

1 and I drove those seventy-two miles, and I worked my
2 way through college.

3 MR. DRIECOLL: Thank you very much. We
4 appreciate your coming and your cooperation.

5 What is your position? (Witness excused)

6 I am a customs - - -

7 Whereupon, I wonder if you would tell us what happened

8 during the riots. FREDERICK D. LEE

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

10 My observation: EXAMINATION

11 from four- By Mr. Jaffe:

12 Q Mr. Lee, where do you live?

13 A 76 Palisade Avenue, Englewood, New Jersey.

14 Q How long have you lived there?

15 A For a year.

16 Q Where did you live before?

17 A 41 East Forest Avenue, Apt. 7C.

18 Q In Englewood?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Have you lived your life in Englewood?

21 A No. I was born in Virginia. I moved to

22 Englewood at the age of sixteen. I have been there about

23 eleven years.

24 Q Are you presently employed, sir?

25 A Yes, I am.

1 and Q Where do you work?
2 A I work for the Anti-poverty Program.

3 Ever Q In Englewood.

4 A Yes.

5 Q What is your position?

6 A I am a community development aide.

7 Q I wonder if you could tell us what happened
8 during the riots, how they started and what you saw and
9 what you observed.

10 A My observation comes in from Friday afternoon
11 from four-thirty.

12 Q That is July 21?

13 A Right, about four-thirty in the afternoon. We
14 were not working, a bunch of fellows fiddling around
15 shooting the breeze.

16 Q How many fellows would you say?

17 A About seven of us. We noticed some Bergen
18 County cops at the end of the park up there. There were
19 about two cars at the end, about two cops per car. We
20 wondered what it was all about. It had gone on and on.
21 There was an Englewood policeman up there in the park at
22 this particular time with us. He was called back to duty.
23 So the policeman came out and got him and took him back
24 to the police station and took him back to duty.

25 So later on we goes out to the corner there, William

1 and Jay Street, and we see the Bergen County cops riding
2 around with shotguns and riot helmets in the car.

3 Everybody is wondering why. Then about six or six-thirty
4 a window was broken in Pete Foti's Market, 103 William
5 Street. This set off -- well, the wreckage.

6 Q How was it broken? Do you know?

7 A No.

8 Q Was there something thrown through it?

9 A More than likely. The alarm went off. Then

10 we heard the Englewood policemen. They came down and

11 set off a barricade there and wanted to know who broke

12 the window. They came prepared. They knew something

13 was going on which nobody knew. So they had their riot

14 helmets and everything, and sticks. They had set off a

15 barricade there.

16 Q Where did they put a barricade?

17 A At the corner of William and Jay Street, right

18 there on the corner. Then it was a stand-off. The

19 fellows had gathered because they wanted to know why, why

20 they were down there in battle uniform.

21 Q How many people had gathered from the community?

22 A About twenty-five or thirty at that particular

23 time.

24 Q What were their ages?

25 A Ages ranged from sixteen to thirty, thirty-five.

1 Q Mostly --, right? They were just there.

2 A In their twenties. They were people throwing things at

3 was a Q Men and women?

4 A Some girls aged fifteen, sixteen. Some fellows.

5 At this particular time there was a Detective Henry
6 Robinson and Detective Kenneth Tinsley. They broke
7 through the lineup. I was standing there. My cousin
8 was standing and another fellow was standing there, three
9 of us. He broke through the barricade and he said
10 something to a fellow, and the fellow said something
11 back to him. I can't recall exact words. He started
12 for this fellow with his club. So this started the riot
13 there. How many police were there? Do you know?

14 Q I didn't hear that. over Bergen County, all the

15 A He started after this fellow with his nightstick?

16 Q The detective did? how many were there?

17 A Right. He wanted to hit him, strike him. So
18 this started it. There was a brief skirmish there, and
19 then after that there were more people coming around.
20 After that there was a standoff. Everybody went back to
21 the park. This started people throwing bottles and rocks.

22 Q Where were the bottles and rocks being thrown?

23 A They were being thrown from Jay Street to the
24 park. Could you go past the police barricade?

25 Q Were they aimed at the officers' police cars?

1 A Everybody, anybody. They were just thrown.

2 Q Were they mostly young people throwing them or
3 was it just everybody?

4 A Everybody. No age barrier.

5 Q About what time was this?

6 A This was about eight o'clock.

7 Q Were any stores broken into then?

8 A Not at that present time.

9 Q And the whole crowd was about thirty?

10 A It had gotten bigger then.

11 Q What was it now?

12 A Maybe sixty, seventy.

13 Q How many police were there? Do you know?

14 A They were from all over Bergen County, all the
15 surrounding towns.

16 Q Do you know about how many were there?

17 A Two, three hundred, I guess, or more.

18 Q Where did the people in the community come,
19 just all congregate there as the night grew on?

20 A Do Right. I understand there were some windows
21 broken on the avenue.

22 Q Was there any traffic moving on William Street?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Could you go past the police barricades?

25 A All Right.

1 start Q What happened after eight o'clock?
2 the A. Then as the crowd got larger they started
3 throwing more bottles and rocks. The cops were trying
4 to disburse the crowd telling them, "This is a state of
5 emergency. You have to go home," and this and that.
6 Some people left, some stayed and some just continued to
7 throw. This is about one hundred people. They came from
8 the bars being they closed down the bars. Of course, it
9 was broadcast on the radio.

10 Q What time were the bars closed?

11 A About seven-thirty, eight o'clock. This is
12 all I know from Friday. It started Friday.

13 Q Did you go to the park? What happened at the
14 park? Do you know who did the looting? Young or old?

15 A Nothing. We were just in the park talking.

16 Q Were you there when the mayor came?

17 A Yes, I was.

18 Q Could you tell us about that? The mob went down

19 the A. Somebody said -- I don't know who the person
20 was -- "Do you want the mayor down there?" I think it
21 was the police chief. They said, "Yes, get the mayor
22 down." So the mayor came down about eleven o'clock. He
23 answered questions and everybody had a beef. He told
24 everybody to go home and eat ice cream and cool off. So
25 this really provoked them more, and that's when they

1 started bombing everything. Everything went, stores in
2 the area, two stores.

3 Q What were the names of the stores in the area?

4 A Sereno's Market and Pete Foti's Market was the
5 other.

6 Q Grocery stores?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Are they owned by whites or Negroes?

9 A Whites. This was it.

10 Q When did they go?

11 A Friday night.

12 Q After the mayor left?

13 A Yes, after the mayor left.

14 Q Do you know who did the looting? Young or old?

15 A Everybody, all ages.

16 Q How big was the mob at this point?

17 A Maybe 120, 125.

18 Q Where were the policemen when the mob went into
19 the markets?

20 A They were standing -- well, as a matter of fact,
21 they had the whole area sealed off. They were ducking,
22 hiding from the rocks and bottles being thrown. I
23 understand there were some shots fired. I don't know.

24 I left. I went home. By twelve o'clock I was home.

25 Q Did the police try to stop the mobs from going

1 into the markets? on the street there. He said, "I will

2 set up a meeting. I don't know. I didn't take part in that. I

3 wasn't around. I was probably in the park when they

4 started because there was easy access to the store

5 because there was a side door there. The police didn't

6 come down into this particular block. on the impression

7 active Q of what happened the next day?

8 A I don't know. I wasn't out Saturday because I

9 understand the police were after me. So I don't know.

10 Q What were they after you for?

11 A They said I was inciting a riot. but I am not

12 a man. Q Did the police ever catch up with you?

13 A I didn't leave town. meeting?

14 Q MR. DRISCOLL: Are you under any charges

15 those were at the present time that you know of? employment

16 were the main THE WITNESS: No. I have never been. that

17 important. arrested. thing was housing and employment.

18 We had also By Mr. Jaffe: meeting. To my knowledge nothing

19 came Q Did you get involved with the mayor at all during

20 the riots or right after the riot? in local factories for

21 Q A After the riot. nor then that there is no

22 impro Q Could you tell us about that and what happened?

23 A The same night, the 21st, he set up a meeting

24 and asked if we wanted to have a meeting with him. may --

25 after Q This is when he was at the park? there is a

1 liquoA He was on the street there. He said, "I will
2 set up a meeting the 6th of August at Lincoln School."

3 We were there at eight o'clock. There was myself, Preston
4 Akridge, James Mitchell, Arnold Brown, Shirley Lacy and
5 Mr. Tibbs. We had a meeting up there.

6 shotQ Why did you people go? Are you the represent-
7 atives of the community?

8 hadnA Yes, more or less. somebody down in that area

9 all Q Were you a member of any organization in the
10 community?

11 thereA No. I am affiliated with CORE, but I am not
12 a member.

13 brokeQ What happened at the meeting?

14 What A We talked on housing, recreation, employment.
15 Those were the three main factors. Housing and employment
16 were the main two. Recreation was just -- it wasn't that
17 important. The main thing was housing and employment.

18 We had about a four-hour meeting. To my knowledge nothing
19 came of it. I haven't seen any improvement. He got about
20 four jobs totaling 25 or 30 people in local factories for
21 \$1.25, \$1.35 an hour. Other than that there is no
22 improvement.

23 Q What do you think caused the riots?

24 A Well, in the area there -- this was a Friday --
25 after work everybody congregates there. There is a

1 liquor store. Everybody buys a taste.

2 Q Buys what?

3 A A drink. We sit out there on the bridge or in

4 the park and we drink socially. If there is cops riding

5 around in your neighborhood with riot helmets, with

6 shotguns hanging out of the windows, you want to know why,

7 naturally. They said there would be a riot, which I

8 hadn't heard anything. I am usually down in that area

9 all day. I spend most of my time down there. I hadn't

10 heard of anything amongst the fellows or the people down

11 there about a riot.

12 So when the window was broken, or could have been

13 broken, the alarm went off. They started beating people.

14 That was it. I say it was the mayor's riot. I spoke to

15 one Bergen County cop and he said he knew about it three

16 weeks ahead of time; he was on alert. I don't see how

17 because nobody knew anything about it.

18 Q Do you know most of the people, or could you
19 recognize most of the people?

20 A I know everybody.

21 Q What do you think, outside of the action of

22 the Bergen County Police, were the major causes of the

23 problem up in Englewood?

24 A Tension.

25 Q What do you think caused the tension up among
the younger people, people like yourself?

A You might have a politician that comes down and

1 Q Did you see anybody? Do you know of anybody
2 who did any sniping?

3 A To my knowledge there wasn't any.

4 Q Was anybody in the Negro community hurt during
5 the riots?

6 A There were some beaten, but not, you know,
7 that bad, but they were beaten.

8 Q Were there any outsiders who came in?

9 A I didn't see any Friday night.

10 Q Did you hear of any from any of your friends?

11 A No.

12 Q Did you hear of any outsiders, whites, who
13 came in?

14 A If they came in, they would have to be right
15 there in that area.

16 Q Do you know most of the people, or could you
17 recognize most of the people?

18 A I knew everybody.

19 Q What do you think, outside of the action of
20 the Bergen County Police, were the major causes of the
21 problems up in Englewood?

22 A Tension.

23 Q What do you think causes the tension up among
24 the younger people, people like yourself?

25 A You might have a policeman that comes down and

1 arrests maybe a younger fellow. He might be a little rough
2 with him or he might hit him or something like this. This
3 causes tension in the neighborhood like this. It could
4 be any number of things that causes tension, especially
5 when it is hot, any number of things, but I would say
6 what caused this was the sight of the policemen riding
7 around because it has never happened before. They never
8 saw them there on a Friday before. So all of a sudden
9 here they come. For what nobody knows, no apparent reason.
10 There wasn't no reason for them being there.

11 Q. What do you think of the housing problem in
12 Englewood?
13 A. It is pathetic. It's bad. There is a row of
14 houses in this particular block from Jay Street to McKay
15 Park, the houses have been condemned for something like
16 thirty some years and they haven't did anything with them.
17 The landlord, he repairs them, makes minor repairs, and
18 a family moves in and he charges \$100, from \$75 to \$100
19 a month. The houses have been condemned for thirty years.
20 Why not tear them down? There is no sense in letting a
21 sun lord have a house down there in this particular area.
22 They have proposed projects and everything since the
23 riot, but I haven't seen nothing, no ground breaking
24 ceremony or nothing.

25 Q. What kind of an anti-poverty program are you

1 connected with?

2 A I am working right now with the youth.

3 MR. DRISCOLL: With what?

4 THE WITNESS: The youth, youth program.

5 By Mr. Jaffe:

6 Q Is that part of the anti-poverty program in
7 Egglewood?

8 A It is not part of the program itself. We have
9 four community development aides. Actually I work in
10 welfare cases, I work in employment, I work in the manpower
11 division, and I work with the youth. This is something
12 that I want to do. Mr. Preger works mainly with welfare,
13 and Mrs. Jacobs works with the senior citizens. Mrs.
14 Fisher works along with me in the youth, but she is also
15 involved in welfare.

16 Q What kind of programs do you work with? What
17 are the things you do?

18 A At the present time we wrote up a proposal for
19 the kids -- the kids wrote a proposal for modern dancing
20 and selling. This is for the girls.

21 For the fellows I have been having -- we just
22 started getting the fellows. I have plans or proposals
23 for them about movies, trips, basketball, things like this;
24 more or less recreation.

25 MR. DRISCOLL: As I understand it you

1 have described yourself as a community develop-
2 ment aide.

3 THE WITNESS: Correct.

4 MR. DRISCOLL: And you receive a salary
5 as a community development aide?

6 THE WITNESS: Yes, I do.

7 MR. DRISCOLL: That salary is paid out
8 of the poverty program budget?

9 THE WITNESS: Yes, it is.

10 MR. DRISCOLL: Do you know how much of a
11 budget you have for community development?

12 THE WITNESS: No, I don't.

13 MR. DRISCOLL: Do you know how large the
14 budget is for the poverty program, the total
15 poverty program in Englewood?

16 THE WITNESS: There is a breakdown. There
17 are three centers. There is the main office
18 of Bergen County CAP located in Hackensack.
19 There is a satellite center in Hackensack, a
20 neighborhood center in Garfield, and I work
21 for the neighborhood center in Englewood. Each
22 center has a budget, but the amount I do not
23 know.

24 MR. DRISCOLL: Do you know approximately
25 how many people are employed in the Englewood

satellite?
 everybody
 THE WITNESS: Since the opening it is
 hard to say. I couldn't give a figure.

MR. DRISCOLL: Have you been with this
 program since its inception?

THE WITNESS: Since September 12, I
 started. I went to a training session in East
 Paterson. Then I went to Hackensack for two
 weeks. Then I was shipped to Englewood. Not
 how much so shipped; I was sent to Englewood neighborhood
 center.

MR. DRISCOLL: I don't mean this question
 to be critical; I am simply seeking your
 opinion. Do you believe this program has
 accomplished its objectives or is accomplishing
 its objectives?

THE WITNESS: It is accomplishing. It
 takes time. There is a lot of young men my
 age that has come through the center and got
 jobs, and they are still at present employed.
 We can't give them the best jobs, but we give

them what jobs we have because actually I don't

like to send nobody out for \$1.25 an hour. We
 have a Manpower Division there for day by day
 jobs. So if the person has a little knowledge,

1 you wouldn't hardly send him to a \$1.15 or a
 2 everybody can see it. The fact is that
 3 \$1.25 job that is four or five miles away be-
 4 cause it is not going to pay. Most of the jobs
 5 are not local. You have to take the bus.
 6 There are one or two buses we have to take. On
 7 the whole it is really improving the community
 8 background?
 9 itself.

10 By Mr. Jaffe:

11 Q What is the prevailing wage for unskilled labor,
 12 how much an hour? Is that \$1.25 an hour?

13 A It is supposed to be \$1.65, but there is a
 14 lot of local factories paying \$1.40, \$1.45 an hour.

15 Q I wonder if you can tell us the attitudes of
 16 what you think should be done. What kind of recommendations
 17 the young people with whom you deal. What are their
 18 views on the problems and what do they think has to be
 19 done?
 20 The Democrats wanted to be in power, so they got in
 21 there and made all these proposals.

22 A Being they are younger, they are mostly con-
 23 cerned with recreation, some place to go. They want a
 24 swimming pool, but it is going to be hard to get a swim-
 25 ming pool in Englewood. They want one in McKay Park
 26 which is out of the question.

27 Q Why do you say that?

28 A I don't think they would put a swimming pool in
 29 Englewood in the Fourth Ward because that is predominately
 30 Negro. I don't think they would put it in for the use of

1 Negroes. They would probably put it somewhere where
2 everybody can use it. You don't have too many whites
3 coming down into that area.

4 MR. DRISCOLL: Are you married?

5 THE WITNESS: No. I am single.

6 MR. DRISCOLL: And your educational
7 background?

8 THE WITNESS: I didn't finish school, but
9 at the present time or December 4th I will be
10 going to Rutgers to get my G.D. equivalency
11 diploma.

12 By Mr. Jaffe: Where is the nearest office

13 Q I wonder if you can give us your thoughts on
14 what you think should be done, what kind of recommendations.

15 A I can't say. It was left up to the Democrats.
16 The Democrats wanted to be in power, so they got in
17 there and made all these proposals. This is up to them.
18 They said what they are going to do. They were voted
19 in. It is left up to them.

20 MR. GIBBONS: You are the first man who
21 has come before us who has been frank enough
22 to say he can't say.

23 MR. DRISCOLL: No, we had one yesterday.

24 By Mr. Jaffe:

25 Q Do you find among the young fellows in the

1 community any kind of hostility or any other problems?

2 A No, I don't find it. They are just regular
3 fellows. They may have their gripes among them, but as
4 far as being hostile towards people in general, no, I
5 don't find it. They may have an argument or fight. It
6 is natural.

7 MR. DRISCOLL: Any questions?

8 MR. GIBBONS: On this manpower placement
9 program, do you work with the New Jersey State
10 Division of Employment Security?

11 THE WITNESS: Yes.

12 MR. GIBBONS: Where is the nearest office?
13 Is there an office in Englewood?

14 THE WITNESS: For the Manpower Division
15 or the New Jersey State Employment?

16 MR. GIBBONS: New Jersey State Employment.

17 THE WITNESS: Yes, there is an office
18 there on Grand Avenue.

19 MR. GIBBONS: Near the Fourth Ward?

20 THE WITNESS: It is off the main street.
21 It is not that far from the Fourth Ward.

22 MR. GIBBONS: Does the New Jersey State
23 Employment Service office send people out into
24 the community?

25 THE WITNESS: I have never seen it. The

1 New Jersey State Employment office?

2 MR. GIBBONS: Yes.

3 THE WITNESS: I have never seen it.

4 MR. GIBBONS: Do you know whether or not
5 they make any placement efforts similar to
6 the efforts the Manpower Developments office
7 has been making?

8 THE WITNESS: The placements are similar,
9 but as far as the -- I am going to tell you
10 this: Don't too many Negroes utilize the
11 State Employment office?

12 MR. GIBBONS: Why?

13 THE WITNESS: First of all, they hold the
14 good jobs. A person can be just as qualified
15 as this white fellow. This white fellow will
16 go there and get the job before the Negro will.
17 That is the thing.

18 MR. GIBBONS: Do you know this to be a
19 fact, or is this just an attitude?

20 THE WITNESS: It could be an attitude,
21 but I have seen some cases where qualified
22 fellows have applied for jobs and they didn't
23 get them. They would say, "Go back another day."
24 They would go back and the jobs would be taken.

25 MR. GIBBONS: Do the Negroes have

1 confidence in the poverty program in employment
2 service?

3 THE WITNESS: Yes.

4 MR. GIBBONS: More so than in the State
5 service?

6 THE WITNESS: Yes, they do.

7 MR. GIBBONS: Why do you think this is
8 not Division of Employment Security office in

9 THE WITNESS: Well, mainly because when
10 they come in for a job there is one there. It
11 is more or less communicating with people.
12 This is what it is based on, how the people
13 accept you and how you accept the person.

14 MR. GIBBONS: Are there any Negro employees
15 at the employment office in Englewood?

16 THE WITNESS: There is two, I believe.

17 MR. GIBBONS: Out of how many?

18 THE WITNESS: Out of fifteen. These are
19 whereupon, two ladies.

20 MR. GIBBONS: Are they interviewers?

21 THE WITNESS: No. They just handle the
22 unemployment. As you come in for unemployment,
23 they handle this. One is information and the
24 other handles the checks.

25 MR. GIBBONS: Are there any Negroes in

1 the Englewood office dealing with interviewing
2 placement?

3 THE WITNESS: Jobs? In what?

4 MR. GIBBONS: In the Englewood office of
5 Employment Security.

6 THE WITNESS: Repeat that, please.

7 MR. GIBBONS: Are there any Negroes in
8 background the Division of Employment Security office in
9 Englewood who deal directly with people who are
10 first year coming in looking for jobs?

11 THE WITNESS: The State Employment?

12 MR. GIBBONS: Yes.

13 THE WITNESS: Not to my knowledge. No,
14 there isn't any. It is mostly whites.

15 MR. DRISCOLL: Anything else? Thank you
16 very much for coming. We appreciate your coming.

17 (Witness excused.)

18 Whereupon,

19
20 PRESTON AKRIDGE

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

22 EXAMINATION

23 By Mr. Jaffe:

24 Q Your address.

25 A 85 Lewis Street, Englewood.