

could be effectively expressed and public opinion formed on controversial questions. But a minority group—led by men who drew to their side church leaders and groups as well as civic organizations—decided that a massive publicity stunt would be a better way to impress Congress and the President with the idea that unemployment and racial discrimination can be legislated out of existence . . .

"The right of petition is a fundamental principle of the Constitution, but it assumes an orderly and non-provocative procedure. The federal government had to go to large expense to police the Wednesday demonstration here and to keep people from crowding into the city who might participate in disorders.

"To say that the 'march' was successful because large-scale violence was avoided is to ignore the bitterness and resentment prevalent on that day in a city whose normal community life was disrupted. Tens of thousands of people remained secluded in their homes lest they become injured or subjected to unwarranted delays in moving to and from their residences. American citizens were prevented from pursuing their customary ways. Their right to go to their places of employment was impaired by fear of bodily injury.

"Would this have happened if the petitioners had relied on the process of reason in a voluntary society? * * * Are injustices remedied by creating more injustices, and is the cause of civil rights advanced by interfering with the civil rights of nonparticipants in the mass demonstrations?

"These are questions which will need answering, and the full effect of what may come to be called 'the mess in Washington' could be reflected in future elections. For what was proved by the big demonstration—that in free America only the mob can get laws passed covering the issue of civil rights?"

Finally, this week, when leaders of the "poor people's crusade" openly defied governmental authority, political politeness was at last brushed aside, and law and order was unhesitatingly imposed. It is a healthful and constructive sign that the people do lose their patience when protesters—no matter how just the cause—do not proceed in a lawful and orderly manner to petition their government for the redress of grievances.

Maybe there will be more "demonstrations," but little by little long-suffering officials are getting tired of artificially developed mass protests. It is significant that D.C. Mayor Walter E. Washington, himself a Negro, took part in the ending of the fiasco of "Resurrection City," as 343 of the squatters—including the Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, successor to the late Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.—were arrested. Thus was the maintenance of law and order resumed in the capital of the nation.

SILVER SPRING, Md., May 15, 1968.

CHAIRMAN, HOUSE DISTRICT COMMITTEE,
House Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

HONORABLE SIR: Who can we call upon, From whom can we seek relief when our town is invaded by rioters?

Sympathies from high officials have only been aimed at the law breakers, at the arsonists and at the murderers. It is the voices of the militant anarchistic leaders who have reached the ears of the insurrectionists and have made an army of **law breakers**.

In a democratic form of government we expect our representatives to consider the welfare of *all* the people.

It certainly is not the duty of the law abiding citizens to form vigilante committees to protect their lives and property. We expect our government to do this for us; otherwise we would tear down the very fabric of the society we have strived to build up for 200 years.

The government must do *everything* in its power, when conditions affect the welfare of law abiding citizens against the rebellious actions of a few. It was a very small percentage of the Russian population who overthrew the Czarist government and established a communistic regime.

It can happen here!

As one who has labored for many years to build a business and see it wantonly destroyed in a few hours, I can assure you it is a heartbreaking experience. Then, to be coerced, blackmailed and prevented from continuing in business by these same few militants is inconceivable in these United States of America.

As law abiding citizens *we must have your help now*. As our representative to our Federal government you must see to it that our rights and property are protected.