslims, and the like.

So, Friday morning, April 5th, we opened up. That place was built like a fortress. The entire front was enclosed with iron bars that pulled down—impossible to break—and the rest of the building was built equally as strong and protected. We had all sorts of burglar alarms there.

ORGANIZED LAWLESSNESS

Friday morning, the looters came through—and it was organized, because the first group of them came through and broke the windows. They did not try to get anything. They broke the windows. They were followed by another group. This group, about 25 or 30 or more, they would come right in through the entrance—"Let us take the joint." Well, at 7 o'clock my brother was downstairs and I was upstairs. He took a gun from back of the counter and shot over their heads, so that they flew. We closed the place up. So, we tried to secure the place even better than it was before. We left there at three o'clock. Nobody ever came along to pick up the guns. The guns were there. We left there, not thinking anything would happen to our place the way it was built.

A colored man that worked for us—incidentally, he was receiving better than \$150 a week, and he was a very efficient person—he came back there later, I think the next day, and he checked the front of the store. Everything was intact. He walked around in the back, in the