

1 JOHN P. CAUFIELD, sworn.

2 BY MR. FORTUNATO:

3 Q Mr. Caufield, I wonder if you could tell
4 us, please, your name, address and present occupation
5 and just briefly sketch your background for us.

6 A John P. Caufield, 44 Columbia Avenue,
7 Newark. I am Fire Director of the City of Newark.
8 I have been the director since July 1st, 1962.

9 Q And give us just a little bit prior to
10 that.

11 A Prior to that I was a member of the Essex
12 County Prosecutor's Office from which I am on leave
13 of absence now. Prior to that I was in the sheriff's
14 office and prior to that I was in the Newark Police
15 Department three and a half years.

16 Q Could you very briefly sketch for us the
17 organization of your fire department?

18 A Yes. We have a total of 1,069 people in
19 our department. Outside of the small administrative
20 staff of ten people, the rest of the department is
21 divided into four divisions--Fire Prevention, Fire
22 Fighting, Communications and Special Services. Under
23 our Fire Fighting of course is our twenty-five engine
24 companies, twelve ladder companies, two salvage units,
25 rescue unit and a fire boat.

1 Under our Communications, of course that's our
2 dispatchers and we maintain our entire telegraphic
3 system ourselves.

4 Fire Prevention consists of our investigative
5 division, the arson squad and so forth and also our
6 Bureau of Combustibles and our fire records.

7 Special Services consists of all the auxiliary
8 sections.

9 Q How many engine companies do you have?

10 A We have twenty-five engine companies in
11 service, ten of which are two piece companies, mean-
12 ing there are in effect two engines in each one of
13 those companies. So just by bringing in some man-
14 power we are able to have twenty-five engine companies.

15 Q How many fire houses do you have in the
16 City of Newark?

17 A I think we have twenty-six right now.
18 We are in the midst now of tearing two down and
19 building a new one.

20 Q Could you tell us the number of Negroes
21 that you have in the fire department?

22 A I don't have the exact figure but it's
23 very small. It's about three percent. I wouldn't
24 think it was over thirty.

25 Q Over thirty? on it, and looking at the

1 A It is not over thirty. I believe it's
2 twenty-seven or twenty-eight.

3 Q Do you have an active recruitment policy
4 in an attempt to get Negroes into the fire depart-
5 ment?

6 A Well, to the extent that wherever I go
7 speaking and certainly other firemen in our depart-
8 ment, we are always trying to enlist colored or
9 Spanish-speaking people.

10 Q Do you have any Spanish-speaking firemen
11 in the department?

12 A I think we have two, one of whom is a
13 captain. One of our Negroes also is a captain
14 appointed about three years ago.

15 Q Are the Negroes in the fire department,
16 are they recent members of the fire department or
17 people who have been there for a period of time?

18 A I am not sure when the first one came in.
19 I think William Lee Thomas was the first one and
20 that goes back twelve, thirteen years, I guess.

21 Q Have you had any substantial problems
22 in recruiting Negroes into the fire department?

23 A Yes. They don't take the examinations.
24 We have a list which came out recently and I think
25 it has thirty-two names on it, and looking at the

1 addresses I would say thirty of them are not Negroes.

2 into Q: What is the starting salary of a fireman?

3 have A: \$6600. January 1st it will be \$7200.

4 Q: Have you tried any type of recruitment
5 policy in the local schools or neighborhoods?

6 A: Yes. I have people who go around in
7 schools and speak on recruitment, on a career in the
8 fire service.

9 Q Does the Newark Fire Department have any
10 type of community relations program?

11 A: Not specifically. We have an extensive
12 fire prevention bureau and we have inside demonstrations
13 which I personally go with ninety percent of the time.
14 We do this throughout the city and we always make a
15 pitch for firemen when we put these demonstrations on.
16 We have a speakers' bureau of some fifteen men, we
17 have a library of films which we make available, we
18 have some forty-nine types of fire prevention
19 literature. As a matter of fact, during Fire Prevention
20 Week we distributed this literature. We have various
21 demonstrations that are available at all times. This
22 is basically our community relations.

23 Q You don't have any type of program where
24 firemen participate with the youngsters of the
25 community?

1 A No. Except that we do have them come
2 into our fire houses, yes. We encourage this. We
3 have this all the time throughout the year,
4 especially with the cub scouts or boy scouts or
5 black groups. We also have a talk about fire boxes
6 which one of our firemen goes around explaining how
7 to pull the fire box and of course talk on the evils
8 of false alarms.

9 Q Prior to the riot in July of this year
10 has the fire department had any problems with the
11 community in the central ward?

12 A No.

13 Q Has there been any kind of antagonism?

14 A No. As a matter of fact, it has been
15 quite the opposite. Our relationship with the people
16 in the central ward has been excellent. Where we
17 have fire houses the neighbors and the firemen get
18 along very fine. They have a real interchange
19 among themselves and it's been an excellent relation-
20 ship.

21 BISHOP DOUGHERTY: Do you have a
22 program of welfare at Christmastime for
23 needy children?

24 THE WITNESS: Yes. Each year we have
25 had this. I think last year we distributed

1 persons over a thousand toys and I think probably
2 the throwing eighty percent of this was in the Central
3 Ward. Some of the fire prevention literature
4 where we fits into this category, too--comic books
5 and the like.

6 Q Could you discuss the type of pre-riot
7 planning that went on in the Newark Fire Department,
8 if any?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And when it began.

11 A We had many informal discussions on
12 this going back a year just prior to the riot. We
13 had drawn up some suggestions and plans for our
14 men to follow. If you want me to read it--

15 Q Could you leave it with us?

16 A Yes. I would like to start off by reading
17 the first paragraph.

18 "The objective of the fire department during
19 any public disorder will continue to be the
20 protection of life and property from the effects
21 of fire. In addition to the many factors that must
22 be overcome to attain this objective in routine
23 operation, a public disorder presents new factors
24 such as:

25 Difficulty in reaching the scene of fires and

1 persons attempting bodily harm to firemen through
2 the throwing of missiles and possible gun fire."
3 And then we go into the following response procedures
4 where we actually cut our response down from what
5 it was normally. We had one battalion chief going
6 out because we had so many fires. We would start
7 with the chief going out alone and if it was a
8 false alarm he would call in by radio and no one
9 else would respond.

10 We also gave our men instructions to wear
11 full protective clothing at all times and to hide
12 all of their tools. Our hooks and axes, if anyone
13 got a hold of them they would have a beautiful
14 weapon, almost anything you could think of which
15 we use for forcible entry. They were instructed
16 to keep this covered, keep them in compartments and
17 keep them out of sight.

18 Q When were those instructions issued?

19 A I am not sure of the date but it was just
20 prior to the riot.

21 Q Was it in June?

22 A It was in July.

23 MR. FORTUNATO: Could we mark that as
24 an exhibit?

25 (Document marked C24.)

1 THE WITNESS: One other set of in-
2 the instructions we gave is that in this type of
3 alarm situation we were to have no overhauling
4 we were at the fires. Just go in with a large
5 terrific hose stream, get the fire out and get out
6 as soon as possible. And if we did have
7 trouble taking up the equipment, to wait
8 there until we got proper police protection.

9 certainly Now normally you go through a lot of over-
10 hauling to make sure you don't get a re-
11 false kindling. The apparatus was to be placed
12 to the rear in such a way that it could be taken up

13 quickly. think it was correct, certainly.
14 Q Was there any indication that you had that
15 there may be a riot in Newark in the summer of this
16 year? change of mood during those months that

17 A Well, it's easy to look back at it and
18 say it now. I suppose I can to this extent: We
19 did have a great increase in false alarms for several
20 weeks at least before this. my son that I witnessed

21 Q Could you tell us when that began, the
22 increase in false alarms? Central Ward always.

23 A That had been going on for at least two, rated
24 three months. administration, the police director?

25 Q Prior to the riot?

1 A Yes. But we had previously knocked down
2 the number of false alarms. We had 1,897 false
3 alarms and we had decreased this down to 827. So
4 we were going very good. But there has been a
5 terrific pick up and most of it started within a
6 few months of the riots. I didn't take that as an
7 indication of the riots. Frankly I didn't think
8 there was going to be a riot. I didn't expect it,
9 certainly not the type we had.

10 Q In your mind what does the increase in
11 false alarms mean in that period of time just prior
12 to the riot?

13 A I would think it means unrest, certainly,
14 and I don't know what more I can say.

15 BISHOP DOUGHERTY: Was there any
16 change of mood during those months that
17 these false alarms increased, in the
18 attitude toward the department?

19 THE WITNESS: Not that was ever reported
20 to me, and certainly not that I witnessed
21 personally, no. Our relationship has been
22 excellent in the Central Ward always.

23 Q Was the increase in false alarms communicated
24 to the city administration, the police director?

25 A No, I didn't.

1 Q You didn't communicate this?

2 A No, I did not.

3 Q Could you discuss with us your activities
4 during the riot, the activities of the fire depart-
5 ment?

6 A Well, I think I could give you a few
7 statistics first which might give you an idea.

8 July 13th, which was Thursday, 6 p.m.,
9 July 13th to 6 p.m., July 14th, that twenty-four
10 hour period, we had 122 fires, we had 22 false
11 alarms and we had 22 non-fire emergencies, these
12 are heart cases and accidents that we respond to,
13 a total of 166 alarms.

14 The next day, July 14th, 6 p.m. to July 15th
15 at 6 p.m., we had 71 fires, 19 false alarms and 6
16 non-fire emergencies for a total of 96 alarms.

17 The next day, July 15th, 6 p.m. to July 16th
18 at 6 p.m., we had 34 fires, 9 false alarms and 16
19 non-fire emergencies.

20 July 16th at 6 p.m. to July 17th at 6 p.m., we
21 had 23 fires, 14 false alarms and 6 non-fire
22 emergencies.

23 So at the end of the third day actually it
24 wasn't too unusual a day for fires but it was still
25 14 false alarms and 14 is still a lot of false alarms.

1 Anything more than two isn't a good day any more.

2 Q What does a normal day in the Central Ward
3 give you in terms of fire statistics?

4 A It's very hard to say but I have with me,
5 gentlemen, a--this is from 8 o'clock yesterday
6 morning to 8 o'clock this morning and we had 6 false
7 alarms. They are not all in the Central Ward.

8 Three of those are in the Central Ward. We had
9 a total during that twenty-four hour period of
10 15 fires. But with all this our fire record this
11 year compared to last year is a tremendous improve-
12 ment. This time last year we had 6,732 fires. As
13 of 8 o'clock this morning we had 5,358 fires. This
14 time last year we had 30 deaths and this year we
15 have had 16. total number of fires on all this date

16 Q Due to fires? no last year?

17 A Yes. THE WITNESS: Yes.

18 Q What was the total number of fires
19 during the riots in Newark?

20 A It all depends on what period we are going
21 to call the riot period. The four day period I just
22 gave? have a good fire prevention program. And

23 Q Well, that four days.

24 A 250 fires, 64 false alarms and 50 non-
25 fire emergencies. buildings that have been torn down,

1 I mentioned this year being a better year fire-
2 wise. Last year at this time we had 34 two alarm fires
3 and we have 26 now. This time last year we had 11
4 three alarm fires and now we have two. At this time
5 last year we had 2 four alarm fires and we had none
6 this year. So it's been a fifty percent decrease
7 in the multiple alarm fires and almost a fifty per-
8 cent decrease in fire deaths.

9 MR. LOFTON: Maybe I am missing a
10 point, but are we saying, Director, that
11 in spite of what you spelled out to be
12 the number of fires that were presumed
13 to be set during the course of the riots,
14 that Newark is still running behind in
15 the total number of fires as of this date
16 as it compares to last year?

17 THE WITNESS: Yes.

18 MR. LEUCHTER: Would you have any reason
19 for this?

20 THE WITNESS: I think there are several
21 reasons. I think one of them is because we
22 have a good fire prevention program. And
23 of course the men do a good job. But in
24 addition to that there's an awful lot of
25 substandard buildings that have been torn down,

1 a lot of buildings that didn't have central
2 heating. We haven't had an oil stove fire
3 or death in an awful long time.

4 MR. JAFFE: Urban renewal.

5 THE WITNESS: A couple of months be-
6 fore I became Fire Director I was working
7 with a grand jury investigation and the
8 deaths were very high in the first months
9 of 1962.

10 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Mr. Jaffe
11 anticipated the remark that I wanted to
12 make. He said it's urban renewal.

13 THE WITNESS: I think it's a good
14 part of it. Of course we have an excellent
15 fire prevention program.

16 MR. LOFTON: I think it would contribute
17 to that because a lot of these houses, if
18 they tear down these houses that would de-
19 crease the fire hazard. It's really a very
20 practical reason in terms of why fires
21 have decreased. If they had torn down more
22 of these substandard houses that have been
23 unsafe and people go in there, derelicts
24 or what have you, and, you know, somebody
25 goes to sleep with a match or a cigarette

1 in his hand--

2 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: The abandoned
3 house, would that have contributed to the
4 high death rate that preceded this year?

5 THE WITNESS: No. I think last
6 year we had two or three. I am not sure.

7 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Of that type?

8 THE WITNESS: Vacant buildings are
9 a real problem.

10 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: This, then,
11 is a constant, the derelict death figure?
12 It hasn't increased during your time?

13 THE WITNESS: No. But you always seem
14 to find some derelicts.

15 Q What do you define as a fire for purposes
16 of your statistics? For example, as long as a piece
17 of your equipment responds, even if it's a minor
18 blaze in a room--

19 A Certainly. It could be anything from a
20 garbage can fire to a tenement house fire.

21 Q As long as a piece of equipment of the
22 Newark Fire Department responds to it and--

23 A And there was a fire.

24 Q You classify that as a fire?

25 A Yes.

1 always keep VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: I think you
2 out different mentioned the multiple alarm.

3 companies in THE WITNESS: Well, a multiple alarm,
4 or three any time we call more than one alarm--a
5 in the single alarm in Newark prior to the riots
6 needed had consisted of four engine companies, two
7 ladder companies and a salvage unit, a
8 rescue squad, a battalion chief and deputy
9 chief. Now if they couldn't handle the
10 fire they would sound another alarm and
11 they would give them three more engine
12 companies and another truck company and
13 another chief.

14 Q Do you have any figure for the number of
15 major fires that occurred during the four day riot
16 period?

17 A No.

18 Q By "major", I mean a house burning down.

19 A No. We couldn't even do it by multiple
20 alarm fires because we found ourselves in a position
21 that Thursday night of the riots we were out of
22 companies and we had four out-of-town companies
23 helping us. We had a partial recall where we had
24 split these engine companies, we had split them into
25 single engine companies giving us thirty-five. We

1 always keep five spare apparatus fully loaded through-
2 out different parts of the city. So we had forty
3 companies in service ourselves which is probably two
4 or three times as many fire companies as there are
5 in the rest of Essex County altogether. We still
6 needed help for about four hours.

7 Q What was your worst night?

8 A Thursday night, Thursday night was the
9 worst night for fire. We didn't encounter any
10 snipping or anything like that on Thursday night.
11 The only problem we had Thursday night was some
12 rock throwing, bottle throwing and things like that.

13 Q Would you give us an opinion as to whether
14 or not you think fire generally was a major problem
15 in the riots?

16 A Absolutely. It was a major problem.
17 Any time a city like Newark has five engines left,
18 you are in serious trouble.

19 Q It was a major problem in the sense of
20 what could have happened, but in terms of what
21 actually burned, would you consider that to be a
22 major portion of the riot?

23 A I don't know what you mean.

24 Q Was a substantial part of the city burning
25 during the riots?

1 A No, no, certainly not as compared to what
2 happened in Detroit or Watts, for example.

3 BISHOP DOUGHERTY: In your opinion
4 type of was there any planned arson involved?
5 they open In other words, in the riots do you feel
6 there was a planned arson campaign?

7 THE WITNESS: I couldn't answer that
8 truthfully one way or the other. Definitely
9 there was arson. I witnessed some of it
10 myself. I was on Springfield Avenue, I
11 don't know what time it was, maybe 9:30,
12 it was shortly after the riot was going
13 store, full force, and I saw them push a car
14 through a furniture store and break the
15 windows, loot the place and then throw
16 something which we assumed were Molotov
17 cocktails. Luckily it didn't get worse
18 because there was an engine company right
19 across the street. No one interfered
20 with the apparatus. Other than that, it
21 year, but would have been a very serious fire and
22 under normal circumstances it would have
23 been at least a two alarm fire. We didn't
24 have any wind. If we had any wind I hate
25 to think of what might have happened.

1 figure Q Do you think that there was any pattern
2 to the fires, to follow up the Bishop's question?
3 Were there any particular pattern, any particular
4 type of store or house they were burning or were
5 they sporadic?

6 the A They were certainly spread out. I guess
7 they were sporadic. Except they weren't burning
8 dwellings.

9 Q Was it mostly business establishments
10 that burned?

11 and A Yes. I think where dwellings were in-
12 volved it was because they happened to be above a
13 store. I don't think dwellings as such were burned.

14 fired Q Do you have a map where you have plotted
15 fires that occurred during the riots?

16 were A No. -- 10 Engine, 7 Engine, 6 Engine, 21

17 Engine Q That type of map?

18 house A No, I don't. I could easily make one up.
19 I have a map on the wall of my office where we put
20 a black pin for every fire that we have during the
21 year, but not specifically for this period of riots.

22 A Yes. (Discussion off the record.)

23 Q Could you estimate the amount of fire
24 damage that occurred during those four days?

25 A No, I couldn't. I know there are insurance

1 figures available but I don't know what they are.
2 I couldn't possibly estimate. That's one thing we
3 don't do. We don't give estimates to the damage
4 because it's too difficult.

5 Q You said before that Thursday night was
6 the most difficult night. Could you tell us what happened
7 Friday, what type of problems you faced and what
8 happened and the change in the problems?

9 A Yes. We ran into sniper fire on Friday
10 night. Of course this became a big factor psychologically
11 and otherwise.

12 Q Could you describe for us what you mean?

13 A Well, we had various companies which were
14 fired on as they were going to fires. This wasn't
15 very wide spread but we did have fire houses that
16 were fired on--10 Engine, 7 Engine, 6 Engine, 11
17 Engine, 17 Engine and 12 Engine. All these fire
18 houses were fired on some time or other during the
19 rioting. 6 Engine came very heavily under sniper
20 fire.

21 Q Were you at 6 Engine?

22 A Yes.

23 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Identify that.

24 Where is it located?

25 THE WITNESS: That's Springfield Avenue

1 fire? and Hunterdon.

2 A VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Would that be
3 some other the Central Ward?

4 Q WERE THE WITNESS: Yes. That's catty-side
5 of 6 Engine corner from the Hayes Homes.

6 Q Could you describe for us your experience
7 with 6 Engine during the riot?

8 A Well, there were long periods of time when
9 we couldn't get out of 6 Engine Fire House. We
10 took them out of service because of sniper fire.
11 Of course there was a big response of National
12 Guardsmen and police that came to the area when
13 this occurred and under their orders the men stayed
14 out of sight and couldn't respond to fires. It
15 didn't become any particular problem keeping them
16 out of sight because at that time we weren't getting
17 too many fires. The other companies were able to
18 handle them. THE WITNESS: No.

19 As far as the sniper fire is concerned, it
20 did seem to be coming from the high rise building,
21 the Hayes Homes. big target, the fire house, and so

22 Q Were any of your men in 6 Engine Company
23 hit? because there was sniper fire at the fire

24 A No. the fire house?

25 Q Was there any damage to equipment by sniper

1 fire?

2 A At 6 Engine, no. I think there was at
3 some other places, though.

4 Q Were there any bullet marks on the outside
5 of 6 Engine Company Fire House?

6 A Well, it's pretty hard to tell what a
7 bullet mark is. There's all digs around the fire
8 house building. The only bullet mark I saw was
9 directly across the street. There's a liquor store
10 there and they have those black windows and I did
11 see one of those struck by a bullet.

12 MR. LOFTON: Are you saying that with
13 ⁱⁿ respect to the tense sniper fire you
14 described as it relates to 6 Engine Company,
15 are you saying that any of these projectors
16 entered the inside of the fire house so as
17 to make a bullet hole inside?

18 THE WITNESS: No. the bullets. But I

19 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: But if you had
20 no marks of bullet holes, and that's a
21 pretty big target, the fire house, and no
22 one was injured and so forth, why do you
23 assume there was sniper fire at the fire
24 at the fire house?

25 THE WITNESS: Well, there were bullets

1 flying around. We saw bullets hit the
2 glass across the street. Whether they
3 were actually shooting at us, maybe that
4 might be an erroneous conclusion.

5 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Don't think
6 that I am cross examining you, but if
7 there was a mark--you say you saw one
8 bullet hole across the street in the
9 black glass.

10 THE WITNESS: Yes.

11 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: What indication
12 was there to you as a person present or
13 as reported to you by the fire chaps
14 around you that there was sniper fire?
15 Did they see bullets, did they hear bullets,
16 did they see flashes?

17 THE WITNESS: No. I have some men
18 that told me they saw the bullets. But I
19 couldn't get information along these lines
20 from the firemen because our instructions were
21 to them to stay out of sight. So unless
22 they were disobeying our rules they wouldn't
23 be looking out the window. The information
24 I got came from the police.

25 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: They said that?

1 Q THE WITNESS: Yes.

2 A VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Was there any
3 because indication of sniper fire to the men as
4 34 fires they manned the equipment at any time in
5 no idea terms of things that struck the equipment?

6 THE WITNESS: Yes. We had at least
7 one company which had to turn around and go
8 sniper back to the fire house.

9 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Was anyone injured
10 in that particular company?

11 THE WITNESS: No.

12 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Was any equipment
13 damaged, like holes in the fire hose line?

14 THE WITNESS: No.

15 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: No windshields
16 broken?

17 THE WITNESS: The only holes I saw
18 was after Captain Moran was killed. We do
19 have pictures of the ladders with the bullet
20 holes.

21 BY MR. FORTUNATO: THE WITNESS: Engine 17 is located at

22 Q When was he killed?

23 A Saturday night, shortly after 10 o'clock.

24 Q Was that an extensive night of fire fighting?

25 A No. I ^{say} no. Well, there were 34 fires.

1 Q Was there extensive snipping that night?

2 A Well, at our apparatus I couldn't say
3 because we weren't out that much that night. These
4 34 fires were spread throughout the city. I have
5 no idea how many were in the Central Ward, but going
6 by past experience, probably about 20 of them were.
7 As a matter of fact, I didn't think there was heavy
8 sniper fire that night.

9 MR. GIBBONS: Director, Captain Moran's
10 fire company was 10 Engine?

11 THE WITNESS: 11 Engine.

12 MR. GIBBONS: Where are they located?

13 THE WITNESS: On Central Avenue.

14 MR. GIBBONS: Where was 10 Engine
15 Company located?

16 THE WITNESS: Sherman and Astor.

17 MR. GIBBONS: And 7?

18 THE WITNESS: West Market Street.

19 MR. GIBBONS: And where is Engine 17
20 located?

21 THE WITNESS: Engine 17 is located at
22 Clinton Place.

23 MR. GIBBONS: Where is Engine 12 located?

24 THE WITNESS: Belmont Avenue.

25 (Discussion off the record.)

1 Q You were describing Captain Moran's
2 shooting. Could you describe the circumstances
3 under which he was shot?

4 A Yes. Somewhere shortly after 10 o'clock
5 I was in 6 Engine Company and we had a report that
6 11 Engine was being fired on. I was responding with
7 my driver over to 11 Engine Company when I ran into
8 11 Engine at the scene of the fire. The fire was
9 only one short block from the fire house. It was
10 one door in from the corner of 8th and Central.
11 I got out of my car and I was talking to Captain
12 Moran and Chief Kinnear, who was there, it was a
13 sprinkler alarm, it wasn't a false alarm as has been
14 reported in the papers, and we didn't want to break
15 the front door in because we knew we couldn't have
16 it secured because with the conditions that existed,
17 it would probably be looted or certainly would be
18 a target for people. So we decided to break the
19 window on the second floor and go in that way. As
20 soon as we hit the ladder against that window, we
21 had to hit it twice because the first time it didn't
22 break and the second time the glass started coming
23 down and that's when the firing began. It's pretty
24 difficult to tell exactly what happened because there
25 was quite a bit of excitement at the time. We all

1 hit the ground together. When the firing started I
2 was standing on one side of the ladder and Captain
3 Moran was on the other side and there was a fireman
4 in between. Also, there were two National Guards-
5 men standing alongside of the fire engine and we all
6 hit the ground. Shortly after that one of the guards-
7 men said he was hit, Captain Moran said he was hit
8 and I then called for help. We couldn't get an
9 ambulance so we called for the rescue squad but
10 Chief Kinnear said that Captain Moran didn't look
11 too good so we put him in the chief's car and put
12 the guardsmen in my car and we went to the Presbyterian
13 Hospital. Of course I think Captain Moran died on
14 the way to the hospital. A National Guardsman there
15 fired. And what happened to the National Guards-
16 man? He only had a wound in the back. He was
17 released the next day. I think it just glanced him,
18 but it didn't penetrate the body. Apparently it
19 was a glancing shot. Did they know what kind of bullet shot
20 Captain Moran and the National Guardsman?
21 I don't know. The police have the bullet,
22 of course. As I understand it, it was probably a
23 ricochet shot because all they have is the core which

1 is going to make it very difficult to tell them what
2 it was. It struck him in the back and went down on
3 a thirty degree angle through the abdomen and lodged
4 in the pelvis. Depending on what position he was
5 in when he was hit, you could maybe tell something
6 about where he was hit from. I am not certain.

7 Q Have there been any charges placed against
8 anyone on that case, do you know?

9 A I don't know.

10 Q This may not be a proper question for you.

11 A Just prior to this alarm coming a car
12 with New York license plates was going up Springfield
13 Avenue and they were spraying the entire area with some
14 kind of automatic weapon. A National Guardsman there
15 fired some shots and apprehended one of the people in
16 the car. The other one got away and ran. I don't
17 think they ever did apprehend him. The other one is
18 being held in some large bail. I don't know whether
19 he was released or not.

20 Incidentally, when this car came up the street
21 spraying, this apparently is what triggered this
22 alarm. This is an odd set of circumstances but it
23 hit a sprinkler pipe in the building at 500 Central
24 Avenue and it started a water surge of some type and
25 of course it was an ADT alarm, so right after the

1 incident at the fire house the alarm was transmitted
2 probably within half a minute of the actual shooting
3 up in the street. And that's how Captain Moran
4 happened to be at this fire.

5 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Would you say
6 from what you heard that the hitting of
7 the glass had anything to do with it?

8 You say apparently the ladder touched it
9 once and then a second time and the glass
10 went in.

11 THE WITNESS: Yes.

12 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Would it seem
13 to be indicated that there was firing
14 coming from that building?

15 THE WITNESS: No. I know one fireman
16 said he saw some glance from that building
17 and another one said he saw the firing from
18 across the street. I was there and I honestly
19 can't give you a good answer on that.

20 Q Was there any firing by National Guardsmen
21 or State Police or local police at that time?
22 Were they in the area?

23 A We had two National Guardsmen with us and
24 they didn't fire, no. There were National Guardsmen
25 and State Police up at the fire house. Now what they

1 were doing at that stage I don't know. They had
2 responded up there when the report came over.

3 Q Were those the only National Guardsmen or
4 State Police or Newark Police in the immediate area
5 at that time?

6 A Yes. There were two engine companies,
7 the chief, Chief Kinnear, his aid and myself.

8 Q Were any other of your firemen shot during
9 the riots? Injured from what?

10 A No. Threw missiles, various things, rocks,
11 bottles. At all? No. Some of them were injured
12 seriously. No. Several of them required stitches but
13 nothing serious. MR. LOFTON: Director, could you give

14 Q us an estimation of the number of shots
15 that you heard fired during that period
16 the vehicle when Captain Moran was hit presumably by a
17 sniper's bullet? Would you say were

18 damaged? THE WITNESS: No, I couldn't. There
19 were quite a few. Estimated. About eight

20 or nine. MR. LOFTON: More than one?

21 Q Any? THE WITNESS: Yes, with respect
22 to vehicles? MR. GIBBONS: Was there any damage done

23 to the ladders or equipment?

24 THE WITNESS: Yes, there was damage to
25 the ladder. I have pictures of that if you

1 would like to see it. I thought I had it.

2 (Discussion off the record.)

3 Q I think you said that no other firemen were
4 shot.

5 A No.

6 Q How many firemen were injured generally
7 during the riots?

8 A Thirty-five.

9 Q Injured from what?

10 A From thrown missiles, various things, rocks,
11 bottles and so forth. None of them were injured
12 seriously. Several of them required stitches but
13 nothing serious.

14 Q What about vehicles?

15 A We had windshields, red lights on top of
16 the vehicles smashed.

17 Q How many vehicles would you say were
18 damaged?

19 A I am giving you an estimate. About eight
20 or nine.

21 Q Anything seriously damaged with respect
22 to vehicles?

23 A No.

24 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: The Molotov
25 cocktail type of thing, did you have any

1 damage to vehicles or men from that kind
2 of burn?

3 THE WITNESS: No. I understand
4 Plainfield did but we didn't.

5 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: That's a very
6 distinctive type of burn, isn't it?

7 THE WITNESS: Yes.

8 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: But you had no-
9 body injured from it?

10 THE WITNESS: No.

11 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Nor any of the
12 equipment burned from that source?

13 THE WITNESS: No.

14 Q Will you describe for us your greatest
15 problem. Would you say snipping was your greatest
16 problem?

17 A Well, certainly psychologically it was.
18 Men were pretty frightened at that stage. It didn't
19 stop them from doing their job but they were frightened.
20 From my own personal experience I would say it was
21 the most frightening aspect. You were always expecting
22 something whether it came or not. I think that was
23 probably the greatest psychological aspect.

24 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: I had two
25 experiences Thursday night. When I went down

1 the street the firemen had to actually
2 leave a fire. Do you have any information
3 among your statistics to indicate that fires
4 had to be abandoned because of snipping?

5 THE WITNESS: The only fire that I
6 know that we abandoned was we had a garbage
7 can burning in the middle of the street
8 and people were throwing rocks and we left
9 that one. No fire got out of the building
10 or out of its origin. We didn't refuse to go
11 to any fires and we didn't abandon any.

12 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: I am not suggesting
13 that you had. My personal experience was,
14 in going down the street, that firemen
15 actually left the fire and came back.
16 Was there any interruption in the actual
17 fighting of the fire in the sense that
18 when the firemen were in the actual act
19 of attacking the fire where people or any
20 instrumentality, cocktails or firing actually
21 drove them away from the fire?

2 THE WITNESS: No. As a matter of fact,
3 I spoke to many of the colored people in
4 the Central Ward during the riots and they
5 were quite friendly with us.

1 Q: VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: You didn't find
2 problem of any hostility in the Central Ward? I am
3 the fire? not try to minimize the fact that someone
4 shooting at you is not a hostile act. I
5 problem mean in terms of personally.

6 THE WITNESS: No. The people that we
7 met were not hostile. It wasn't directed
8 future. At us. walkie-talkies set up on our

9 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: I have heard
10 statements that they actually brought
11 walkie-talkie coffee and stuff for the firemen. Was
12 that true? as with the police was good.

13 THE WITNESS: Yes. I remember speak-
14 ing to people on Camden Street and the
15 people were quite incensed but not at us.
16 They were quite friendly with us.

17 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Did you yourself
18 witness these instances where people brought
19 coffee and refreshments to firemen?

20 THE WITNESS: I heard of it and I
21 witnessed it on one occasion.

22 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: These were the
23 folks of the neighborhood, the Negroes
24 snipping themselves? didn't you then request particular

25 THE WITNESS: Yes. we's a system of

1 Q Director, could you describe for us the
2 problem of communications that came about during
3 the fires?

4 A Well, internally we didn't have any real
5 problem with communications. The only communications
6 problem we ran into was when we brought four or five
7 out-of-town companies in. We have made plans for the
8 future. We have walkie-talkies set up on our
9 frequency and if anything does happen they will be
10 manned immediately with these or supplied with these
11 walkie-talkies. ~~They might want kind of protection~~
12 ~~did~~ Our communication with the police was good,
13 generally good. We didn't have any trouble getting
14 through to the command post. ~~Communication and State~~

15 Police around VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: You had no
16 in they communications with the National Guardsmen?

17 Q THE WITNESS: No. We had no real
18 Was there problem there, either. We communicated
19 the State with the police at the armory several
20 respond times. We have made plans for the future.
21 there was We have already installed a telephone and
22 monitoring station in the armory. ~~We wouldn't~~

23 subsec Q Well, after you first ran into this
24 snipping difficulty, didn't you then request particular
25 patrols to go along with you? Wasn't a system of

1 patrols worked out, a real system of patrols worked
2 out still later Saturday night or early Sunday morn-
3 ing?

4 A At that time it was National Guardsmen.
5 We had good police protection prior to that.

6 Q Was it Newark Police or State Police?

7 A Thursday night it was all Newark Police.
8 Actually the people didn't give us any problems at
9 the fires with the exception of where there was some
10 rock throwing.

11 Q On Friday night what kind of protection
12 did you have?

13 A It was Newark Police protection, and
14 of course there were National Guardsmen and State
15 Police around the streets. Any time an alarm came
16 in they did have groups respond.

17 Q Who responded to alarms initially?
18 Was there a time in which you would get an alarm and
19 the State Police or the National Guard group would
20 respond first to determine whether or not in truth
21 there was a fire?

22 A No, there was never such a time. We wouldn't
23 subscribe to that kind of thing. We don't think the
24 State Police or the policeman is qualified to size up
25 a fire situation.

1 partiQ So in all cases the fire department
2 responded to an alarm?

3 offi A Yes. We did cut it down at one stage
4 where a chief was responding with his aid and I
5 think we had two National Guardsmen with them and
6 they were in one car. If it was a false alarm he
7 would indicate so. If he decided he wanted to put
8 the alarm in, he would do so. He had to size up the
9 situation which sometimes can be difficult.

10 probQ Did you have any problem communicating with
11 the State Police at the Newark Armory?

12 they A Well, actually we had very little
13 communications with the State Police and we did that
14 by telephone and on three instances I went there my-
15 self.

16 of planning the VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: But actually

17 Department there was a communications center up at

18 the Roseville Armory which was set up by

19 the State Police, the Newark Police and

20 the guardsmen? -- San Francisco, Los Angeles,

21 THE WITNESS: Yes.

22 As I Q As I understand your testimony, the Newark

23 Fire Department operated independent of the command

24 center at Roseville Avenue?

25 A We had our own command center. We have a

1 particular provision for the future to have a
2 deputy chief or battalion chief to serve as liaison
3 officer at the armory or at the police control post
4 and he will have our own equipment.

5 Q Then it's your opinion that the communication
6 problem was not really a very difficult problem
7 between the fire department and the State Police at
8 this point?

9 A No, I don't think we had any serious
10 problem. I have heard talk about there being
11 problems between the police and the troopers because
12 they didn't have the same set up. But fire-wise,
13 no, I can't say we had any serious communication
14 problem.

15 Q Could you describe for us briefly the kind
16 of planning that has gone on in the Newark Fire
17 Department since the riots for this type of problem?

18 A Even prior to the riots we had in our
19 possession the riot plan of many different cities.
20 I have some of them here--San Francisco, Los Angeles,
21 various small towns, some large cities and actually
22 as I look at the riot operations manual of all these
23 cities they are not too different. They all deal
24 in task forces of two engine companies, truck company
25 and a chief. We have made provisions in case we do

1 have a serious disturbance in the Central Ward or
2 any other section that we can withdraw all of our
3 companies out of that section and have them respond
4 from the perimeter. We didn't run into the problem
5 that other cities did where the apparatus responding
6 to the fire was seriously interfered with. With
7 the exception of some thrown missiles and the few
8 shots, people didn't get out in the street and block
9 our apparatus, keep us from going in and out. I be-
10 lieve in Detroit people barricaded both ends of the
11 block and the fire apparatus couldn't get in. We
12 didn't have this kind of a situation at all.

13 Our plans for the future are pretty much what
14 we did the last time, really, with the exception of
15 maybe evacuating more companies. We did evacuate
16 10 Engine. We were going to evacuate our two
17 companies to areas where they could be easily
18 secured by National Guardsmen or police and respond
19 from there. There is no sense in having a fire
20 company in the fire house right in the area if they
21 can't respond to a fire. fire fighting because our

22 We are doing some things to protect our man
23 also some of which are psychological. We are buying
24 some bullet-proof vests particularly for our punch
25 operators who must stand out there in the open while

1 the other men are inside fighting the fire. We are
2 buying some protective bulbs, a plastic affair that
3 protects the pillar man. Of course he is a sitting
4 duck up there. They are made of plastic and they
5 cost about \$400.

6 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: That's the type
7 that is used in the President's limousine?

8 THE WITNESS: I would say something
9 like that. Ours has to be a little more
10 complicated because it has seats that swing
11 out.

12 We are also buying shields for the
13 men's helmets. It's a neck guard for the
14 firemen.

15 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: That would
16 resemble the old fashion fireman's helmet
17 that was used to cover the neck?

18 THE WITNESS: This is a piece that comes
19 around here and then there is a shield in the
20 front. Actually this is a very good thing
21 even in normal fire fighting because our
22 men are subject to an eye injury in pulling
23 ceilings and this could be used for that.
24 Even for the pillar man, he sits up there
25 in the rain and wind. Now with this kind of

1 protection--we also approved the purchase
2 of some lights for lighting the fire fight-
3 ing area which lights could be carried on
4 each truck company.

5 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: When your trucks
6 were operating from the scene of the dis-
7 turbance were they using their lights at
8 night?

9 THE WITNESS: While responding to the
10 fires our orders were once the curfew
11 started not to use lights or sirens because
12 we felt that these might stimulate somebody
13 into doing something. Of course the lights
14 make our equipment a better target.

15 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: But you never
16 had an engine windshield shattered or
17 shot at, did you?

18 THE WITNESS: Yes. We had them broken.
19 I don't know how. I would think from rocks,
20 bottles and so forth. We had a gallon wine
21 bottle thrown through one of the windows.
22 We picked up a hammer once. We made arrange-
23 ments with the local police to give us
24 immediate protection and with the State
25 Police or with the National Guardsmen we have

1 worked out a plan where we will have X
2 amount of guardsmen on each apparatus once
3 they come in, also a mechanized group of
4 one or twelve men who will respond to any
5 serious fire.

6 MR. LOFTON: Director, with respect
7 to the kind of incident that occurred where
8 Captain Moran was fatally injured, were
9 there any other such instances? Not where
10 others were shot but were there other in-
11 stances of that kind where firemen were
12 fired at while out in the open?

13 THE WITNESS: Well, while actually
14 extinguishing a fire, I don't know of any.
15 You know, it's pretty difficult to tell.
16 I know I was going over Bergen and Central
17 Saturday or Sunday night and there were
18 six or eight shots. I assume they were
19 fired at the car. It was small arms fire
20 but I don't know what. I can't testify that
21 they fired at our car. I kind of think they
22 were since we were the only moving thing
23 around there.

24 MR. LOFTON: The reason why I was asking
25 that question is I think I am accurate in

1 this. Some of the newspaper accounts of
2 the snipping activity as it related to the
3 fire department I think sort of painted a
4 different kind of picture in terms of the
5 amount of sniper fire that was being
6 directed at the Newark Fire Department and
7 its apparatus and the like. I think from
8 your testimony, that you would say that
9 while any one of these instances is very
10 serious, that there was no extensive
11 activity that took place; would that be
12 correct? CHAIRMAN BROWN: And no interference

13 THE WITNESS: I would think so. I
14 could remember only one other engine being
15 fired on on the street and that was 12
16 Engine. In fact, they abandoned it in
17 front of 12 Engine and we got them on the
18 telephone and told them to go down in the
19 cellar and stay there the rest of the night.
20 If we had to get them out of there I feel
21 that with a little protection we could have
22 gotten them out. CHAIRMAN BROWN: Was any of the

23 I don't know what the word "extensive"
24 means in this case. I am not quite sure
25 what it means but I would say it wasn't

1 extremely extensive.

2 MR. LOFTON: The reason why I use
3 that term is because of the fact that what
4 you detailed to us, the number of fires to
5 which firemen responded during the course
6 of these four days, you indicated to us
7 that there were two occasions in which in
8 responding to the fire firemen were fired
9 upon out of all of the fires that they did
10 respond to.

11 THE WITNESS: Yes.

12 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: And no interference
13 from the people?

14 THE WITNESS: Except for a little rock
15 throwing incidents that seemed to come from
16 a distance. People did not interfere with
17 us. They didn't try to cut our hoses or
18 things like that.

19 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: What happened to
20 Engine 12 sitting in the street?

21 THE WITNESS: It was just left there.

22 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Was any of the
23 equipment taken?

24 THE WITNESS: No. They couldn't be-
25 cause the National Guardsmen and the police,

1 a little bit of everything responded, and
2 there was protection around there.

3 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: The truck was
4 under protection?

5 THE WITNESS: Yes. At that time it
6 was my best judgment and Chief Kinnear's
7 best judgment that we didn't have any
8 serious fire problem at the time.

9 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: My curiosity
10 was aimed toward what would happen to the
11 engine if it sat in the street unprotected.

12 THE WITNESS: We had one other incident
13 where 19 Engine had an accident where a
14 civilian was killed during the riots. I
15 think that was Thursday night.

16 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Would that be
17 from your a traffic accident? City of Newark during

18 the period of THE WITNESS: Yes. But I suppose in
19 to the some way related to the riots because they
20 from your were responding to an incendiary fire.

21 A No, VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: In view of the
22 my person Detroit incident where there was the block-
23 early in age of a fire scene, do you feel that and
24 of course adequate provisions had been made with the
25 took also National Guard support?

1 was at least so. THE WITNESS: Yes.

2 Again it is so. VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Do you think that
3 say any would be adequate if any incident were to
4 I saw some arise that would include interference at
5 up to the fires which is not the case here?

6 fire house but THE WITNESS: I think it would. If it
7 were to go didn't, though, our orders to our men are
8 then out not to stay there. Where there was sniper
9 was my opinion fire, there was a shot, then it didn't occur
10 people and any more, they are going to do their job,
11 of course. But if they are subject to heavy
12 fire or heavy attack, they are going to get
13 out of the area until the police or National
14 Guardsmen can make it reasonably safe.

15 Q Director, I don't know if you have an opinion
16 on this question but if you do I would like to have it.
17 From your observations in the City of Newark during
18 the period of the riots, would you have an opinion as
19 to the number of people who participated in the riots
20 from your observation and your general intelligence?

21 A No, I couldn't tell you. I could give you
22 my personal observation of this. I was in 6 Engine
23 early in the evening right on through the riots and
24 of course an awful lot of this rioting and looting
25 took place right on Springfield Avenue and what I saw

1 was at least several hundred I would say mostly youths.
2 Again it is very difficult to tell ages but I would
3 say any where from fifteen to the early twenties.
4 I saw some of them up real close. Some of them come
5 up to the fire house. They didn't try to damage the
6 fire house but they did pass remarks. Our orders
7 were to get the men away from the windows and keep
8 them out of sight. I think that paid off. But it
9 was my opinion from what I saw that they were young
10 people and many hundreds.

11 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Did you see any
12 special type of weapon or projectile?

13 THE WITNESS: No. The biggest weapon
14 they were using was garbage cans and bricks.

15 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: They took what-
16 ever they found--rocks, bottles, garbage
17 cans, everything?

18 THE WITNESS: That's all I seen.

19 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: You were in the
20 heart of it. That would be Thursday night?

21 THE WITNESS: Yes.

22 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Were any of the
23 windows of the fire house broken?

24 THE WITNESS: No.

25 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Did you observe

1 anybody who appeared to be in the leader-
2 ship role, anybody acting as an organizer,
3 anybody setting up this particular activity?

4 THE WITNESS: No.

5 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Did it seem to
6 be a spontaneous crowd of people in the
7 throes of an emotional cycle there or did
8 it seem to be that they would be in any
9 sense disciplined?

10 THE WITNESS: No. It seemed like a
11 wild crowd to me and every once in awhile
12 they would take off for another place. Now
13 whether that was because someone was
14 directing them, I don't know.

15 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Would that be
16 the whole crowd?

17 THE WITNESS: Yes. They would move
18 up the street and later on some came back
19 and went in--for example, there is a tavern
20 directly across from 6 Engine Fire House
21 and they broke the window and looted every-
22 thing in there later on. There weren't that
23 many. They forced the door and started
24 bringing the stock out.

25 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Was that stock

1 being distributed?

2 THE WITNESS: No. Each guy was on
3 his own.

4 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Were there any
5 women in the group that you observed or
6 girls, females?

7 THE WITNESS: I saw some women but
8 very few.

9 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: They would be
10 young females in their late teens or early
11 twenties?

12 THE WITNESS: I couldn't say I saw any
13 women involved as such.

14 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: I am talking
15 about this group that would surge here and
16 there. You didn't see any women among
17 them?

18 THE WITNESS: No. They weren't playing
19 any leading part as such.

20 MR. FORTUNATO: You are talking about
21 Thursday evening?

22 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: We are all talk-
23 ing about the time when he observed all this
24 from Engine 6.

25 THE WITNESS: Yes. I saw a lot of

1 people the next day--

2 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: I am not talking
3 about that. I think women might have been
4 very prominent the next day.

5 THE WITNESS: The next day I know I
6 saw just about everybody. I think the
7 Governor did express it as a holiday spirit.

8 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Was there any
9 reaction against your firemen during the
10 holiday mood?

11 THE WITNESS: No, I can't think of
12 anything specific.

13 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: But Thursday
14 night was the night of the concentrated
15 onslaught that we are talking about. What
16 was the reaction of the people in the
17 neighborhood as you saw it after that night,
18 after Thursday night?

19 THE WITNESS: I don't recall any
20 hostility toward the firemen except for
21 groups that did throw some rocks. This
22 even happened a week after the riots in
23 an isolated incident. It even happened a
24 year ago, some rock throwing, by four or
25 five young people. No, I think actually,

1 I would certainly hope, that our relation-
2 ship is very much the same as it was. I
3 think our relationship with the colored
4 community has always been excellent.

5 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Has it changed
6 any since as far as you know?

7 THE WITNESS: Not as far as I can
8 observe.

9 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: You still go
10 around the neighborhood?

11 THE WITNESS: Yes. I was with our
12 fire demonstration up in Clinton Hill that
13 week where there was a mixed group, white
14 and colored and there was a wonderful
15 audience. After it was all done we had
16 coffee and cake, as often we do. It was
17 a very fine group of people.

18 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Has there been
19 any expressed criticism either vocally or
20 by letter from the community, Negro or
21 white?

22 THE WITNESS: No. I haven't heard
23 anything from the Negro community adverse.
24 Certainly among the white people there is.
25 In fact, I heard a lot of hatred.

1 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: From whom?

2 THE WITNESS: People in general.

3 You know, I am not talking about the
4 radical white or the radical colored be-
5 cause I don't think that is their main con-
6 cern. I am talking about the good, the
7 fine people. They talk more hate than any-
8 thing. It bothers me.

9 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Do you find that
10 in the white and colored community?

11 THE WITNESS: I am not as closely
12 connected with the colored community as
13 I once was.

14 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: But you would
15 get responses?

16 THE WITNESS: Yes. I see some of it
17 there. I see an awful lot of it in the
18 white community.

19 MR. GIBBONS: Let's go off the record.

20 (Discussion off the record.)

21 THE WITNESS: Our orders are absolutely
22 no weapons in any fire house or on any
23 apparatus. If any man is doing this he is
24 doing this contrary to rules and regulations.
25 I am one hundred percent against weapons in

1 fire houses or on fire apparatus. I think
2 my opinion on this isn't by itself. We
3 spoke to fire chiefs throughout the county
4 and with very few exceptions they all felt
5 the same way. I think Cincinnati was one
6 that was arming its men with weapons. All
7 of the rest of them seem to have the same
8 opinion--weapons are out. We are not going
9 to be in that area unless we have proper
10 police protection. If we are not protected,
11 we are going to evacuate the men and the
12 equipment to a safer place.

13 We have made arrangements with various
14 people in the city where we are going to
15 use their garages for our apparatus and
16 toilet facilities because we may be there
17 for long periods. But these garages cannot
18 be far away from the fire houses. If you
19 are going to be effective at the scene of
20 a fire you have to get there quickly.

21 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Did you say
22 that in your opinion morale throughout this
23 period was exceptionally high in the depart-
24 ment?

25 THE WITNESS: Yes. During the period

1 of the riots it was exceptionally high.

2 I think there is some problem with morale

3 in the company now. I kind of detect an atmosphere

4 where there isn't quite the same enthusiasm

5 I think as there was. I am not sure of what I can

6 do about it.

7 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Could you give
8 us a definition of exceptionally high morale?

9 THE WITNESS: Well, for the same reason
10 that during the war if two buddies are to-
11 gether, or just in ordinary life, like my-
12 self, I come from a large family and my
13 brothers and myself had many a scrap but
14 when anybody got involved with us, well,
15 we stuck together. I think this is what
16 happened to the firemen. They were just
17 drawn together because of somebody attacking
18 them. So the morale became high. I think
19 there was a let down after the riots because
20 some of the men have the feeling that the
21 very people that you are trying to help
22 of the riots are throwing rocks at you.

23 A Yes, VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: This wouldn't
24 be unnatural? THE WITNESS: Well, you are

25 THE WITNESS: No. I think it's a

1 natural thing.

2 Q Do you think that this hatred that exists
3 in the community has had an effect on this, too?

4 A I suppose to. This hatred is in the home.
5 I think it has intensified with the dog situation.

6 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: How would you
7 describe it? Is it hatred against all
8 Negroes or against riots or unlawful
9 persons or is it a feeling directed
10 against an entire group?

11 THE WITNESS: I don't think it can
12 be characterized that simply. I think in
13 some cases it's against Negroes.

14 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: As a group?

15 THE WITNESS: Yes. Unfortunately
16 you have some people who say, "Kill all
17 the damn niggers." What bothers me is
18 that if they were radical people you
19 wouldn't be concerned but these are people
20 who are normally very nice people. Do you

21 Q Do you think these attitudes are a result
22 of the riots in July?

23 A Yes, I do.

24 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Well, you are
25 a man of considerable experience and quite

1 mature. Do you think that it could be
2 engendered primarily by the riots or
3 would this be a reaction that was tempered
4 by--

5 THE WITNESS: I would suppose to some
6 people there would be the underlying
7 bigotry or what have you. But with many
8 of them, no.

9 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Does this seem
10 new with the riots?

11 THE WITNESS: Certainly I am not
12 describing the whole white community with
13 this. I am talking about a good amount
14 of people, people who are good church-going
15 people and always mouthed expressions about
16 brotherly love and such.

17 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: From your limited
18 experience among the Negro community you
19 don't seem to find this specific reaction
20 against whites, or do you?

21 THE WITNESS: No, I haven't noticed.
22 I think perhaps my statement ought to be
23 clarified what I said about the riots in
24 July being the cause of this. I think a
25 good part of the cause of this is television.

1 When I hear a guy preaching hate, that
2 gets me. It burns me.

3 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: But you have
4 had pretty broad public experience. You
5 have been a policeman, you have been in
6 the prosecutor's office so you are not
7 just a casual observer. You had training.

8 THE WITNESS: Yes.

9 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Does this seem
10 to be mounting or diminishing after the
11 incidents at the riots?

12 THE WITNESS: Well, I thought it had
13 leveled off but I think in the last couple
14 of weeks it has picked up again.

15 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Have you any
16 idea why the last couple of weeks it has
17 picked up?

18 THE WITNESS: Yes. Because of the
19 canine thing.

20 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: You think the
21 dog incident arose it?

22 THE WITNESS: Yes.

23 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: And the whites
24 would be in favor of that?

25 THE WITNESS: Some were in favor of it.

1 community, of it and some were against it.

2 can be done. VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Well, what would

3 there be about the canine incident that you

4 read all heard that would cause the resurgence of

5 agree with mounting tension? THE WITNESS: The type of publicity

6 are many thing THE WITNESS: The type of publicity

7 among Negro it has gotten. We had priests involved and

8 a ride on so forth and you have got white groups

9 against white groups.

10 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: There were many

11 white groups that were against the dogs?

12 THE WITNESS: I am sure there are.

13 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: One last question.

14 Is there any reaction against the men of

15 the clergy who seem to be taking the side

16 of the Negro or the liberal view?

17 THE WITNESS: Yes.

18 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: So that they

19 are discrediting their own clergy, really?

20 THE WITNESS: Yes. I think that is

21 definitely so. I don't agree with that but

22 I think that is definitely the feeling of

23 the people.

24 Q Because of your vast experience in the

25 community and I think your thoughtfulness in the

1 community, do you have any suggestions as to what
2 can be done to ameliorate some of this hatred?

3 A That's a very difficult one. I have
4 read all the answers that people have given and I
5 agree with just about all of them. I think there
6 are many things needed. There is a frustration
7 among Negroes that is hard to understand. You take
8 a ride over Rutgers Street--

9 Q What about the whites--

10 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: You were about
11 to say you take a ride--

12 THE WITNESS: I ride over Rutgers
13 Street quite often and you just take a
14 look at some of the homes that they are
15 living in. I would be a little frustrated
16 living in some of those places. Unemploy-
17 ment is a big issue. You have so many un-
18 employed people. Then you turn around and
19 you have a lot of white people that say
20 they don't want to work anyhow. I don't
21 believe that. But there is a high unemploy-
22 ment rate. If you don't have a job and you

23 don't have a buck in your pocket you don't
24 have any real dignity. It's pretty difficult.
25 I came from a large family and my father was

1 A a fireman and I think his top salary was
2 the people \$2500. It wasn't a lot of money but it
3 saying. It was a job.
4 dogs. They
5 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Equal to about
6 the stand \$7500 today.
7 particularly
8 THE WITNESS: Which even today isn't
9 think way a lot of money. One of the things the
10 the stand Negro groups ought to get involved in is
11 would see getting their people into civil service.
12 priests But I don't think a civil service job is
13 Conerford the answer for everyone. I don't think
14 he has a everybody will just trade opportunity for
15 among the security. But where people are not making
16 right now a decent living, being a policeman or a
17 fireman isn't bad. The job starts at
18 \$7,000. \$7,000.

19 Q I wonder what your thoughts would be on
20 how you can reach the people in the white community?

21 A I think a good percentage of them are
22 church goers and I think they can be reached through
23 the church.

24 Q If they are reacting so negatively to the
25 church men who are taking the positive stand and they
26 don't approve of what the priests are doing, how do
27 these people communicate?

1 A I think the biggest part of that is that
2 the people don't understand what the priests are
3 saying. They don't even say they are against the
4 dogs. They are against the dogs now. I think if
5 the stand that the priests took was explained,
6 particularly to the Italian North Ward Group, I
7 think maybe if it's possibly explained to them what
8 the stand was and why it was taken, I think they
9 would react quite differently. Every one of those
10 priests that was down there is a fine man. Father
11 Comerford just came from Sacred Heart and I am sure
12 he has a great number of friends, certainly myself
13 among them, in Valesburg and I am sure many of them
14 right now are a little angry with him.

15 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Do you think
16 that the Italian group that you talked
17 about and the specific party that you
18 described, are they more concerned than
19 other whites?

20 THE WITNESS: No. I think they have
21 reacted more. But I am as concerned as
22 anybody.

23 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Can you give us
24 any idea how we can transmit your views
25 to the white community?

1 THE WITNESS: I think if I could answer
2 that we could solve a lot of our problems.

3 (Discussion off the record.)

4 THE WITNESS: I would suppose there
5 has to be a lot more conversation on this,
6 not just in the church, that's not the
7 answer. It's part of the answer, I think.
8 And educational programs, that has gotten
9 across and in a way that people will accept
10 it. So, what I mean is, the people in the

11 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Do you think
12 that there is more tension or more--no one
13 knows the answer to this, of course, it is
14 not a good question, but do you think there
15 is more trouble in the area and do you now
16 feel a greater likelihood than ever before
17 that there may be some future friction and
18 clashes?

19 THE WITNESS: Well, I would be surprised
20 if there weren't more. I don't expect to see
21 anything like we had in the City of Newark.
22 I would certainly not want to see it.

23 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: But you say it's
24 quite possible?

25 THE WITNESS: Yes. I think there is

1 a lot of hostility. questions, thank you

2 MR. LOFTON: Are you saying, Director,
3 that as far as the white community as
4 well as the Negro community, that in
5 addition to the kind of escalated hostility
6 that now prevails that you didn't feel
7 prior to the disorder, that this is caused
8 by a void of white leadership and a void
9 on both sides of the ladder? In other
10 words, what I mean is, the people in the
11 white community that would be looked to by
12 the masses in the white community, are
13 enough of these persons speaking out on
14 these issues?

15 THE WITNESS: No, I don't think they
16 are. I don't think people in general are
17 basing their opinions and feelings on
18 newspaper stories. And newspaper stores,
19 as you know, very often reflect the opinion
20 of the man who writes the story on the thing,
21 a story that he considers important to
22 report. But I think he is giving his im-
23 pression of what was important and actually
24 it wasn't an important thing.

25 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Well, gentlemen,

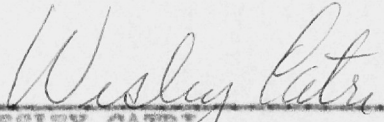
1 unless you have more questions, thank you
2 very much Director. I want to say it's
3 one of the more enlightening sessions that
4 I have attended.

5 MR. LOFTON: I would certainly agree
6 with that.
7

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10 C E R T I F I C A T E

11 I, WESLEY CATRI, a Certified Shorthand Reporter
12 of the State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the
13 foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of the
14 testimony and proceedings as taken stenographically
15 by me at the time, place and on the date hereinbefore
16 indicated.

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18 _____
19 WESLEY CATRI
20 Notary Public and Certified
21 Shorthand Reporter of New Jersey

22 Dated: 11/8/67
23
24
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