MR. YLVISAKER: Paul Ylvisaker,
Commissioner of Community Affairs

Let me describe the department very briefly. As you know, it was created on March 1st. It was an amalgamation of a number of different operating units that the State plucked from this department and that department and supposedly by adding them up when we get a new department and new approach, these units are the whole poverty program.

Second, housing, and we have added to that urban renewal and relocation. That includes also tenement inspections, building maintenance codes or multiple family dwellings throughout the State and codes enforcement.

The Legislature put on account all the codes, both for construction and maintenance of multiple family dwellings.

Then, in that same housing shop we have created, through the thanks of the Legislature, a Housing Finance Agency, which now is just getting on the ground, to produce moderate income housing by going on the market with revenue bonds. We have no upper limitation, so that we have access to the bond market, depending upon what it

is at a particular time; and, therefore, can do as
Mitch Lama has done in New York, almost an infinite
amount of housing, depending upon the market.

In that same shop we have a housing demonstration fund, which you may want to look at during the course of your deliberations. This is a million dollars which is available to do experimental rehabilitation and housing, written very inflexibly so that we can go in the direction that Senator Kennedy is trying to do. But it is available for new kinds of experimental work.

Division of Planning, which is physical land use planning During the last fifteen years it has been a pioneer in the State of New Jersey working largely with suburban communities on their developmental problems.

We are also responsible for the coordination of the State's manpower plan. That is, when we go to the Federal Government now for their different kinds of grants for employment, probably about twenty different federal agencies and state agencies are involved. So it gets to be our job to work with the interdepartmental committee and

coordinate that planning.

We also have the Division of
Local Finance, which has been around since 1917
It has, potentially, a very powerful operation
It has control and supervision over the local bond issues and budgets in the state. It exercises that power mostly in the interest of keeping communities out of bankruptcy. But I think there is a potential here for going beyond that, and we hope to do so.

We also have a Division of Training, which is working to get younger people involved in local governmental problems. This summer, for example, we have ninety interns working with mayors, freeholders, other departments, trying to get into the community colleges and into the state colleges, to get these younger people involved in the problems we are talking about.

We have a rather loose charge to keep an eye on racial tensions. This is kind of a general charge. It says keep an eye on them, do what you can; and this involved us when the riots occurred and the type of work we did in Newark and Plainfield, which you might want to hear about later

We also have responsibility for Division of Aging and the Division of Youth In addition, we have been asked to see what we can do post Governor Meyner and the Meadow Lands and see if we can bring that one along; and I may have forgotten one or two other charges. But you can see it's quite an amalgamum of things put together

We have added to this the

Division of Grant Programming and Coordination, because, again, the legislation, both from the 1940's and renewed more recently, is a general charge to see what we can do to coordinate federal grants as they come to the State and affect the municipality, the local governments. We have had to play this one quite delicately because you do not go tramping around playing with other people's jurisdictions. It is an attempt to see if we can't get the four hundred forty separate grant programs coming out of Washington to come into the State with some sense of coherence. We are just beginning to work at that.

We have established an office in Washington and, we have recently established an office in Newark working on these problems. That's the structure and the anatomy of the department.

By and large, we have been staffed with relatively young people, some would say impotent and bushy-tailed people, with the idea that we do want to come in fresh with some enthusiasm and new energies and see what we can do.

We have more Negroes in our professional and clerical staff than in just about any other department in the State, highly because of the Office of Economic Opportunity, the Poverty Program. But we have tried to move laterally into our department that whole philosophy and also the color composition, so that we are beginning to move from the Poverty Program people in to working with the other divisions

example, that we have got to move not to suburban planning, having to do with water, sewage, zoning, but to get into the central city problems. We were beginning to do this just about the time the disturbances hit.

That, Mr. Chairman, is roughly the layout. Do you want me to say a few words about what has happened the last month to affect this? Or would you like to ask questions?

CHAIRMAN LILLEY: Any questions?

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MR. BROWN: I would like to hear him talk about last month

MR. YLVISAKER: When Newark was hit, this is about a little over a month ago, we were a convenient light brigade for the Governor That is, we had probably more people and more energy than we had clearcut assignments. The department has had to go looking for a lot of business and to redefine a lot of its business

As I indicated, our Division of Finance has a lot of legacy about it of the 1930's It's concerned with prudent management and resources. Our Division of Planning has a lot of legacy of the 1950's, the housing, suburban development. So we tried to turn around a lot of this to try to look at the social problems.

At the same time, the legislature was fairly generous in giving us positions beyond our immediate needs So we had men on board, and when the riot hit in Newark, about the second day, I should think, it was about Saturday, sometime on Saturday--

MR. BROWN: You were there Saturday morning about six o'clock. That's when you walked in.

MR. YLVISAKER: When I heard

you talking about swearing witnesses, I got scared

myself I literally can't recall the chronology of

what happened from moment to moment. I have impres
sions, but I don't have fact.

When we were called in, the Governor was at the point of recognizing that he had to begin reaching out beyond military or security action, to begin talking to groups in the community, Negro groups predominantly, who hopefully if they couldn't converse, if they couldn't regain control of the streets and stop some of the rioting still in effect, they could begin returning normalcy to the streets so people would have a sense of security so life could go on; because at that point we had arrived at enough security to control the situation. But the danger of overescalation became immediately apparent.

Much tribute must go to

Colonel Kelley I admired his performance throughout. Colonel Kelley realized that he had to get

something different, or something extra, than just
the security action.

We had on our staff Jim Blair.

Jim was knowledgeable about some of the people and

he began meeting and assembling with some of these groups Those negotiations helped the Governor throughout the very busy days and they then led to specific programs.

For example, we immediately got going on distribution of food. It became apparent that this was a problem. And each of our guys, without very much direction, very spontaneously was available to do a job if nobody else was available.

of people being held in custody There were mass arrests, and I don't want to use the word indiscriminate, but with less than full discrimination, the question of how quickly you might release these people and return them to society, such as the Vera Foundation in New York for developing a system of releasing people on their own recognizance, which got us into a position to do this Jobs began emerging. We worked hand-in-hand with Kelley

Then when Plainfield came, we went over to Plainfield and began negotiating at an early stage with people in the community and back-stopping again Kelley's work. Again it became a question of distribution of food, doing a lot of

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different collateral things.

Then we deployed a lot of people in New Brunswick. With Mayor Pat Sheehan, new to the job, we had people helping her with recreation, law and the rest. It almost took a department going in one direction by the scruff of the neck and moved it over here, and it has very much conditioned our later work

Since that time we have taken some of the fellows, who showed themselves able and brave on the street, and formed a community relation service, which is now going into Atlantic City and to just about all the major cities. And there is on hand with the Mayor to help establish connections with groups who are almost completely disconnected at present.

The Governor turned to us at that time and established connections with the federal government and it was we who had the dealings with Attorney General Clark and went down to Washington and met with about a dozen of the major agencies to talk about both the short term and long term of relief through grants-in-aid. So this became a part of our responsibility after the Governor decided to move quickly to see what he can do as far as the

short and long range things.

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I don't know whether this has been distributed to you, but the Governor has decided to make certain that the State is a model employer, and with the help of other agencies,

Labor and Industry, Institutions and Agencies—

MR. YLVISAKER: This is a statement by Governor Hughes for release on Friday, August 18.

MR. BROWN:

What is that?

We have counted up, through both head counts and individual departments and by computer runs, the vacancies in the State employment right now, which turn out to be about twenty-five hundred, fifteen hundred of which can be filled by people with high school and less education. We have discovered, as in many employment cases, that we have set the requirements in the past very rigidly and very high, and what we are now doing is to go out and to open up recruitment to people who were not formerly eligible, identify these spots and major groupings, develop training programs so that we can recruit a guy with no high school education, in some cases not able to read and write, and then put him into a training program and fill him into spots, and we have determined that each of these spots should go into a possible career ladder, so they don't deadend at \$70.00 a week, by training and retraining and upgrading over a time so that now a person without high school education can move on up right into the high-paying jobs. This is just an example

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We are also working on ratcontrol in the sense of environmental sanitation.
We think that probably one of the very good things
we can do right now would be to go to once a day
the collection of trash and garbage in the slum
areas of the State, which would generate both employment and would do an awful lot to clean up
these neighborhoods This is not intended to be a
long-term solution, but one of them, things one
might do immediately.

I have been in constant contact with Washington, the various senators working on this in the White House, to see what can be done with aids coming into the State along these lines And then, in addition, we have been working very closely with the Governor and David Ginsberg on the President's Commission, which is your counterpart. We were down to an informal meeting with them last

week, fifteen of our people, including Colonel Kelley and the Attorney General and others, and have gone through the same sort of thing you're going through here.

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I think what this adds up to, it has turned out to be an available light brigade.

We have gotten pressed into various duties, but I think it's to the extent we have been helpful and it has been a kind of historical convenience that put us where we were.

CHAIRMAN LILLEY: Questions, gentlemen?

MR. LOFTON: In terms of your staff contact with the people in the areas affected by the hostilities, have you been able to sort of rank order the kind of problems that the people see in their minds as being the kind of things that the various governmental structures ought to address itself to?

MR. YLVISAKER: Yes, I already know how diverse those things are, too. Last night at three o'clock I was in a ghetto residence with an eighteen-year-old boy who had been in trouble with the law twice, who has a mother of extraordinary intelligence. I began thinking that the basic needs

were for something else other than material structure. There was a philosophic revolution going on in the household, almost a denial of our culture. And this scared me, because nothing is relevant that we have to offer to that mood and climate.

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On the other hand, the conversation can switch inside of thirty seconds to the fact that look at the tin cans out in the front that haven't been picked up for three days; or we are going to be urban renewaled right out of the place, they are going to put a by-pass and take out our houses And one can list a fantastic range of problems, all the way from philosophy to whatever.

ant that we begin mapping who are really the disconnected, who are not being touched by the Poverty Program, and there may be very few in the community But we have got to know who they are and start listening and getting in touch with them. They may not be articulate, but they are there when the explosion occurs.

when we get into the law and public safety and the administration of justice, wherever these explosions

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have occurred, they have been touched off usually with a police incident—and I am making no allegations here. There has been a frictional point here. And I can recite the other usual things: employment, housing

If I could add one statement to that, though, it is the basic feeling I have that this Commission has got to take a look at certain long-term trends and recognize that we are dealing probably with a rising crescendo of year after year of these incidents. And the basic facts are these, that the Negro ghetto is growing by five hundred thousand a year. Next summer, the nation faces half a million more in these circumstances. The number of jobs relatively is declining. The condition of houses is declining. So you can anticipate a thousand different points of explosion.

But the basic problem is this tremendous concentration of problems, with the attendant feelings of hopelessness and growing assertiveness and militancy.

So that even with the most fantastic response of government right down to this, you can still persevere through time for three or 2 | 3 |

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four years the momentum we are dealing with this summer, and what is relevant to that is very basic changes in our whole attitude and policy.

MR. BROWN: What is this material change in thought? You say you were frightened by this particular philosophic discursion. Is it related to the fact that the family unit is no basis of authority or that the very young--I suppose it was a young person who expressed this particular point of view--or that that particular person has absolutely no new adherence to anything, as opposed to the idea that the press likes to give that there is a new leadership, a new confluence of thought? Is it rather a neolistic approach which renounces family authority? Of course, religious authority, I think, is somewhat blind there. Is that in scope something what you're talking about, the frightening response?

MR. YLVISAKER: Yes. And, by
the way, it is not racial entirely, though the incidences are highest in that population. But I
find it even in my own seventeen-year-old, the
explosiveness that you find in the ghetto. But
what it is, it's kind of a search for our identity
in the mass and not much of any kind of satisfaction,

emotional satisfaction in this condition of life, then kind of a tuning out.

For example, the mother last night said: I died three years ago, I am not even going to talk about all the old things. I have suddenly realized that I am nothing in this society I am not going to be nothing

And she said a certain serenity turns within her, but it's also a passivity
when they become violent

The kid, on the other hand, has no father in this case. It's a maternal family. And he has almost a blind hostility to things, which turns out sometimes to be almost suicidal in nature. On two occasions he has really tried to kill himself by episodes of violence in the streets. It was not so much to break society as to kill himself He just figured no purpose, no end, no nothing. And when you go into some of these major ghettos, like the Central Ward of Newark or North Philadelphia, you can begin to appreciate that kind of sentiment.

I have a feeling of something here, some of them will go to brand names of philosophy, to Mauism, Castroism, to the Deacons or to

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the Rams, sometimes to the church, whatever But it's a striking out for something that they don't find in their present culture. It's a denial of it

MR. DRISCOLL: As I understand it, Colonel Brown's question had to do with the question of family life, marital—was that correct, Colonel Brown?

MR. BROWN: Yes Part of the question was this unit being disavowed, too.

MR. DRISCOLL: I think, from studies that I have made, it is a very real problem, and a problem where we need a lot of help.

My second question was: you have a Department of City Planning?

MR. YLVISAKER: Yes

MR. DRISCOLL: Have some good

MR. YLVISAKER: Yes. I think you know some of them, Bud Shavusion, and the group that has been attracted, I think largely during Governor Meyner's term. They are very good, very dedicated. But their orientation has been to suburban New Jersey Their concern has been with the green space, the open spaces, the water and sewage, the street layout, all the rest

of this And by and large there has not been a planning emphasis on the central city

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MR. DRISCOLL: So would it be your opinion that we would have to go outside to find a group of pros or a pro who would be an expert in city planning?

MR. YLVISAKER: No. I think it's just a matter of leadership and redirection.

For instance, Bud Shavusian, during the middle of the riots, went into Newark and ended up in the apartments in the Colonades watching the thing. It was a grandstand seat. He saw the snipers emerging from a nearby building and the National Guard literally firing up and down that whole building. This brings out in Bud what he started out to be, which was a downtown renewal guy, and he suddenly wants to go back in.

Our housing division, which is new right now, the housing and finance, and the Poverty Program has most people who are concerned with the downtown area. But if you say go outside, the facts are we are going to have to go outside just about any of our experience to deal with what we have seen now in New Jersey this summer. This takes an entirely different kind of skill

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MR. BROWN: There are no disciplines that really apply

MR. YLVISAKER: John Lindsay, who is a very close friend of mine, we spent last night about an hour together just musing And Lindsay has got something here which is badly needed, which is an obvious and sincere concern, and he is walking the streets of New York. They love that guy, and he is better than a thousand troops when he shows his concern. But the heart and sensitivity are very much needed.

John and I last night were also talking about that his magic will take care of this round, he will survive this summer; but his magic won't survive next summer

MR. BROWN: One of my favorite clients from Harlem, I said to him, "What about Harlem?" I was walking the streets with him for about three nights last week. I said, "Ray, what do think?"

He said, "Nothing going to happen this time."

I said, "Why?"

He said, "This guy Lindsay, he knows that he doesn't know much, and he picked a

guy by the name of Waits, who is an inspector of police, along with Sealy, who is better known, and Waits has taken over here and he has made it clear to the white cops that when they get out of line, they have to get transferred."

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I said, "How is that a stick?"

He said, "Most of these guys

are buying homes in Queens. They get a normal

shakedown and if that guy gets out of line, he

loses the car and the mortgage. Waits has now

moved in and says all you guys are corrupt. He

says, Look, you go. And he has fired a couple of

lieutenants who he says have cracked down too hard

on us."

And he says Waits walks the streets and he knows all of us and he says that if that guy falls I am going to kill me a bunch of niggers it they get out of line.

This is the reality of the street. He says you don't get dragged in, and he says another thing he has done is he has made it clear that a cop turns his back on a Negro fight between a man and a woman. The traditional technique is for the white cop or Negro cop, if he sees the fight, is to turn his back. So much of this

goes beyond the racial question. He said he walks away This leads to immediate mayhem and it's spread into the community And this woman says I am nothing A man beats me in the situation, he walks away.

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The thing I'd like to get back to is this, in terms of something we have to discussed here. In your opinion, being right in the front, could a commission of this kind be meaningful if it limited its scope so that it didn't get to that new--try to delve or interpret or respond to this new concept of philosophy of either the forty-year-old woman who says she died three years ago or in the younger man who says I want to get killed, could this commission, in your opinion, do a meaningful job unless it got somewhere in the heart of it?

MR. YLVISAKER: My answer is implicit in your question. I would hope this commission, just like the national commission, gets right down into the guts and feel of the situation. The national commission is taking it seriously, even gaining the situation, as Rand does with the war effort, to get the commission to begin playing roles that are not their own roles, just to exper-

ience the emotion of this thing.

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I would also suggest an awful lot of walking and talking with these people in confidence and openly because there is a lot in what this guy says about Lindsay He says he doesn't know a lot of things and he joins us in the kind of uncertainty in this situation. I don't know of a single guy in this business who really knows the answers right now. But everybody in our generation is a phony, and if they think they know the answers, something basically is wrong. There are an awful lot of people who feel that has to be in the situation.

CHAIRMAN LILLEY: Commissioner, knowing you're coming back, I think you're getting into things we are allotting time for at another time.

MR. GIBBONS: Is your department doing anything about a study of the extent to which the fragmentation of municipal government in this state contributes in its ability to deal with these problems?

MR. YLVISAKER: Yes. My first several months, when asked that question, I was pretty ambivalent, I talked out of both sides of my

mouth I wanted to bide time. My answer at that time was don't force me to a categorical answer

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There are some cases where a little town can do a job by itself Many times you need a county, many times you need a region. it's becoming clear in my mind that five hundred and sixty-seven municipalities in New Jersey cannot survive or produce what this state needs is going to be in the next two or three years, when we don't have much time here to begin making basic structural changes in the revenue pattern and in the service pattern, which doesn't mean, I think, getting away from little access points, but almost like AT&T, which managed to develop a service system over a larger jurisdiction yet be extremely service-sensitive to complaints. I think we can go into both directions.

One of the problems in the Negro community is there are no access points down there. There isn't service on the one hand, and there is no complaint mechanism. And one of the big answers lies in getting some connections, getting the complaint mechanisms moving. They don't necessarily have to be tied to the running of the service

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But I do believe Jersey has got a major structural job ahead of it, and I am sure I will last about two years in this job if I take it to heart, as I should.

MR. BROWN: From what you talk about in terms of access, most of the so-called moderate Civil Rights groups have advertised as the progress to an expression of power and recognition the political route, that is, the normal business of registration, educate the voter to vote for candidates

Is it your feeling that this root with its systematic development, has to be superseded for the time by some governmental or some community participation and lines of communication which ought to be developed in government, so that for example, instead of having the traditional representative being responsible on the ward council of a city basis, is it your feeling that that, while it may be the ultimate solution, is not going to apply in this particular circumstance and that other lines of communication and force have to be devised?

MR. YLVISAKER: Let me answer that in two ways, and then I will subside.

again I mention that figure that the Negro ghetto is growing by five hundred thousand every year This means that you have got the emergency faced with two choices: one, five hundred thousand Negroes, at least, a year move into white neighborhoods, which is now about fifty thousand, at most. Now, that would just keep the Negro ghetto of Newark its present size. You are not reducing it that scale. If you're to reduce it, you would have to up that migration to seven hundred fifth thousand, or more.

On the other hand, if you go with our present rate of development, it means that five cities join Newark and Washington by 1973 with Negro majorities, and by 1983 twenty-five cities, which means Chicago, Philadelphia, Detroit, the rest of them.

Now, this would be alright, but the trouble is the central city, this is becoming the depressed area. Forty percent presently live in poverty

But to answer your question,
this means that if we are not going to integrate,
which seems to be the majority vote right now, if
we are not going to integrate, we must look forward

to transitional politics to put the Negro in control of those cities so that you do not delay the day there is the mayor and council, and the rest. The transitional politics gets to be pretty dirty politics. This is part of the facts—Transitional politics is dirty politics because of the buy-off and trade-off of votes. This produces a disillusionment that really eats at the heart of the thing

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So I think that if it's to be implicit, such as in New Jersey, that we are going to have segregated cities, then I think we have to really work toward a clean transition toward Negro leadership and making sure that there are people brought into the system and not excluded by ward practices or political practices.

The second thing is the real meaningful participation comes in something that emerges. You have to see a tangible result. You can't play games in this business A lot of games are being played with the Negro communities, as we are used to in politics You put a guy here, designate a person here, whatever.

We are going through some agonies now. The medical school in Newark, where a medical school is moving in, with one hundred and

are that most of the Negroes who live in the area want to move out, but they don't want to be pushed out. That's where the main protest is One interest is now taking over a piece of Newark. I think the planning of that medical school acreage has passed its immediate needs. It's very important.

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This is why Governor Hughes announced, as he did recently, there ought to have some very significant community participation here to make sure that school fits community needs as well as its own needs—And I am satisfied, after talking with the Surgeon-General and Secretary Gardner at the White House, that such service facilities have to be knit together with the community so that there is a feeling of mutuality

Newark, as a pioneering effort, where there was real mutual participation, we would be far ahead in the game; and that even admits the fact that you're going to have difficulty getting two or three Negroes to represent any part of their community. But at least they have been involved in decisions of their community. It's the lack of participation that produces a lot of the neolism that

If that can be worked out in

we are talking about.

CHAIRMAN LILLEY: Thank you,

Mr Ylvisaker

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(Off the record.)

ance with the rules of the Commission, there will be a transcript made up of everything we say during your discussion, Colonel Kelley. But I think we agreed among ourselves that this is not for the press; this is for the Commission. And if there is anything you want to read, you will get a chance to read it. But I think you should know the gentleman there is taking down everything.

Thanks for being with us, and my apologies for the wait. I try not to keep people waiting, but it sometimes happens. So just be as informal as you like. The floor is yours.

COL. KELLEY: As I understand it, you're looking for background information so that you have the basis for whatever questions--

You have got. We would expect that at some future date you would be here with lots of time for discussion.

MR. MEYNER: I think what we