

thereupon, following to Bergen Street, and we made a turn
corner of the fact that Carol Bartlett was called as a witness, first duly sworn, testified as follows:

CAROL BARTLETT

EXAMINATION

By Mr. Fortunato:

Q Your address, I take it, is 118 Renner Avenue?

A Yes.

Q And how long have you lived there?

A Seven years.

Q Your occupation?

A Teacher and singer.

Q Where are you a teacher?

A Elmwood School in East Orange.

Q Are you originally from East Orange?

A Texas.

Q As you know, your husband just testified before you, and I would appreciate it if you would indicate to us and relate it as best you can as to day and time any incident that occurred during the riot, the one that happened to you in particular.

A Well, it was a Thursday evening about seven o'clock, and my husband and I were going to the store. We live just near the corner of Huxterton and Renner. The store is on Bergen Street, which is a very short block. We were going to the store. As we went out we saw so

1 many people gathering on Bergen Street, and we hadn't been
2 aware of the fact that there was looting going on in our
3 neighborhood. So as we were just standing just watching
4 the people loot and break windows and what not, shortly
5 thereafter a group of policemen came, State troopers and
6 National Guardsmen, and they came in forceful numbers.
7 They asked us to move along and, of course, we started to
8 do so, and I assumed that one or two of the officers felt
9 that it was not fast enough for them, so they decided to
10 give a little aid.

11 Q Are you sure this was Thursday evening? Wednesday
12 was the first incident involving Smith, the cabdriver,
13 and Thursday was the activity at the Fourth Precinct, and
14 that's really late evening Thursday when the riot was
15 supposed to have started.

16 A I know something happened in our neighborhood
17 on Wednesday evening, and I was pretty sure that it was
18 Thursday. If not Thursday, it was Friday. It was one of
19 the two evenings.

20 MR. GIBBONS: Are you clear that National
21 Guard and State police were present?

22 THE WITNESS: First Newark policemen got out
23 of an automobile, and then there was another car
24 which came, which I think was probably filled with
25 State troopers. Then it was followed by a truck

1 of National Guardsmen.

2 By Mr. Fortunate:

3 Q It would have to be Friday because there wasn't
4 any riot at that time on Friday.

5 A Perhaps it was Friday. I am not sure, really. It
6 was Thursday or Friday.

7 Q So do you wish me to go on?

8 A Please.

9 A Evidently we were not moving fast enough for them.
10 So one officer came up and pushed me with the butt of his
11 gun. Of course, I looked around and I said to him, "Don't
12 push me." Then another came up and he pushed me. I don't
13 know why he picked me, of all the other people that were
14 there, but it did happen. Of course, they finally wound up
15 pushing or rather prodding the group of people all the way
16 down the street, prodding the group of people all the way
17 down the street, which stopped in front of our house.

18 Q What did he push you with?

19 A His rifle.

20 Q Could you describe it more physically to us?

21 A All I know is it was a long piece of artillery
22 with a brown handle about 16 to 18 inches long at the
23 bottom and I thought it had -- no, that is what it was.

24 Q Did he place the piece of artillery at any point
25 in your body?

1 A Yes. He had it at a horizontal angle and pushed
2 me right in the back of my spine, if that is close enough
3 for you.

4 Q Were you able to identify the particular individual
5 that pushed you in any way?

6 A There were two different officers who pushed me.
7 The first one, I can't remember his face at all. I do
8 know he was a shorter man. The second one was an entirely
9 different officer. He was extremely tall, over six feet,
10 very hostile individual. My husband was able to get his
11 badge number.

12 Q You did not?

13 A I couldn't see it. He was very tall, and I was
14 in flat shoes and I couldn't see. He wasn't wearing it
15 where he was supposed to. I think he probably had it in
16 the band of his hat. At least this is where my husband
17 said he saw it.

18 I looked. My husband said, "Let's get his badge
19 number, and as I turned around I didn't see it where it is
20 usually worn on the chest.

21 Q Do you recall whether it was a hat or helmet?

22 A It was not a helmet, I am pretty sure. I think it
23 was a hat.

24 Q You indicated that you felt you had a lot to say
25 to the Commission. Could you do it in a rather short time.

1 keeping in mind the number of witnesses we have outside?

2 A No. That was rather jokingly. But, however, I
3 wanted to cite several other incidents which I felt were
4 prejudiced incidents in behalf of the National Guardsmen.

5 I have a cousin who is a priest, and he came up from
6 Trenton not realizing the urgency of the situation. As we
7 were returning him to Pennsylvania station on Saturday or
8 Sunday morning, we were leaving Renner Avenue approaching
9 Elizabeth Avenue and as we reached that intersection we
10 were stopped by the National Guardsmen. They refused to
11 let us come out of that area. At the same time there were
12 Caucasians who were also in automobiles who were coming in
13 and out of the intersection freely without being stopped,
14 halted, or what have you. We were very insulted by this.
15 So we had to turn around, go all the way back to the other
16 part of Lyons Avenue and Bergen Street in order to get out
17 of our neighborhood.

18 Another occasion, on returning from Pennsylvania
19 station the same morning or afternoon we were stopped
20 again by the National Guardsmen as we were routed up
21 Elizabeth turning right on Lyons Avenue, and one of them
22 stopped and asked for my driver's license because I was
23 driving. My husband was sitting on the passenger's side.
24 So I gave him all the information he wanted. Another one
25 came up, who was evidently interested in impressing someone

1 with his importance by asking unnecessary questions,
2 suggesting that perhaps we might have stolen goods in
3 the trunk of the car and saying, "Well, if you don't let
4 us look in there now you know you will be stopped around
5 the corner." Of course, my husband told him that was not
6 of any importance to us because if he cared to look he
7 could very well do so at that point.

8 These are just a few of the things that happened that
9 we felt were most unnecessary. Being a dark-skinned
10 person, I felt that all people were abused in some way or
11 to some extent only because of color and not knowing whether
12 the person was innocent or guilty.

13 CHAIRMAN LILLY: Any questions, gentlemen?

14 MR. DRISCOLL: Do you know whether the officers
15 that pushed you were Newark policemen?

16 THE WITNESS: Well, I am not sure. I think
17 probably they were. It was a very tense moment,
18 and my husband was a little bit more aware as to
19 who they were really than I was.

20 MR. DRISCOLL: I can understand that.

21 MR. LOFTON: Madam, you indicated there was a
22 checkpoint at which you were not allowed to
23 proceed, but you indicated that there were white
24 people who were moving freely across this checkpoint.
25 Did you ask the officers there why they were

1 allowing this situation to obtain and not allow
2 you to proceed?

3 THE WITNESS: I most deliberately did so
4 because I felt that I just was not going to leave
5 without an answer. I said to the young man,
6 "Why are you letting other Caucasians go in and out
7 of this neighborhood and this is my block, too? I
8 live here, too." He said, "They live in this
9 apartment building, and that was the Towers
10 apartment on Renner and Elizabeth. Of course, I
11 could have lied and said, "I live there, too." I
12 felt his answer was really not good enough because
13 everybody wasn't going into that apartment
14 building, and he wasn't able to watch to see if
15 everyone was driving into the underground parking.
16 I told him that I thought it was very
17 prejudiced and I didn't like it and I was going to
18 report it. Of course, he very urgently replied
19 that there was prejudice, no hostility; it was just
20 something that happened.

21 CHAIRMAN LILLEY: Anything else? Thank you
22 very much, Mr. Bartlett.

23 (Witness excused)

24 By Mr. Portman:

25 Q Can you tell me what happened on that day?

Whereupon, **REBEY EVANS** called as a witness, first duly sworn, testified as follows:

EXAMINATION

By Mr. Fortunato:

Q Your address, please.

A 212 Elizabeth Avenue.

Q In Newark?

A That's right.

Q And how long have you been a resident of Newark?

A I have been there a year now. It will be in December.

Q Are you married?

A Yes.

Q Do you have any incident that occurred during the riot in July to relate to us?

A No.

Q What point of time does your incident relate to?

A It was after the riot. I thought it was around in August, about the second or third, something like that.

MR. DRISCOLL: Of August?

THE WITNESS: Yes. I don't exactly remember

what date.

By Mr. Fortunato:

Q Can you tell us what occurred at that time?