

1 dresses. buzzing. Who is going to help you? The police
2 ain't going to put up nothing unless you have
3 got a big book. They will let you rot in jail.

4 Q Anybody who carries a book up and down the
5 address? street today needs his head examined. There is
6 A really nothing behind it.

7 Q July CHAIRMAN LILLEY: Any other questions?

8 A Thank you very much for coming.

9 Q Did you operate a (Witness excused.)
10 one you are in now at some other address prior to July?

11 Whereupon, Yes.

12 Q Where? EDDIE HARDY

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

14 Q You moved EXAMINATION
15 Newark? By Mr. Fortunato:

16 Q Can you give us your home address?

17 A 570 Clinton Avenue.

18 Q In Newark? Better location in Newark.

19 A In Newark. any incidents to tell us as to

20 what happened during the Newark riot in

21 July? A That is the same.

22 Q And do you operate a business at that address?

23 evening? A That is correct.

24 Q Can you describe the business?

25 and what? A I have a ladies' fashion and wear shop, mostly

1 dresses. Just dresses mostly, slacks.

2 Q How long have you resided in Newark?

3 A Since 1951.

4 Q How long have you operated a business at that
5 address?

6 A Since July.

7 Q In July of this year?

8 A Of this year.

9 Q Did you operate a similar business such as the
10 one you are in now at some other address prior to July?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Where?

13 A 21 Prospect Place in East Orange.

14 Q You moved your business from East Orange to
15 Newark?

16 A That's right.

17 Q Did you think you would do better in Newark?

18 A It was a better location in Newark.

19 Q Do you have any incidents to tell us as to
20 what happened to your business during the Newark riot in
21 July?

22 A I can tell you what happened that particular
23 evening.

24 Q Can you describe and give us the date, the time
25 and what happened?

1 A The date I don't recall, but I can tell you
2 the time of night. It was on a Saturday evening. I
3 planned to stay in the store because of what had been
4 going on. I felt if I stayed there if anyone came around
5 I could probably shoo them away.

6 window At ten o'clock I would close the gates, and a jeep
7 load of National Guardsmen came up and they saw I was
8 inside, and a guy knocked on the window and said for me
9 to come out. They said it wouldn't be wise for me to
10 remain there. I told him I was going to stay. It wouldn't
11 be wise to remain because I might be taken as a looter.

12 You. He also stated that a lot of trigger-happy guys were
13 around and anything could happen. He said I was a nice
14 guy he didn't want to see anything like that happen. He
15 advised me to leave the store.

16 who did At that time I wasn't living in the store. Now I
17 live there. At that time I lived at 321 West Runyon
18 Street, three blocks away.

19 State Q Did you leave the store that Saturday evening?

20 that sh A Right.

21 "Come Q Do you recall what time you left?

22 that of A Between ten and ten-thirty.

23 Q You went home?

24 A That is correct, because they had a curfew at
25 ten o'clock and practically everyone was off the street

1 at that hour.

2 Q Did anything happen to your store?

3 A Yes. A Negro.

4 Q What happened? The amount of damage that was

5 done to A you. The following day when I came back all the
6 windows were broken and the mannequins in the window were
7 broken up and all the decorations that I had inside the
8 window was all about the place. There was no shots in
9 my place. It appeared to me it was the gun butts or some
10 object that would break windows and knocked down the
11 displays I had in the window, the perfume and what have
12 you.

13 Q Who told you this? after listening to the

14 news, A Who told me? TV, which I had a set in my

15 store, Q I know you saw the damage, but who told you
16 who did the damage? So I had a sign, which was about

17 40 inch A There happened to be a young lady who lives
18 upstairs over my store had told me that night that the
19 State Troopers, not the National Guard, had did this and
20 that she would recall hearing some man make a statement,
21 "Come on, fellows, let's join the fun," or something to
22 that effect. There was a lot of Negroes, in listening to the

23 news Q Let's join what? -- that it would really create

24 a race A The fun, something to that effect. This is

25 why I Q Is the name of this person Rose King?

1 A Yes.

2 Q Is she a Negro or white?

3 A She is a Negro.

4 Q Can you estimate the amount of damage that was
5 done to your place?

6 A I would say the damage was anywhere from \$500
7 to \$1,000.

8 Q Do you have insurance?

9 A No, I didn't have insurance. I just had opened
10 the store and still haven't been able to get any.

11 Q Did you have any sign on your store prior to
12 this?

13 A Yes. That Saturday, after listening to the
14 news, the radio, watching TV, which I had a set in my
15 store, I thought that the statement that was made wasn't
16 fair to the public. So I had a sign, which was about
17 40 inches square, printed up and placed in my window which
18 read, "Please Tell Truth, Mr. Press, Radio and TV. This
19 is not a race riot. Your lies are causing great harm to
20 us citizens."

21 I felt that most the people felt that if they were
22 white and there was a lot of Negroes, in listening to the
23 news -- this was my opinion -- that it would really create
24 a race riot. I didn't think it was a race riot. This is
25 why I put this in my window.

1 Q Did you continue to do business at that address?

2 A That is correct.

3 Q You haven't been frightened away by what happened?

4 A Not really because I feel some time you have to
5 make a stand with some things you believe in. I have had
6 several State Troopers come and question me, and I just
7 told them the way I felt and this is the story. This is
8 what happened, and I didn't worry about it.

9 Q How did the State Troopers come to question
10 you? Did you report this incident to anyone?

11 A There were so many people coming around at that
12 time, some from Legal Services downtown and there were
13 guys walking the street. Where they came from I don't
14 know, asking all kinds of questions and wanting you to
15 sign papers. I just told them the story as to what happened
16 as far as I knew.

17 The State Trooper came and asked me what happened,
18 and I explained it to him. He said that he wanted to make
19 a report to his superior officer. He told me his name,
20 which I have forgotten, but I know him when I see him.
21 It was a Negro State Trooper and a white State Trooper.

22 Q Was there a National Guard camp near your place
23 of business? A Yes. There is a parking lot about 100 yards
24 away from my store. At that particular time there was in

1 my opinion anywhere from two to three hundred National
2 Guard stationed there. It was like a headquarters, I guess.

3 Q Were you asked to sign a statement by the
4 Newark Legal Services Project, or did someone come to talk
5 to you about this?

6 A Yes.

7 Q How did that come about?

8 A First two young ladies came around. The exact
9 date I don't recall now. They said they were out to help
10 the people who had damages done by the National Guardsmen
11 and the State Troopers. Later I recall two fellows came
12 around. There were quite a few people there during that
13 time that came around asking different questions, and they
14 had papers wanting you to sign. They was explaining to
15 you that you would probably get reimbursed, and they were
16 trying to see that you would for your damages.

17 Q Do you have any other incidents to relate to
18 us concerning the riots in relation to terms of damage
19 to your property or anything else that you saw regarding
20 damage to the property?

21 A Well, I actually didn't see any damage done.
22 I can only tell you about my place and what I was told
23 by the young lady who lived above the store and who heard
24 the voices. She told me it was definitely the State
25 Troopers that did the damage in my store.

1 Q I take it she is available for us to talk to.
2 Does she still live there?

3 A She is still there. She works two jobs, and it
4 is a bit difficult to get ahold of her unless she knows
5 ahead of time.

6 Q You had expected that you would be bringing
7 her with you tonight, isn't that correct?

8 A Yes.

9 Q But she, I take it for reasons we don't know,
10 is not here with you?

11 A Right.

12 Q Have you related to us in full this incident
13 of what happened to your store and as to what Mrs. King
14 told you?

15 A Right. I have given you all the detailed
16 information I could possibly give you at this time.

17 CHAIRMAN LILLEY: Any questions?

18 MR. LEUCHTER: Was there any looting of
19 your store? Did anybody take any merchandise
20 from your store some time between the time the
21 windows were broken down that night and the
22 time you got there the next day?

23 THE WITNESS: The only thing that I could
24 say, I don't recall things being missing due to
25 the fact that I had a gate up there and the

1 windows were broken and the display and perfumes.

2 MR. LEUCHTER: Was the gate across the
3 window?

4 THE WITNESS: Yes.

5 MR. LEUCHTER: There was no way in which
6 a person could physically get into the store
7 other than to wreck the windows? You couldn't
8 climb into the store?

9 THE WITNESS: No. The holes are so small
10 you couldn't.

11 MR. GIBBONS: The gate was left in tact?

12 THE WITNESS: Right. The gates were
13 just put up a day or two before this happened.

14 MR. MEYNER: Did you witness any of the
15 looting during the period of these riots?

16 THE WITNESS: Did I witness any?

17 MR. MEYNER: In the neighborhood generally.

18 THE WITNESS: I think it was the Friday
19 night when this started, if my memory serves
20 me correct. There was looting by the people,
21 but as far as my place, the only damage that
22 was done was the windows being broken.

23 MR. MEYNER: That first night did you stay
24 in your store?

25 THE WITNESS: Yes.

11 He's expected to work each minute in the hour every

12 MR. MEYNER: And had the light on?

13 THE WITNESS: Right. I left the lights

14 on. As a matter of fact, I stood in the doorway
15 to prevent anyone -- I just had opened my store
16 and didn't have insurance.

17 MR. MEYNER: And you saw those crowds go
18 by and they didn't bother you?

19 THE WITNESS: That was because I was there.
20 I know of other Negroes whose stores and offices
21 were looted and windows broken. If I hadn't
22 been there, it probably could have happened to
23 me also.

24 CHAIRMAN LILLEY: Any further questions,
25 gentlemen? Thank you very much. We appreciate
26 your coming.

27 THE WITNESS: I have a poem for you called
28 "Plight of the Black Man."

29 The Black Man in this great land, he sings, "My Country
30 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty," this is the
31 home of the brave and the land to be free, but it's
32 not that way for me.

33 He was hired to work with his back, muscles and hands,
34 to build this great land.

35 No one trusted his responsible mind, but his contri-
bution will engrave itself upon the sands of time.

1 He's expected to work each minute in the hour every
 2 day twice as hard and bring home less pay.

3 He is the last to be hired, and the first to be fired.
 4 Equal opportunity he's often denied.

5 The Black Man in this great land fought valiantly on
 6 foreign land and sea to help defend this Democracy,
 7 and yet at home he is treated indiscriminately.

8 He finds it difficult to explain to his little ones
 9 that for them there is a different set of rules and
 10 traveling the road of life, they will be kicked,
 11 battered and abused.

12 The Black Man in this great land is lied to, cheated,
 13 and robbed of his heritage. He marched non-violently,
 14 a protest to show discontentment with irreproachable
 15 pride.

16 He is human. His inner self no longer can be
 17 curtailed, and throughout this great land he has
 18 begun to rebel.

19 His problems are complex; his courage has made him
 20 stand.

21 I got a call Sunday morning around five o'clock in
 22 the morning. A neighbor told us that the State Troopers
 23 forgotten The Black Man in this great land.

24 CHAIRMAN LILLEY: Thank you, very much.
 25 (Witness excused.)

Q What was the name of your neighbor?

Whereupon, Helms Olden.

LAURA PETERS

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

CHAIRMAN LILLEY: Thank you for coming, Mrs. Peters.

MRS. PETERS: Glad to.

EXAMINATION

By Mr. Fortunato:

Q Do you own a business in Newark?

A Yes.

Q Can you tell us where your business is?

A 1007 now, it was 1005 at the time, Bergen Street.

Q During the time of the riot?

A It was 1005 Bergen Street.

Q Do you have anything to relate to us concerning what happened to your business during the riot?

A Well, what I know, is what I have been told by witnesses. I wasn't there at the time. I don't live near the store.

I got a call Sunday morning around five o'clock in the morning. A neighbor told me that the State Troopers shot my window. I had a large fish tank of tropical fish in the window, and a bullet hit the tank. They told me that the State Troopers had shot the window.

Q What was the name of your neighbor?