

1 worked for repetitive part of it, if you will let the witness
 2 give his description of what happened without
 3 I be interrogation, it will save a lot of time and make
 4 a synopsis of it rather than a detailed examination.
 5 chief is I would make that suggestion, sir.

6 I am a graduate of the Traffic Institute at Northwestern
 Whareupon,

7 **JOHN L. REDDEN**

8 called as a witness, first duly sworn, testified as follows:

9 eleven people from the **EXAMINATION** have attended this

10 course as well as other management records courses, all at

11 **Q** Could we have your title, duties and responsibilities
 12 with the Newark Police Department?

13 **A** I am a deputy chief. I am in charge of the Patrol
 14 Division. This includes the five precincts and the emergency
 15 squad. It has approximately 750 police officers.

16 **Q** How do you fit into the hierarchy? To whom do you
 17 report?

18 **A** I report to the Chief of Police, my immediate
 19 superior.

20 **Q** Would you please tell us your background and
 21 experience preceding your time with the Newark police?

22 **A** I was born in the City of Newark. I went to
 23 grammar school and high school here. After high school in
 24 1938 I worked with the shipyard until I went into the service
 25 in the Navy; served in the Navy and got out of it in 1946;

1 worked for a short time in Pabst Brewery; and in 1947 I
2 went on the police department.

3 I became a sergeant in 1953; a lieutenant in December,
4 1956; a captain in 1959; and inspector in 1961; a deputy
5 chief in 1965.

6 I am a graduate of the Traffic Institute at Northwestern,
7 which is probably the most experienced and probably the best
8 police administration school in the country. Approximately
9 eleven people from the police department have attended this
10 course and various other management records courses, all at
11 the expense of the city.

12 Q Have you participated in any of the human relations
13 courses which we have heard testimony about?

14 A No. I have not attended any of these. Our general
15 education subjects -- for instance, at the Traffic Institute
16 we were exposed to this type of instruction. In addition, I
17 am born and raised Catholic and I have been told that
18 everybody is created in the image and likeness of God, and
19 this had that type of impression on me. This is my religious
20 belief.

21 Q At the time of the Wednesday night arrest of Mr.
22 Smith were you on duty?

23 A No, I was not. I was at home.

24 Q Did you participate at all in the Wednesday night-
25 early Thursday morning events?

1 A Yes, I did, and that there was displeasure expressed
2 that Q. Would you describe in what way? as civil rights
3 lead. A. I was notified by Lieutenant Armenti in the Central
4 Communications that there was quite a disturbance at the
5 Fourth Precinct, and he suggested that I should get down
6 there. at with missiles, bottles, et cetera.

7 He also asked me to call Acting Chief of Police Foley
8 before I went down. I called Foley, told him I was going
9 down. He said to give him any further notification when I
10 found out what was at the scene. the front door and when

11 I got in a car and responded to the Fourth Precinct.

12 Q. You arrived there at what time? a large size man.

13 A. I arrived -- oh, I couldn't tell you precisely,
14 but it had to be some time shortly after twelve o'clock,
15 maybe twelve-fifteen, twelve-twenty about. All during

16 Q. That would be Thursday a.m.?

17 A. That would be Thursday a.m., right. times just

18 Q. What did you find and what did you do?

19 A. Well, I found that there was a group of people
20 around the precinct. The streets were littered with stones,
21 rocks, broken glass. A quick glance, I saw windshields and
22 rear glass of vehicles smashed. Some of these I knew were
23 department cars. there. It is generally used for walking,

24 I went into the precinct to find out just what caused
25 the incident, and I was given a general briefing on it, that

1 a man had been arrested; that there was displeasure expressed;
2 that some of the people whom you can term as civil rights
3 leaders showed up at the precinct. There had been some
4 conversation with Inspector Melchior and apparently whatever
5 took place could not dissuade the group from attacking the
6 precinct with missiles, bottles, et cetera.

7 Q And did you remain at the Fourth Precinct building
8 into the morning?

9 A Yes, I did. I went outside the building then to
10 get a further look. I went outside the front door and when
11 I went out, a barrage of missiles was unleashed. I was
12 struck in the back with either a brick or a large size rock.

13 Q That was what time?

14 A I would say this had to be now approximately
15 between twelve-thirty and twelve-forty five. All during
16 my testimony it is going to be difficult to pinpoint times
17 over these days. You work so many hours the times just
18 telescopes.

19 Again in looking back it would be just well to either
20 have a tape recorder or someone with you to document time.

21 I got back to the precinct and this crowd was formed
22 across the street on the sidewalk and in the area in the
23 housing project there. It is generally used for walking,
24 recreation, benches and so forth. So I went in and I again
25 conferred with Melchior and we had held the four to twelve

1 crew over. The people that would normally be done at 10:45
2 p.m. and 11:45 p.m. were held over. I formed them up or had
3 them formed up into four squads in front of the Fourth
4 Precinct desk. I had a superior officer in charge of each
5 squad. I gave them instructions as to what they were to do,
6 go out and disburse the crowd, clear that area to prevent
7 any further stoning of the building.

8 As I was about to send them out on the street the
9 director came in the rear door of the precinct. I assume
10 he heard my orders, and he countermanded it. I stood by
11 waiting to be told what to do then. He was leafing through
12 a telephone book. I didn't know just what he was looking
13 for. I believe he did make one telephone call. I don't
14 know to whom.

15 After a period of time -- again it is difficult for me
16 to say just how long; I would assume it wasn't more than ten
17 or fifteen minutes -- we sent the men out on the street to
18 disburse the crowd.

19 Q When you gave the original order which Director
20 Spina had countermanded, your order was in response to what
21 incident or series of incidents?

22 A My order to form up the squads and go out and
23 disburse the people was in response to the missiles being
24 thrown at the precinct. I wanted to clear that area so that
25 we could operate in safety around the precinct.

1 Q Did the director tell you or did you ask him why
2 he countermanded it at that time?

3 A I wouldn't ask him in front of a group of
4 subordinates, so I didn't ask him.

5 Q Do you know now? the precinct? I saw both of these
6 men say No. I told them that you have got to do something

7 about Q At any rate, it was your best judgment as the one
8 in charge up until that moment that the men should have gone
9 out? did, whether they did try or whether they did not try.

10 A It was my judgment; it was my order. I thought it
11 was necessary.

12 Q Fifteen minutes later the director apparently agreed
13 with you and did allow the men to go out?

14 A I say fifteen minutes later. Again it is difficult
15 to say just how much time expired. Time could be relatively
16 short or relatively long depending on the circumstances.

17 Q And what were the orders to the men before they
18 went out as to how they were to act outside?

19 A They were instructed again to do what I originally
20 told them to do, go out and disburse the mob in order that
21 we could operate around there in some sort of safety.

22 Q When Director Spina issued the order that you had
23 originally issued, had Mr. Curvin's speech already occurred,
24 do you know?

25 A Yes, it had. Mr. Curvin was not at the scene. At

1 least I didn't see him at this time. I saw two other men
2 whom I could identify as civil rights leaders. One was Al
3 Walker and the other was Oliver. I believe his first name
4 is Al also.

5 When I first got to the precinct I saw both of these
6 men come and I told them that you have got to do something
7 about this; you have got to convince these people that this
8 just isn't right. They said they were trying to. Whatever
9 they did, whether they did try or whether they did not try,
10 there certainly wasn't any effective results from the
11 standpoint of maintaining peace. I kept in touch with the

12 Q Other than these two men that you just mentioned,
13 did you have any communications or dialogues with any of the
14 other groups of citizens or members of the group?

15 A No, I didn't. I didn't see any of the people who
16 showed up as a result of the arrest of Smith.

17 Q Was this order that Director Spina issued the first
18 time that the men had been ordered out on to the streets to
19 disburse the crowd?

20 A From hearsay I understand they were out on the
21 street before I got there. At whose order it is unclear to
22 me.

23 Q Do you know whether before they were ordered out
24 by Director Spina they were inside as a result of the
25 agreement that Inspector Melchior had with leaders to give

1 then fifteen minutes?

2 were A I don't know just what led to them being inside,
3 but they were in fact inside when I got there.

4 Q When the men were ordered out, what were your
5 continued duties and responsibilities that night?

6 A We ordered the men out and they had some difficulty
7 trying to disburse the crowd. Eventually the people did
8 clear out. At about this time I was informed, and I saw
9 myself that a group of taxicabs were forming up on Belmont
10 Avenue and I was told that they were going to create a
11 motorcade down to city hall. So I kept in touch with the
12 situation and when I was informed that they were on their
13 way to city hall, I left Inspector Melchior in charge of
14 the problem around the Fourth Precinct. Previous to this
15 we had held some men on standby at the First Precinct and
16 at the Third Precinct. Also some men on standby in the
17 Traffic Division office because there had been previous
18 rumors that a group was going to go downtown. Inspector Gary,
19 who was in plain clothes assigned to the Detective Division,
20 was at the scene and I went downtown in front of city hall
21 with Inspector Gary.

22 On my way down I heard a Third Precinct lieutenant order
23 several wreckers to tow taxicabs from in front of city hall.
24 When I arrived at the scene I found quite a few cabs parked
25 in front of city hall. It is a large bus stop in front of

1 city hall and parking is prohibited there. Some of them
2 were double-parked. And at least one car was being towed
3 when I got there. I think three or at the most four were
4 towed that night. Al Walker was at the scene and he had
5 quite a group of people with him.

6 I spoke to Walker and I told him he wasn't accomplishing
7 anything with a demonstration in front of city hall at this
8 hour of the morning. I told him that what he was doing could
9 only lead to real serious problems, possibly injuries. We
10 had to shut down a portion of Broad Street. I am paraphrasing
11 my conversation with Walker. I can't remember specifically
12 what I said to him, but I did tell him that it was in the
13 best interests of everybody if he could convince the people
14 there to leave.

15 So after a period of time I was convinced that they
16 were going to leave. What I did, I established heavy motor
17 patrols on Broad Street. I left a couple of plain clothes
18 teams, one north and one south of the city hall, to report
19 to me what was going on and all the extra policemen I had I
20 sent over to the First Precinct and held on reserve to see what
21 would develop.

22 Fortunately the people drifted off or went to their
23 homes. This whole incident -- again this is hearsay -- was
24 observed by Dr. Garrett who lives in the Hallmark Apartments.

25 Q Approximately opposite the city hall?

1 over A Right. He viewed the situation unknown to us. He
2 is reported to have said to the director that he considered
3 -- well, it was a good job. Everybody walked away from it
4 unhurt, and he thought it was a good job the way the thing
5 was handled. Again I say this is hearsay. This has been
6 reported to me.

7 was It was getting late now.

8 then Q About what time?

9 that A It is really difficult for me to say. I quit work
10 at five-thirty. I went over to the First Precinct. When I
11 got word that things had gotten back to normal, we started
12 dismissing the men. After we dismissed the men I had to do
13 a little thinking about what I had seen and what I had been
14 told up at the Fourth Precinct. About five o'clock in the
15 morning I decided that everybody in my command was going on
16 twelve-hour tours of duty. I had been told up at the Fourth
17 Precinct by a police officer that Curvin had promised to be
18 back in front of the Fourth Precinct the next night, that is,
19 the night of the thirteenth, to organize a demonstration.
20 I just felt from the tone of what happened, what had gone on
21 all summer at the meetings of the Board of Education and the
22 Planning Board, the incident up on the East Orange line I
23 was almost certain that there was going to be a large-scale
24 disturbance the evening of the thirteenth.

25 At about five o'clock that morning I gave the order that

1 everybody in my division was to work twelve-hour tours of
2 duty in order to provide a reserve force in each precinct
3 that night. I did not cancel days off. There was no
4 cancellation of vacations, policy level --

5 At five-thirty I left work and went home. I was back
6 in at nine-thirty in the morning on the thirteenth. There
7 was a meeting in the chief's office. Acting Chief Foley was
8 there. The director was there. I informed everybody present
9 that my division was working twelve-hour tours of duty in
10 order to provide a reserve in each precinct.

11 There was some conversation which I can only describe
12 as vague concerning what the manpower situation would be in
13 the other divisions. I went about my duties the rest of the
14 day.

15 Q Could we stop there a minute, please? Do you feel
16 now that in order to handle the Wednesday night-early
17 Thursday morning situation that the police department had
18 adequate and sufficient equipment?

19 A The only equipment we had was our sidearms, that is,
20 a revolver, and vehicles. We work in a very bad state on
21 equipment. Even before you talk about firearms, the next day
22 the thing that I was most concerned about was an auxiliary
23 generator to keep our communications system going. We did
24 not have an auxiliary generator.

25 JUDGE WACHENFELD: What other equipment do you

1 think you should have had that you didn't have?

2 THE WITNESS: Well, sir, before the equipment

3 I feel there should have been a resolve on the part
4 of people at the policy level --

5 JUDGE WACHENFELD: That is a matter of
6 discretion and determination. I am asking you about
7 the physical fact of equipment.

8 THE WITNESS: I feel we should have had
9 sufficient communications equipment we did not
10 have. We had no walkie-talkie equipment. We have
11 one radio frequency, and this is frequently over-
12 loaded. I would say over four years ago we did a
13 study which at that time showed that the average
14 transmission time from base station to cars and
15 from cars into the base station is thirty minutes
16 out of a possible sixty. This is leveling all the
17 trouble with peaks and valleys.

18 JUDGE WACHENFELD: What other equipment do you
19 get, feel you should have had?

20 THE WITNESS: We should have had shotguns and
21 weapons which we didn't have them.

22 JUDGE WACHENFELD: Anything else?

23 THE WITNESS: I believe we should have had
24 helmets, riot sticks, and implied in all of this
25 equipment is training in the safe usage of it.

1 all kinds of MR. LEUCHTER: What is the purpose of shotguns?

2 is, the super THE WITNESS: To provide you with the weaponry

3 we centre needed to meet the weaponry that you could be

4 this purpose exposed to. new facility being built up out the

5 county court house. MR. LEUCHTER: Sniperfire?

6 Avenue. A THE WITNESS: Sniperfire, et cetera.

7 At a two-week JUDGE WACHENFELD: When you get the shotguns,
8 nine high then you get to what gauge you use and what purpose

9 best bet you are trying to effect?

10 police direct THE WITNESS: That's right. Your best bet if

11 you can get away with it is light shot. don't

12 believe By Mr. Robinson: properly check out or trained

13 with Q These equipment inadequacies that you mentioned,

14 do you now have it or have provisions been made to obtain

15 it? I certainly couldn't say they were. I missed never being

16 exposed A Yes. We have shotgun in the department now. The
17 trouble with getting any equipment under stressed conditions

18 is that you possibly don't get the equipment you want. We

19 got equipment that we don't want. Confusion can result.

20 Waste can result. Accidents can result. A shotgun is a

21 weapon which men should be familiar with, a weapon which

22 should be check out on. I saw those at the

23 We have been talking about inadequacies. Of greater

24 importance in my belief are the inadequacies in our system.

25 We are operating out of 19th century buildings and you waste

1 all kinds of manpower. The people in this department, that
2 is, the superior officers, have made recommendations that
3 we centralize our operations. We have land committed to
4 this across from the new facility being built up out the
5 county court house. We have land committed on Thirteenth
6 Avenue. A space study has been done with government funds.
7 At a two-week management course, thirty-seven out of thirty-
8 nine high ranking police officers said that yes, this is the
9 best bet to get them out on the street. The mayor and the
10 police director have supported this position.

11 Q You say you could have shotguns, but you don't
12 believe the men have been properly check out or trained
13 with them? Is that what your point is?

14 A You couldn't say this at the time of the riot. You
15 certainly couldn't say they were. I missed never being
16 exposed to a shotgun.

17 Q How about now?
18 TAYLOR: Thank you very much, Chief.

19 A Oh, certainly now. As soon as you get them in.
20 We received an initial assignment of shotguns possibly a
21 week and a half, two weeks before the riot. Fifteen were
22 assigned to the Patrol Division. Five were assigned to the
23 emergency squad, two to each precinct. I saw those at the
24 precinct as strictly being used for the defense of the
25 precinct, and my initial move was to train people on reserve
in the safe operation of them. But for the mass of men, and

1 I have said there are 750 men in the Patrol Division, this
2 becomes a training problem.

3 BISHOP TAYLOR: It is not twelve-thirty and
4 we are just wondering if you wanted to stay ten or
5 fifteen more minutes, but Mr. Robinson says he
6 thinks it would take longer than that to complete
7 your testimony.

8 JUDGE WACHENFELD: If it is going to take
9 longer to complete it, I would suggest we adjourn
10 at the regular time unless you can finish with
11 this witness within the next ten or fifteen
12 minutes.

13 MR. ROBINSON: I don't think I could.

14 MR. LEUCHTER: I have some questions, too.

15 MR. ROBINSON: With Deputy Chief Redden's
16 consent we would continue at a convenient date.

17 BISHOP TAYLOR: Thank you very much, Chief.
18 Our Chairman has now returned, but we are now in
19 the process of adjournment, Mr. Lilley. Would you
20 want to take four or five minutes for any immediate
21 questions, or do you want to wait?

22 MR. LEUCHTER: I am never bashful. It is a
23 question of the Commission going elsewhere.

24 JUDGE WACHENFELD: I move we adjourn.