

CHAIRMAN LILLEY: Mayor Volk, we thank you for coming here. We thank you again for the help and the way you treated us when we were in Englewood. We hope we won't hold you too long.

Whereupon,

AUSTIN H. VOLK

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

EXAMINATION

THE WITNESS: That is quite all right.

Anything that I can help you with in the line of testimony that you would like to know further, I would be glad to do so.

By Mr. Jaffe:

Q Mr. Mayor, I also would just like to inform you that the transcripts that we take are typed. They are circulated among all the Commission members and the staff, and it is the intention of the Commission, when it concludes its deliberations and files its report with the Governor, to suggest to the Governor that the transcripts be made public by placing them in the library, Princeton, Rutgers, the State House -- for any members of the public that would like to see them. Although it is confidential now, it will be public at that time.

MR. BRESLIN: (City solicitor): Just so

1 the mayor guides himself properly, is this  
 2 considered as confidential? The mayor, of  
 3 course, will respect whatever decision there is.  
 4 Or is anyone permitted to make any statements?  
 5 Let me put it this way: The mayor is not con-  
 6 cerned about himself, but if perchance others  
 7 make statements, for instance, those who testi-  
 8 fied yesterday, is it the desire or is it the  
 9 rule of the Commission that there be no statements  
 10 made as to the testimony, or what is the  
 11 situation? None anything, we don't to report

12  
 13 MR. JAYNE: The Commission has adopted  
 14 this rule: the Commission itself, or the staff,  
 15 will not make any public statements about the  
 16 content of any witness' statement. For example,  
 17 if the press were to ask me, "Did the mayor  
 18 testify?" I would say, "Yes." "What did he  
 19 testify?" I would say, "He testified as to the  
 20 incident in Eaglewood and as to the problems  
 21 faced by his city," and that will be basically  
 22 all I would say.

23 By Mr. The witnesses, we feel, are free to make  
 24 any comment that they want to the press afterwards.  
 25 Obviously we cannot control it. But neither  
 the Commission nor its staff will reveal the

substantive nature of the testimony until the conclusion of the Commission's time.

MR. BRESLIN: The mayor is not wanting to, but if others do, I just wanted to advise him accordingly.

MR. JAFFE: When Mayor Whalen was down here, he issued a statement to the press which he also read into the record. That has been done on occasion. If we have let that within the discretion of the witnesses and we have on our own not done anything, we ought to respect the confidences of the witnesses.

CHAIRMAN LILLEY: Just to punctuate this, the press is constantly after Mr. Jaffe and myself to say what the Commission has concluded so far, and we resist all this. As a matter of fact, the Record talked to me yesterday and I said this Commission's findings will come out in the end.

MR. BRESLIN: That answers my question very clearly.

By Mr. Jaffe:

Q Mr. Volk, would you please give us your official title and residence?

A I am mayor of Englewood.

1 Q And how long have you been mayor, sir?

2 A Well, I am finishing my third term. It will be  
3 my sixth year.

4 Q How long have you been a resident of Englewood?

5 A I have been a resident of Englewood since I was  
6 six years old, and that would go back forty-two years.

7 Q Mr. Mayor, I wonder if you would also very  
8 briefly sketch for us the form of government that the City  
9 of Englewood has.

10 A We have a mayor-council form of government. I  
11 am elected for a two-year term. I am elected at large.  
12 The council president is elected at large. We have an  
13 elected representative from each ward. Their terms are  
14 three years. The council president's and the mayor's are  
15 two years. We have four wards in the city. In addition,  
16 we have the usual staff, the solicitor, a full-time business  
17 administrator, and the department heads who are all full-time.

18 Our job is strictly as the needs arise, and normally  
19 that includes two public meetings a month and numerous  
20 meetings throughout the month.

21 Q You are a part-time mayor?

22 A Yes, I am.

23 Q What is the population of Englewood, sir?

24 A The population now, I believe, is approximately  
25 29,000. The last census of 1960 showed it was 27,000. So

1 I would say we are approximately 23,000 at the present  
2 time.

3 Q What would you estimate would be the amount of  
4 Negroes within that population?

5 A I would estimate approximately 3,900.

6 Q Does Englewood have a large Puerto Rican or  
7 Spanish-speaking community?

8 A No. We have a small number of Spanish-speaking  
9 people, but relatively small at the present time. We  
10 have one man on our police force who speaks Spanish, and  
11 he hasn't been called on very regularly to assist. So I  
12 would say we have a very small minority group as far as  
13 that element is concerned.

14 Q As I understand it, from testimony we have had  
15 from other witnesses, the preponderance of the Negroes  
16 in Englewood live in the Fourth Ward, is that correct?

17 A The majority of them do. However, Negroes do  
18 live in all wards of the city -- the Third Ward, the  
19 Second Ward and in the First Ward. They live throughout  
20 the community and they live in the most expensive residences  
21 and middle-income residences and also lower-income  
22 residence areas.

23 Q Mr. Mayor, I wonder if you could sketch for us --  
24 I think this might be a better way of starting -- the  
25 series of incidents in July of this summer which led up to

1 the minor disturbance which occurred in Englewood from,  
2 say, the period from July 1st or whenever it began.

3 A The first overt incident occurred on July 21.  
4 Prior to that time during the Newark disturbances and also  
5 the Plainfield disturbance there were strong rumors that  
6 there would be a disturbance in Englewood. Approximately  
7 two days before the 21st, the 19th of July, the Record  
8 wrote an article indicating that there was likely to be a  
9 disturbance in Englewood on the 21st, on or about that  
10 time.

11 I spoke with Mr. Crawley either the 19th or the 20th,  
12 prior to the time of the disturbance. He indicated he  
13 felt certain there was going to be a disturbance at that  
14 time.

15 Q Were the rumors you heard specific as to date?

16 A No, except they were likely to occur. The only  
17 specific time I believe that I recall it was brought up  
18 was the fact that the newspaper came out approximately two  
19 days before it occurred and Mr. Crawley pretty much  
20 indicated a specific date, as I recall. It was either  
21 Friday or Saturday that something could very well happen  
22 in Englewood. And we had been somewhat on the alert for  
23 this type of thing because due to the situation in Newark  
24 and in Plainfield we felt that there might be a spillover  
25 to some degree in Englewood. For that reason I had police

1 check in with the Newark police at the time of the  
2 disturbance. They weren't permitted to come down here  
3 at the time, but I believe they did on one occasion come  
4 into Newark, checked around, got general information.  
5 Nothing really specific on how to handle a particular  
6 disorder.

7  
8 We didn't become engaged in the Plainfield rioting  
9 to any degree, but they were on the alert for anything  
10 that might occur.

11 I might say that I also contacted the prosecutor.

12 Q Is that Guy Calissi?

13 A Guy Calissi, approximately two days before and  
14 their information was essentially the same; That there  
15 would be a disturbance and that there was every indi-  
16 cation that we would have trouble similar to what occurred  
17 in Plainfield.

18 Q Was there any talk at this time that there were  
19 10,000 people didn't show up. There were more like 200  
20 outsiders involved? Was there any basis for this kind of  
21 a rumor? This is prior to the twenty-first.

22 A I would say there wasn't any basis for it, but  
23 it was strongly felt that in view of the fact that we had  
24 heard that outsiders were involved in the other previous  
25 disturbances we were on the alert should they arrive in  
Englewood.

Q Could you discuss with us, please, the kind of

1 pre-planning that your city undertook in case you would  
2 have a disturbance?  
3

4 A I would have to go back probably five or six  
5 years to situations that we had at that time involving a  
6 school integration case where we felt there may be dif-  
7 ficulty, there may be a period of incidents that occur  
8 especially when one year Mr. Paul Zuber indicated he was  
9 an attorney representing the parents of the school inte-  
10 gration case, that he would have 10,000 people in Englewood  
11 at a mass meeting at McKay Park.

12 We prepared for that incident by asking assistance  
13 from neighboring communities, keeping the police completely  
14 out of the scene but being available should anything occur.

15 The same situation occurred again in 1962. Adam  
16 Clayton Powell indicated that he would be there and he  
17 would have approximately 10,000 people. In both incidences  
18 10,000 people didn't show up. There were more like 250  
19 to 300, possibly upwards of 500.

20 Q How large is your police force?

21 A We have a police force of approximately 65, and  
22 at the time of the disturbances there were 60 on duty.  
23 We asked assistance from the county, and I would say they  
24 brought in approximately 40. There was another 100 to  
25 120 from surrounding communities that responded. This is  
essentially what we had accomplished in previous years.



1 So it was a matter of (1) refining our planning, and  
2 when I came into office two years ago we had suggested to  
3 the Police Department they make active plans for any type  
4 of emergency that would occur, including this type of an  
5 emergency. Our rapport with the county was good on the  
6 basis of the previous action that was taken, and our  
7 rapport with the surrounding communities was good, I would  
8 say, because approximately when the time came that we  
9 asked them to respond, approximately 30 municipalities in  
10 the area responded by sending people that they could spare,  
11 policemen. The prosecutor and the sheriff offered their  
12 assistance. This was the previous planning that we had gone into.  
13 We had also purchased specialized equipment we felt was  
14 necessary. Various police departments and the county prosecutor

15 Q What kind of equipment was that? They would  
16 A In addition to the normal routine amounts of  
17 tear gas which you have in a police department, we  
18 purchased some bullet-proof vests, some hard hats, riot  
19 guns, that type of thing. The normal batons to hold crowds  
20 back, normal equipment that you would use in containing a  
21 riot. They, and I agreed with them. They agreed to come on

22 Q Mr. Mayor, you talked about an arrangement with  
23 the county police. Would you just briefly discuss the  
24 type of county police you are referring to? I know  
25 Bergen County has a separate situation. The Englewood

1           A     Law enforcement is somewhat equally divided. In  
2 Police Department  
3 some instances the prosecutor is normally the chief law  
4 enforcement officer. We also have a sheriff who has charge  
5 of a number of men and is in charge of the jails. Under  
6 the prosecutor is the county police, which is largely a  
7 traffic function. They don't particularly act as a law  
8 enforcement agency. Law enforcement as regards traffic.  
9 The county police have a chief, Chief Le Presti, who is  
10 an experienced man in policework and knows our community  
11 and has been in the community on many occasions.

12           Both the prosecutor and the sheriff offered their  
13 assistance to the fullest degree.

14           Q     Was it your arrangement with the county police  
15 and the various police departments and the county prosecutor  
16 that if a disturbance occurred in Englewood they would  
17 come in only subject to your request?

18           A     Yes. That would be it. I think, frankly, they  
19 would do it under any circumstance with any community that  
20 made the request. They did not arrive on the scene. We  
21 discussed the matter. They felt their forces would be  
22 necessary, and I agreed with them. They agreed to come on  
23 the scene then.

24           I might say as regards the organization of the force,  
25 and when you speak to the chief you will get additional  
information on that -- it was agreed that the Englewood

1 Police Department handle the situation and be in full  
2 control of the forces that were sent in. I would say that  
3 in most instances wherever a community has the capability  
4 of that type of direction that should be encouraged because  
5 the local force knows (1) the area considerably better than  
6 others that are brought in; (2) they know the people better  
7 in the community to a better degree.

8  
9 Q In other words, they could only come in if you  
10 requested it and when they came in, they would be subject  
11 to your control or the police chief's?

12 A Yes. If in their judgment they feel it is out  
13 of our control or the situation has expanded to a degree  
14 where it is beyond control or they feel the direction is  
15 wrong, then they can step in and take over completely.  
16 That particular point is not clear in my mind as to when  
17 they do.

18 While they were there and while this situation  
19 existed we had full charge of the Police Department at that  
20 time, that is, of all forces in the Police Department.

21 Q So your police chief would issue the orders and  
22 control orders like firing and all that? That is within  
23 your purview?

24 A That's right. It would certainly be within  
25 their jurisdiction. In all instances, however, the matter  
of firing, there was sporadic gunfire a couple of evenings

1 and prior to the time an order was given to return that  
2 fire it was carefully discussed with all concerned what  
3 necessary steps had to be taken. It was agreed that the  
4 order should be given to return any gunfire that was  
5 directed toward the police.

6 Q One of the things that the Commission has been  
7 interested in is the problem of central control once a  
8 riot or disturbance occurs. Where does it reside? Who  
9 should have it? That is why your experience is very  
10 different from the experiences in the other areas in the  
11 State.

12 A In our particular organization I would say the  
13 chief was an acting chief at that time. He is still  
14 acting until the present chief retires on December 11. His  
15 contact was largely with chiefs and other leading officers  
16 of other departments. The deputy chief, who was then a  
17 captain, who has been named deputy chief of the department,  
18 Harrington, had overall operational control of the  
19 situation. He was in the headquarters.

20 Our lieutenant, who is an electronics expert, had  
21 charge of the communications and coordinated twelve  
22 networks that were brought in, twelve separate frequencies  
23 that were brought in by other departments. It was  
24 centralized in one location and, to my mind, well handled.

25 Q Do you recall whether any request had been made

1 of the State Police for assistance during this?

2 A After the first evening -- that would be on the  
3 afternoon of July 22nd --

4 Q I don't want to get ahead of the story. I just  
5 wanted to know if it had been made prior?

6 Let us then ask you to detail the events that occurred,  
7 say, on the 20th and 21st, and then we can get back into  
8 the request for the State Police.

9 A On the evening of the 21st there had been tension  
10 growing in the neighborhood I would say from the afternoon  
11 of the 21st on. By tension I mean many people had walked  
12 off the streets. There were active rumors there would be  
13 trouble in the Fourth Ward area and specifically in the  
14 J and Williams Street area. That is adjacent to McKay  
15 Park. Almost on time at nine o'clock an incident occurred  
16 in the area of the J and Williams Street area when Foti's  
17 market window was broken, and we were told there was an  
18 angry crowd in the neighborhood and there was a demonstration  
19 going on.

20 From that time we moved men in the area. They were  
21 heavily besieged by rocks, bottles.

22 Q Were the men in the area at nine just Englewood  
23 policemen, or were they also county and other policemen?

24 A They were, I would say, largely Englewood. The  
25 man in charge of it was Lieutenant Ryan, now Captain. He

1 was in charge. He was struck by a bottle, right on his  
2 shoulder. Approximately six or seven other men had been  
3 out, but we had been getting support from six o'clock on.  
4 In fact, early in the afternoon they drifted in as they  
5 would come in.

6  
7 Q Were your men or the bounty police out on the  
8 street prior to the breaking in of the market, or subsequent  
9 to it.

10 A They were on patrol throughout the downtown  
11 area, and we had patrol cars out, none specifically  
12 located in that particular area. In other words, it was  
13 felt that a large force of men in a particular area, if  
14 we didn't know what was going to turn out, it might  
15 induce a reaction. We did move approximately 50 men, I  
16 would think in that area at the time of the disturbance.  
17 A street light was knocked out. We brought in auxiliary  
18 lighting. A fire broke out. The Fire Department was  
19 subjected to rocks and bottles, that type of thing. The  
20 police came in to protect the Fire Department. The fires  
21 were quickly extinguished and the police were largely  
22 brought back.

23 This happened sporadically, however, throughout the  
24 evening. If during that particular night the sheriff was  
25 in the area, said he wanted to go down and check the area  
when the disturbance first occurred.

1 Q Sheriff Joseph Job?

2 A Joe Job. He was down. The prosecutor was in and  
3 out of the area. I got a radio call from Sheriff Job asking  
4 that I come down and speak to the people. There were  
5 approximately 125 people there at the time. I responded  
6 to it. They were in this J and Williams Street area and at  
7 that time quite upset.

8 Q Where did this meeting take place?

9 A It took place on the corner of J and Williams  
10 Street, and it was during that evening --

11 Q What was the temper of the crowd?

12 A The temper was hostile, not completely, however,  
13 because they accepted me as such and I walked freely in  
14 the crowd.

15 Q Nobody attempted to harm you?

16 A No one attempted anything at the time. I spoke  
17 to them, asked them what the difficulty was, various  
18 individuals in the crowd, and they seemed eager to talk  
19 about alleged grievances.

20 Q How would you describe the crowd? Young? Old?

21 A I would say they were largely young adults,  
22 some teenagers, some older people. A few women. Mostly  
23 men.

24 Q Did you notice a good proportion of them?

25 A I knew some of them from previous police reports,

1 for one thing, that I had received. Some of them I knew  
2 had lived in the area. Some I didn't recognize.

3 Q By the time you got there had the supermarket  
4 been completely looted or just broken into?

5 A No, it had been broken into, a window broken.  
6 Police had put up a patrol in front of it to make certain  
7 that didn't reoccur. Sereno's market on the corner of  
8 William and J, the window there was broken.

9 Q No looting?  
10 A No appreciable amount. There may have been  
11 things taken out of the window, but that was about it.  
12 An alarm went off and then the chronology of the specific  
13 times, there was a fire in Sereno's market, a fire in  
14 Poti's market. Over a period of five days there were  
15 eight fires in each of those markets.

16 Q What was the basic discussion about at the  
17 meeting that evening?

18 A Well, one, the first thing I asked the first  
19 person who came forward -- he said, "There are many things  
20 that aren't right here and I want to speak about them."  
21 I said, "Go ahead."  
22 The first thing that came up was the fact that the  
23 people who were in the Fourth Ward were not able to drive  
24 their automobiles in McKay Park. McKay Park is the  
25 largest park in the town and normally two days a year, on



1 Memorial Day and on Labor Day it has been the custom for  
2 the churches to hold picnics in the park, sell food, have  
3 a convivial day. At the request of the churches the  
4 previous Memorial Day cars were not allowed in the park  
5 because of the fact that they had felt that an excessive  
6 number of cars driving around an unimproved road, children  
7 might be killed. It did attract a large element of people  
8 from other areas that they felt could cause trouble. All  
9 in all it wasn't in keeping with, they felt, the spirit  
10 of a picnic.

11 We didn't permit cars in the park. That apparently  
12 annoyed a number of young people that were there. They  
13 also stated that there was no place near there to park a  
14 car, which has some truth to it because the area is  
15 largely developed around the park.

16 We discussed possible alternative places that might  
17 be used. One area on the corner of First Street was  
18 suggested, and I said, well, we would look into that.  
19 These are initial things that came up.

20 The lack of coordination in recreation, they felt  
21 there was no recreational facilities or program for young  
22 adults. Baseball teams, football teams, that type of  
23 thing.

24 I was aware that we did have a program at one time  
25 for young adults, a baseball program, but it didn't go over

1 and it was largely forgotten.

2 A complaint was on lack of a swimming pool in the  
3 town. I said I would look into that particular matter.

4 And they said they wanted jobs. Again I said, "Fine,"  
5 but I felt at the time with the large number of people  
6 and all shouting we couldn't accomplish very much. So I  
7 said, "Look, I would like a representative group or a  
8 group of ten or twelve people to meet with me tomorrow in  
9 the Neighborhood Center" which had really not been organized  
10 but the Community Center had taken over the First Baptist  
11 Church and I said I would meet with them the next morning,  
12 a group of people from this particular crowd.

13 I talked a while and then left. As I left a few  
14 bottles and rocks were thrown in the air. I don't know  
15 if they were thrown at me or anyone else. They didn't  
16 hit me.

17  
18 Q Did the mob disperse when you left, or was it  
19 growing?

20 A No, they pretty much stayed in the area. Some  
21 left.

22 I also visited a couple of houses in that particular  
23 area. One man wanted to show me his home. The matter of  
24 housing did come up and why so-called decent housing was  
25 not provided in the area. We explained to them the  
housing situation in town, what we had been doing for a

1 long time, but it was hard to explain that.

2 We went into one home. The sheriff went in with me  
3 and the prosecutor also. That particular man said he was  
4 out of work. This was what bothered him. The sheriff  
5 offered him a job the next day as a custodian in the jail.  
6 I understand he did eventually get a job in the county jail.  
7

8 Q What would you say were the numbers out on J and  
9 Williams Street at this time?

10 A The figure that comes to mind and the figure that  
11 the police have pretty much determined, approximately 125.  
12 There may have been 200. It is hard to say, but there  
13 were groups that moved in and out of McKay Park, left the  
14 area, regrouped in McKay Park, came back again, but it  
15 appeared to me about 125.

16 Q I also gather the area was pretty well saturated  
17 with police at this time.

18 A Yes, J Street particularly facing onto Williams  
19 Street. We didn't surround the area per se, in other  
20 words, to contain the crowd, but we tried to keep more  
21 people from moving into the area and directed them to stay  
22 out of it. This is both on Williams Street and J Street.

23 Q What happened after your visit?

24 A We had sporadic incidents throughout the  
25 evening. There was some breaking of store windows on the  
lower part of the town about the time when most of the

1 people were occupied in this area. We had no effective  
2 patrols set up on Felisade Avenue.

3 Q Was there also a request to have the county  
4 and municipal police leave at that time?

5 A Yes, there was. They did move out. I felt it  
6 was necessary and would be a good idea to do it, and some  
7 of them were taken out. This incident was characterized  
8 by a police incident occurring, a report of a fire, an  
9 angry crowd, police moving in the area, police attempting  
10 to disperse it, meeting with resistance, eventually  
11 dispersal completed, and most of the men moved out again.

12 This pattern continued, in and out, in and out. In  
13 other words, at no time did we keep 50 or 60 men in that  
14 area for twenty-four hours at a time. Whether it was the  
15 right thing to do or wrong, it is hard to say.

16 Q You were patrolling it?

17 A We patrolled the area and we patrolled it with  
18 four men in a car. This was a complaint, that there were  
19 too many police in the area.

20 Q We have heard testimony to the effect that  
21 there was resentment toward the bringing in of the county  
22 police and the municipal police.

23 A I would indicate that was probably correct.  
24 There was resentment. I thought it was clearly beyond the  
25 capability of our force of 60 men to one to protect the

1 entire town and this particular area. The resentment,  
2 I am afraid I had to let them be resentful, but there was  
3 nothing could be done about it. The situation required  
4 more men than we had at our disposal.

5  
6 Q Mr. Mayer, I wonder what you would suggest in  
7 this kind of a situation. It takes something like Englewood  
8 and a similar situation in Newark where there is tension  
9 in the community, people out on the street. There is all  
10 kind of apprehension in the community that something is  
11 going to happen. There are rumors that things were going  
12 to happen. Do you have any suggestions to us as to how  
13 you go about dissipating that tension, and those rumors,  
14 prior to something actually happening? It seems to be the  
15 pattern in many of these disorders.

16 A I spoke to Mr. Crawley about it. He is director  
17 of the Urban League of Bergen County. I felt that he had  
18 a pretty good pulse of the situation, he should have had,  
19 and asked him for advice on this particular matter because  
20 (1) we had discussed with members of the Ministerial  
21 Association matters such as this, and we have had numerous  
22 meetings with them over a period of years. We had a police-  
23 community relations program going for several years. It  
24 was conducted by the National Conference of Christians and  
25 Jews. He at the time said frankly there wasn't very much  
that he could do about it. He didn't indicate what I could

1 do about it except for the feeling that there were not  
2 responsible elements in the community that were directing  
3 it. It certainly wasn't people from the ministerial level.  
4 It certainly wasn't local Negro businessmen, and it  
5 certainly wasn't long-time residents of the community whom  
6 I had contact with and whom I discussed these matters with.

7 unless It appeared to me, and it was sort of borne out at  
8 the time it occurred, these were largely original elements  
9 in the community, a small organized group who were  
10 determined to, we feel, repeat the possible success they  
11 had in Newark with looting, breaking in and taking things  
12 that didn't belong to them and asserting their strength.  
13 They certainly had been given ample documentation of this  
14 on television, and I think it had an appeal to even those  
15 that were not up to that point law-breaking residents. In  
16 other words, the appeal would be to possibly attain some-  
17 thing in this and nobody was going to do anything about it.

18 except Q What I think the Commission would like your  
19 judgment on is you take a situation whereby at four or  
20 five in the afternoon you see crowds beginning to build  
21 and you see the tension in the community beginning to build  
22 and it takes something like four or five until eight or  
23 nine in the evening before you have the incident. Once  
24 you have the incident, then obviously you have got a very  
25 different kind of ballgame. Is there anything that can be

1 done in that period between five and nine?

2 A I think in retrospect, although at that time I  
3 think we were pretty certain we were going to have trouble  
4 no matter what occurred and police officers going into the  
5 area were subjected to all kinds of abuse. Rocks were  
6 being thrown at the cars. It was not an area to move into  
7 unless you were going to move in in strength.

8 The big mistake has been made in the past by allowing  
9 too few police officers to move into a hostile area and  
10 the situation becomes more tense and out of their control,  
11 and, as happened in Plainfield, people get killed.

12 In this particular period if there was such a thing  
13 as a local television-radio station that you could have  
14 some direct communication with, probably an appeal over  
15 that television would be worthwhile. We don't have that  
16 type of situation in Englewood. I did go on the radio four  
17 days later, and I don't think too many people heard me,  
18 except a lot of people that weren't in the area commented  
19 on it. I did that merely to formalize our position.

20 I don't think sound trucks per se would do too much.  
21 I think people who are trained in this type of behavior  
22 and an indigenous group, largely Negroes, might well be  
23 utilized for this purpose. There is a definite psychology  
24 of crowds. It is known, it has been documented. There  
25 are certain things that can be done to disperse and to

1 break down hostile patterns. I have learned this since  
2 the incident, you might say. It might be in the form of  
3 music blanketing an area. It might be in the form of  
4 people going in and speaking and working in the crowd and  
5 not speaking on a platform or anything like that.

6 Q You mean members of a city administration just  
7 moving in on an individual basis?

8 A Yes. I don't think white people would go over  
9 too well in a situation like this. I don't think they  
10 would be wanted. I think there would be a hostile reaction  
11 to them. It should be people that are trusted in the  
12 area, that are fairly well known, who can move around and  
13 discuss it, or those who have had experience in dealing  
14 with this problem and who can speak in a logical manner  
15 and dissuade them from what is going on.

16 Primarily, however, in a situation, if it is  
17 organized, which ours appeared to be, you get to the  
18 ringleaders and stop it right there.

19 Q If you have that kind of intelligence that  
20 would enable you to do this. I think this matter is being

21 A That's right. People that were directly involved  
22 in the issue were those that abhor a great deal of  
23 hostility to the police force because they had been locked  
24 up on occasion, and they felt they were harassed by the  
25 police force.



1 I might say on the matter of harassment, this came  
2 up also: The fact that they were not allowed to stand on  
3 the corner of Williams and J or to congregate there without  
4 police breaking them up. This is a situation that occurred  
5 over a long period of time. Again local residents, church  
6 groups had stated these young fellows subjected women in  
7 the neighborhood to certain indignities and they didn't  
8 like it and it ran down the neighborhood. I had to agree  
9 with them there was no other place to hang out but there or  
10 in the park. So at that time I indicated we would set up  
11 a small park on the corner of William and J and if they  
12 wanted to congregate, sit down and congregate, but don't  
13 subject people in the neighborhood to any kind of abuse.  
14 That was a relatively minor thing, this is one of the  
15 demands that were made that particular evening.

16 Q Do you have any information of a concrete  
17 nature that the ringleaders referred to were other than  
18 those who live in Englewood and the surrounding community?

19 A I don't have any information of a concrete  
20 nature at the present time. I think this matter is being  
21 developed. Where they came from, who they are, I don't  
22 have it.

23 MR. JAFFE: Off the record.

24 (Discussion off the record.)

25 By Mr. Jaffe: you order the liquor...

1 Q We were on Friday, the 21st. Please continue.

2 A We continued on until approximately three o'clock  
3 in the morning and then dispersed many of the police that  
4 came in. It reverted back to pretty much of a normal  
5 pattern.

6 I might say we closed down all movies that night.  
7 We closed down liquor stores at eight o'clock that evening,  
8 bars, any place that people might congregate. This is a  
9 pattern that we continued every night as long as this was  
10 on. We also posted guards in front of liquor stores,  
11 television appliance stores, food stores, bars that were  
12 closed. I think it is very essential that any place

13 Q Did you have any liquor stores looted in  
14 Eaglewood?

15 A None. There was a report of one store where  
16 they stated they had lost forty cases of liquor. There  
17 apparently wasn't any overdamage to the store and how those  
18 forty cases were removed, the police haven't been able to  
19 determine. It would be rather difficult to remove forty  
20 cases without anybody seeing it. This is a store saying  
21 it happened. Whether it occurred is problematical. There  
22 seemed to be some doubts in people's minds that it occurred.

23 I might say the next morning or the 21st, I did

24 meet -- We closed down movies also. I think it is essential

25 Q What time did you order the liquor stores closed?

1           A     My recollection is eight o'clock that night.  
2           There was also a local party at a country club, the Field  
3           Club in Englewood, that particular evening, and we told  
4           people to disperse approximately the same time. They  
5           didn't like it.

6           Q     Your recollection is they were ordered closed  
7           at 8:00 p.m.?

8           A     That's right.

9           Q     Do you think that the quick closing of the  
10           liquor stores was an important factor in minimizing what  
11           happened?

12           A     I think it is very essential that any place  
13           that people are likely to congregate in in large numbers  
14           should be closed down because out of it is the possibility  
15           of another incident occurring plus the fact you either  
16           have to disperse your forces over too large an area because  
17           you would have to be watching these particular areas when  
18           they came out, and you cannot ask people to stay out of  
19           the area if they had free access to it. If you closed down  
20           a particular section and closed down business in the area,  
21           then presumably anyone in there is acting against your  
22           orders and as such would be subject to arrest or being  
23           ordered to move out of the area.

24           We closed down movies also. I think it is essential  
25           that type of entertainment be stopped because, again, it

1 brings crowds in, cars in and out of the place, and you  
2 have no control over it.

3 Q I think we are now on Saturday.

4 A Saturday is July 22, and I met at the Neighbor-  
5 hood Center with what was initially going to be about five  
6 or seven people and grew to about fifteen or twenty.

7 Augustus Harrison, who has since been named director of  
8 that center was there. He felt that I needed a bodyguard  
9 going into the center. They didn't know the character of  
10 people that were there, and so he assigned a particular man  
11 to me.

12 I met with a good many of the people I met with the  
13 night before. There were about twelve or fifteen, and they  
14 drifted in. They didn't put a limit of how many could come.  
15 They drifted in and again pretty much the same demands  
16 were up.

17 This time they were formalised in that they revolved  
18 around jobs and why couldn't they get jobs in Englewood  
19 and why couldn't they hold down a job in various industries  
20 in town and so forth.

21 They wanted recreational facilities; they wanted  
22 housing; they wanted less harassment by the police.

23 After spending about two hours talking back and forth  
24 and frequently being interrupted -- again we left it open  
25 to anyone speaking -- I said that I would have jobs

1 available within a reasonable period of time and that I  
2 would have them available for anyone that wished them. We  
3 talked about it. Subsequently at a later date we again  
4 brought it up. I can bring up that situation when it  
5 occurs in the chronology of it, but I made note of the  
6 fact that jobs were wanted.

7  
8 We left there without any clear understanding that  
9 there would be no further demonstrations. Those that were  
10 there said, "Well, this is just a whitewash and he doesn't  
11 mean what he says and it means nothing; forget it." I  
12 felt that while meeting with them was a good idea and  
13 discussing the matter and all their particular problems,  
14 there was no real conclusion and whether I had allayed  
15 the situation it is hard to say.

16 Q Do you think there was any real communication  
17 between yourself and the groups, or do you think it was a  
18 problem that had passed that stage?

19 A They listened. I would talk right up to them  
20 and say, "Quiet down. Let me speak." By and large the  
21 support was reasonably good. There were many of them  
22 that had a lack of interest, were curious, came in, walked  
23 around, left again.

24 Q What was the temper of the community at this  
25 time?

A This was during the daytime. During the daytime

1 there wasn't any difficulty at all. We had normal operations.  
 2 Liqueur stores were open. Theatres were open with matinees.  
 3 I would say the town after the first day or two was not  
 4 crowded during the daytime, but there was no hostile  
 5 incident at all during the daytime. It started almost on  
 6 the button at nine o'clock at night.

7 Q The same thing?

8 A The same thing, Saturday night, the same thing  
 9 Sunday night.

10 Q Was the crowd smaller or larger?

11 A Approximately the same number. I don't think  
 12 it grew beyond the initial stages.

13 Q I think your figure was about 120 to 125.

14 A One hundred twenty-five.

15 Q That was the largest it ever really grew to?

16 A I would say in that neighborhood. It is dif-  
 17 ficult to estimate because they came and went and they  
 18 moved out into the park. Some were in the park, some  
 19 were in the J and Williams Street area, but I think this  
 20 is a figure we more or less indicated.

21 Q Was the character of the disturbance on Saturday  
 22 and Sunday any different than Friday? Was there any  
 23 looting?

24 A Saturday night we heard of an exchange of  
 25 gunfire that took place, that someone had shot at a police

11 car, that the police car had holes in it. There was a  
12 report that the police were pinned down by rifle fire.  
13 This was a newspaper report. Some one obviously was firing  
14 either in the air or at the police. No one was struck by  
15 a bullet. The police asked what they should do, and we  
16 told them to return the fire and to attempt to locate the  
17 person who was doing the firing. They located a building  
18 that the party was in and searched the building and there  
19 was no one there. It is our feeling that probably whoever  
20 it was might have been shooting from a particular window  
21 and then knowing that the building would be searched, moved  
22 out and could quickly go into the park, which is right  
23 next to it. But there was no widespread shooting.

24 like Q I gather neither the police nor the county  
25 police engaged in return fire.

26 We say A There was a return fire. There were numerous  
27 shots. The exact number I don't recall, but obviously  
28 no one was hurt.

29 The Q No one was hit by either gunfire by the police  
30 or whoever might have instigated it?

31 A No.

32 Q Was fire a greater problem on Saturday night?

33 A Fire continued to be a problem all the time and  
34 the emphasis apparently was again on Sereno's, Foti's  
35 market, Foti's laundromat, three small stores in that

1 particular neighborhood. We had repeated fires there.  
2 We put them out. There were four families in the one  
3 building over Seran's market. We advised them to get out  
4 because we were constantly going in there to put out the  
5 fire, either upstairs or downstairs. The windows were  
6 broken. They were poor families. We made every effort to  
7 get them located and eventually did get them a place to  
8 live.

9 This is a little divergent matter that came up:  
10 There should be some particular regulation and/or body  
11 that would move in and take care of these people that are  
12 driven out of their houses during a particular incident  
13 that occurs, people who are innocent victims of a situation  
14 like this that they had no making of it. In my mind  
15 people in these particular apartments did not have this.  
16 We appealed to the Red Cross at that time, and they stated  
17 they had no authority to give any assistance.

18 Q Do you think that ought to be a state function?  
19 The reason I ask that, that problem, as you know, is  
20 really in a city like Newark where many innocent people  
21 were subjected to that kind of treatment. We would be  
22 interested whether you think it ought to be a state problem  
23 in the sense it ought to be the responsibility of the  
24 National Guard or a particular organization within the  
25 state.



1           A     I think it ought to be a particular organization  
2 and primarily it could fall under the civil defense  
3 organization. Again we were told that civil defense  
4 material could not be used in this type of a situation.  
5 We frankly did utilize cots, any material that we had.  
6 They put them up in the school gymnasium. Fortunately it  
7 was the summertime, so there wasn't any hardship. There  
8 definitely should be a relief organization that would  
9 step in and assist in this. It is not a police function,  
10 and it does compound the problem if you throw it into the  
11 police.  
12

13           CHAIRMAN LILLEY: Did the Red Cross  
14 refuse on the local level?

15           THE WITNESS: Yes. I have heard this is  
16 a mistake. We were told it is their policy not to  
17 be involved in this situation. I have spoken  
18 with the Red Cross directors in other areas,  
19 they say no, they were empowered to operate.  
20 I have spoken to local people and I think we  
21 will get the situation straightened out.

22           CHAIRMAN LILLEY: I presume in this case,  
23 Mr. Mayor, you or somebody in authority was  
24 telling them these were innocent victims.

25           THE WITNESS: We told them that. The  
support was lacking. We were able to take care

1 it. We had a fairly well organized civil defense  
2 force that while it didn't operate in the  
3 troubled areas, did serve as a backup. They  
4 took the situation under control and got them  
5 a place to live.

6 Actually in our area we could have put  
7 them up in a motel if we had to. We have done  
8 that at times when a fire takes place and we  
9 need temporary quarters. We move them into a  
10 local motel for a short period of time. Over  
11 a longer period of time it becomes difficult.  
12 Again this is a situation we have to consider  
13 in the future.

14 By Mr. Jaffe:

15 Q That is a very good suggestion, Mr. Mayor.

16 On Saturday night was there anymore looting?

17 A The looting, when it occurred, would be in the  
18 course of a glass being broken in these stores. Stores  
19 were broken into; the boards were taken off. The police  
20 did make an arrest. The exact evening I can't say, but  
21 most of the time the looting was confined to something  
22 in the meat counter, canned goods, that type of thing, to  
23 a degree where we closed these stores down completely.  
24 But the looting as such was confined to that area, and it  
25 wasn't large crowds of people breaking in, but it was

1 sporadic stealing more than anything else. In other words,  
2 somebody breaking in the place after it had been secured  
3 and taking things out.  
4

5 I would say this probably went on during the entire  
6 period that we had the disturbances.

7 Q When was the request of the State Police that  
8 we discussed before?

9 A You mentioned earlier did I make a request to  
10 the Governor, and on Saturday afternoon, which would be  
11 the 22nd, I discussed this with the prosecutor and it was  
12 felt that we should notify the Governor as to what was  
13 occurring and to bring it to his attention that we had a  
14 situation, that we probably might need help if it developed  
15 into a more serious situation. I spoke with Governor  
16 Hughes on the telephone and with Prosecutor Calissi. He  
17 asked us what the situation was, and we agreed that it was  
18 a troubled situation that could be serious and could be  
19 dangerous. I was not aware that the National Guard was  
20 almost completely utilized at that time, and I was told  
21 the State Police were completely utilized. I believe they  
22 were in Plainfield at the time.

23 The Governor did send two observers, two police  
24 observers and they sat in our headquarters and pretty much  
25 took down the radio transmissions and get a feel of the  
situation. I think he felt that we had the situation in

1 hand, and could handle it without any further assistance.

2 Q I gather you never felt it got so out of hand  
3 you needed state assistance.

4 A No, I don't think it did. I wanted to alert  
5 him to the fact if there was a backup unit of the Guard  
6 available that could be put in at the Teaneck Armory,  
7 all right, let them sit there; that we didn't need them,  
8 but I didn't know we might not need them.

9 Q In your judgment do you think that in your  
10 arrangement with the county police and the county municipal  
11 police forces as the first line of call is a better type  
12 of arrangement than, say, going to the State Police or the  
13 National Guard or the federal troops? What do you think  
14 should be the first group to come in to assist the munici-  
15 pality? the National Guard or State Police, again the

16 A I think frankly the first group that should come  
17 in, if it is at all feasible, are surrounding communities  
18 that have like interests, know the area fairly well. The  
19 county does have policemen moving in and out at the same  
20 time so they know the area also. It should be coordinated  
21 on a county basis, that any type of emergency, if it is  
22 relatively small, which ours would be considered in the  
23 course of events through the summer, they definitely should  
24 be in a position to move in.

25 I mentioned who is going to run the situation or who

1 is going to be in charge. I don't think there are any  
2 clear lines to dictate who should be in charge of a police  
3 operation. I think this should be dictated on the fact  
4 that of who is capable of handling it. If the local force  
5 has the communications or the personnel that are trained  
6 in it or has the expertise and has a doctrine laid down  
7 and knows exactly what they are going to do, then I would  
8 say by all means allow the local force to run it.

9  
10 If it is a situation that is organized along the  
11 lines of a traffic force largely where this type of situation  
12 never occurs and their main emphasis is probably regulating  
13 crowds at football games or something like that, then I  
14 think a trained force in the county should move in and take  
15 control of the situation. In the event that you have to  
16 call in the National Guard or State Police, again the  
17 coordination should be made ahead of time as to the  
18 desirability of one command, presumably a state law, if  
19 the National Guard moves in, the National Guard would then  
20 take control. Again, there are certain police functions that should  
21 be taken care of and certain Guard functions, and they may  
22 not be the same. But this to my mind should be completely  
23 spelled out in the form of formal doctrine so that they  
24 know exactly the responsibilities and the areas of patrol,  
25 the areas of control, the matter of communication, logistics.

1 In fact, this should be viewed strictly as a military  
2 operation.

3 Q Do you think it is also feasible along the lines  
4 that you are suggesting for the state to require each  
5 municipality of significant size to form some sort of riot  
6 plan or disorder plan, have certain type of equipment on  
7 hand, require certain training for it and require that it  
8 be integrated into a statewide program if necessary?  
9

10 A I think it would be a good idea. You don't  
11 know where this situation might occur, and to require a  
12 small community that isn't likely to have it, I think that  
13 would be a burden to them. But to a community that might  
14 have difficulties or where there are large minorities  
15 that might feel aggrieved, definitely this should be taken  
16 into consideration.

17 I think again do as we have done, develop personnel  
18 that would have the expertise or the feeling of the knowledge  
19 that can handle it. I don't think you are going to find  
20 that in the average police force. So, therefore, the  
21 state or the county might well take over that function. I  
22 am inclined to think the county should certainly handle it,  
23 organizing individual departments. Primarily what it  
24 means is communication. It means getting together, dis-  
25 cussing these matters, possibly on a monthly basis. Towards  
that end in Bergen County we have a County Police Chiefs'

11 Association. They get together informally and discuss  
12 position, lives in neighborhood and what how the office with  
13 many of these problems together. We recently organized  
14 a County Conference of Mayors to get together and talk  
15 these things over. But the formalized responsibility I  
16 think should fall on the county with overall state control,  
17 state interest anyway, and constantly checking up to make  
18 sure it is done.

19 Q Put a responsibility to submit plans to a state  
20 authority?

21 A That's right.

22 Q Mr. Mayor, you say on Sunday the same situation  
23 repeated. Did the same thing happen on Monday? When did  
24 the situation repeat and why, if you know?

25 A Speaking of the timing now, it was on Monday  
26 that I went on the air, and that was WJHZ, and they gave  
27 me ten minutes that I could make a proclamation in, and I  
28 again reemphasized the fact that we intended to take a  
29 firm stand in the matter and if any gunfire arose that there  
30 would be force met with double force. I don't know whether  
31 this proclamation got over to the people that were interested.  
32 I don't think so. It did to the people in the surrounding  
33 area that heard it, but that was it.

34 I received then, I guess it was on Monday, the 24th --  
35 Mr. Breslin was in my office -- it was the evening of the  
24th. Arnold Brown, the assemblyman who is now in that

being quite as active in the disturbance?

position, lives in Englewood and came into the office with

Vincent Tibbs. Mr. Breslin, correct me if I am wrong on things off in any way he could. I think he was under a lot of pressure to stay out of it, so he really couldn't

**MR. BRESLIN:** The twenty-fifth.

**By Mr. Jaffe:**

**Q** Is Mr. Tibbs a Negro?

**A** He is the councilman for that particular ward.

**Q** Had he been active in aiding you?

**A** I spoke with him, and he came into the office

quite often. He obviously was under a great deal of pressure. Mr. Brown and Mr. Tibbs stated that there were

five indignant residents from the area who wanted to

meet with me, the president of the council, Mr. France,

and discuss this matter. I said, "Who are the indignant

residents of the area?" Well, they wouldn't give me

their names. They said that was one of the agreements

that they had made, they would not reveal their names.

I said, "What did they want to talk about? What was the

agenda?" Well, they wouldn't indicate that. They were

going to talk about the disturbance.

"Well, would this be a public hearing?" I asked.

They said, "No, but the press would be invited."

"Yes." "Television?" "Yes." "Newspapers?" "Yes."

They wanted this meeting held in Lincoln School,

which was a school in the predominantly Negro area not



1     Q     Was he active in the disorders? the Board of  
 2     educ. A     No. I think he made an effort to try to cool  
 3     things off in any way he could. I think he was under a  
 4     lot of pressure to stay out of it, so he really couldn't  
 5     take as active a position that he probably would have  
 6     liked to have taken.

7     Q     I gather he was not with you at that Saturday  
 8     meeting.

9     A     He didn't attend that. I would have liked him  
 10    to be there, but he didn't attend the Saturday morning  
 11    meeting. Mr. Brown and Mr. Tibbs stated that there were  
 12    five indigenous residents from the area who wanted to  
 13    meet with me, the president of the council, Mr. Frease,  
 14    and discuss this matter. I said, "Who are the indigenous  
 15    residents of the area?" Well, they wouldn't give me  
 16    their names. They said that was one of the agreements  
 17    that they had made, they would not reveal their names.  
 18    I said, "What did they want to talk about? What was the  
 19    agenda?" Well, they wouldn't indicate that. They were  
 20    going to talk about the disturbance.  
 21    Q     Well, would this be a public hearing?" I asked.  
 22    A     They said, "No, but the press would be invited." Radio?  
 23    "Yes." Television? "Yes." Newspapers? "Yes."  
 24    Q     They wanted this meeting held in Lincoln School,  
 25    which was a school in the predominantly Negro area not

1 being used, now being used as offices for the board of  
2 education. I indicated I wanted Mr. Breslin at that  
3 meeting as Mr. Brown was an attorney and if he represented  
4 them as an attorney, I felt we should have an attorney  
5 there also. They finally agreed to it. We didn't give  
6 them an immediate answer. We discussed it at long  
7 length and obviously this was such an ephemeral type of  
8 thing, not knowing what we were discussing and not  
9 knowing who they were, it was difficult to state  
10 whether it would be of any value to do it or not.

11 We finally agreed, and I told them I would be there  
12 at 8:15 the following night and would be glad to discuss  
13 any questions that came up pretty much on their terms.

14 The following night, the 26th, I met with them.

15 There were about one hundred people or so grouped around  
16 the front of the building. They were kept out of the  
17 building. We sat in the gymnasium, and we had a long  
18 table similar to this, the five indigenous residents  
19 presumably representing the ward. I could see at an  
20 instant these people were not representative of the  
21 decent members of the community at least. Again, these  
22 were men who had been pretty much in trouble and were  
23 active in the disturbance, and many of the, again from  
24 the police background, were fellows that unfortunately  
25 had been locked up from time to time.

1 ~~Publ~~ Shirley Lacy, who was head of CORE, was there.

2 Arnold Brown. I don't recall that Tibbs was there that  
3 night. A man by the name of Akridge was there, Les and  
4 Hobson. ~~Discussion was somewhat similar to the~~

5 ~~disc~~ Q: Are any of these people whom you would consider  
6 the responsible leadership? ~~and why can't it~~

7 ~~be~~ A: Outside of Mr. Brown, I wouldn't say so.

8 These are people that had never been involved in any type  
9 of civil rights activity even as a matter of interest,  
10 with the exception of Mrs. Lacy who has been involved in  
11 many things in the community, largely on the basis of  
12 organization and that type of thing. The others have  
13 never appeared interested in any hearings that we ever  
14 held on housing or any other matters. ~~would be done and~~

15 ~~every~~ Q: Are there other Negroes in the city  
16 administration besides Mr. Tibbs, or is he the only one?

17 ~~and~~ A: Negroes are represented on all our boards and  
18 committees. The president of the Board of Education is  
19 a Negro. The past president of the Board of Health is  
20 a Negro. They have a Board of Police Commissioners and  
21 a Negro member on there, a retired colonel in the Army.

22 ~~were~~ I would say practically in all areas of the governing  
23 body Negroes are represented. Police and fire, of course.  
24 Approximately 20% of our police force is Negro. About  
25 the same for the Fire Department. Practically 80% of our

1 Public Works Department is Negro. They are well  
2 represented in government, also by Mr. Tibbs as an  
3 elective representative of their area.

4 The discussion was somewhat similar to the  
5 discussion we had held the previous Saturday. The  
6 questions were: Why isn't this done? and Why can't it  
7 be done tomorrow? Why wasn't it done yesterday?  
8 Somewhat strictly hostile, demanding, somewhat irrational  
9 at times with not a clear understanding of the fact that  
10 we have a mayor-council system and I don't vote on any  
11 ordinances and I don't have veto power on ordinances;  
12 that is a council matter. Matters of appropriation of  
13 funds have to go before the council. It was felt all I  
14 had to do was write a check, and this could be done and  
15 everything would be solved the next day.

16 There was, I would say, television which was there  
17 and homed in on the situation, and after a while I think  
18 they got tired of it and Mr. Breslin got pretty excited at  
19 one stage. I don't blame him in the least, but I did  
20 feel there might be an effort here to break up this  
21 meeting. I didn't want the meeting broken up. References  
22 were made, "It is going to be a hot night tonight," and  
23 it was a warm night anyway. But many other threatening  
24 suggestions were made. We finally decided to disburse  
25 for a little while, take a walk around the room and

1 everybody relaxed a while.

2 After approximately three hours of this discussion  
3 back and forth generally the tone of their voices receded  
4 to some degree, and again the suggestion was made, "Well,  
5 what about jobs for us?" and "Why can't we get jobs?"  
6 I said, "I will be back in a week from tonight and I will  
7 have jobs for anybody who wants them." I said I would  
8 meet them in McKay Park within a week with jobs.

9 This might be a rare statement to make, but I felt  
10 there were sufficient jobs in the neighborhood to  
11 accommodate anyone who wanted them. In fact, in Bergen  
12 County at that time there were 425 semi-skilled jobs  
13 available that were not being filled.

14 Just Q: Where these in the community where the people  
15 can get to them? A: Distinct feeling that an unskilled job  
16 of \$100 a week is

17 not Q: We have heard testimony that transportation to  
18 employment is a big problem.

19 A: I learned of that particular problem while I  
20 was there and, of course, I know that in other areas  
21 normally somebody owns an automobile and five people share  
22 a car with them and they go to the particular place.  
23 However, in our town we do have a number of assembly  
24 type operations, storage, warehouse, no heavy industry,  
25 but this type of operation that does require labor.

1 I sent a letter out to all businesses in the  
2 community pointing out the need for additional jobs and  
3 let them come forward and let them offer their help.  
4 Also I got full cooperation from the New Jersey State  
5 Employment office which happens to have an office located  
6 in Englewood.

7 During the next week we acquired applications for  
8 some forty jobs. I felt that was adequate for the  
9 number that had asked for it. That would certainly  
10 indicate we would have a sufficient number to handle it.  
11 The type of job is a situation that you run into. The  
12 jobs ranged in salary from \$70 a week to \$125 a week,  
13 All of them were unskilled, semi-skilled in character,  
14 just by way of observation.

15 There is a distinct feeling that an unskilled job  
16 of an unskilled character of less than \$100 a week is  
17 not worth taking. I have repeatedly heard this  
18 discussion. "It is not worth the job; it doesn't mean  
19 anything to us. It doesn't get us anywhere." I am  
20 thinking again of Negro groups whom I have spoken to,  
21 notespecially those that are in a disturbed situation.

22 At that time I suggested, and have suggested  
23 frequently since then, that our vocational training  
24 schools be utilized for the purpose of upgrading people's  
25 job capabilities. The vocational training schools that

1 we have, we have an excellent one in the county which  
2 has not been used at night to any degree. Basically  
3 what is lacking here is you have dropouts from high  
4 school who have not really gotten an educational  
5 background beyond the sixth grade?

6 CHAIRMAN LILLEY: Where is that  
7 vocational school?

8 THE WITNESS: Hackensack.

9 CHAIRMAN LILLEY: Is there a transportation  
10 problem here too?

11 THE WITNESS: Hackensack is about seven  
12 miles away. Again, there are busses that go  
13 back and forth. It may not be a bus within  
14 a block of it, but you can get back and forth  
15 if you want to get there.

16 You have this educational deficiency  
17 which makes them untrainable to a large degree.  
18 So it appears to me that what we should be  
19 doing is, one, training these dropouts who are  
20 in their twenties, give them the basic skills  
21 of arithmetic, English. Most specifically  
22 what they are going to use on a specific job.  
23 I wouldn't give them courses in history and  
24 that type of thing.

25 This I am rambling here, but I would like to

1 get this in as a thought. We can't get around  
2 boys I would think industry would want to  
3 frankly hire people in an unskilled category  
4 that would lead into a semi-skilled job in  
5 most instances, and possibly into a skilled  
6 job. We have more jobs than we have  
7 applicants for in Bergen County. But when you  
8 reach a point where you are running a lathe  
9 and unless you know fractions and can read a  
10 micrometer, you are not going to get too far.  
11 They can't push them into that particular  
12 category unless they have the basic skills.  
13 I would think they might well consider  
14 an on-the-job training program utilizing  
15 local industry during the daytime or maybe  
16 five hours a day in a particular job, but then  
17 set aside a steady period that would devote  
18 itself to assisting them for the preparation  
19 of the next step in that particular job  
20 classification. We are doing this in the high  
21 school at the present time.

22 We have thirty-five young boys, and two  
23 girls, involved in a work-study program which  
24 is largely sponsored by the GEO, I would say.  
25 This program has been very well accepted by



1 local industry. In fact, we can't get enough  
2 boys and girls to fill the jobs that are  
3 required. They make on the average of \$1,200  
4 a year. Many of them have jobs waiting for  
5 them as soon as they get out of high school.  
6 Most of them do. They are already starting in  
7 the junior and senior year to give them  
8 advanced training and sending them to their  
9 home office training centers where they find  
10 they have the ability and the interest.

11 So again I throw this out as a suggestion.  
12 We are not reaching this particular group.  
13 The high school group is to some degree being  
14 taken care of, but the dropout situation,  
15 which is becoming extremely serious, is not  
16 being taken care of and they don't want to go  
17 back to formalized schools again. There is a  
18 feeling, "I am not a dumbbell. I don't have  
19 to go to school again," but train them for a  
20 specific job and a specific need that exists  
21 in the particular area. ~~discuss with their~~  
22 ~~and~~ SENATOR DOUGHERTY: May I explore that,  
23 Mr. Mayor? The high school effort you refer  
24 to, is that a collaboration between the high  
25 school and industry? The boy who drops out

1 THE WITNESS: Yes, it is. We have a board  
2 made up of people in local industry. We meet  
3 periodically every few months. They are in  
4 direct contact with an advisor in school, a  
5 man whose full time job is advising these  
6 young boys and girls, and if they fall down  
7 on the job along the way, to get ahold of  
8 them and say, "Your effort hasn't been  
9 satisfactory" and then improve it and then to  
10 motivate them.

11 We have a dinner once a year. We try to  
12 encourage them to continue their work. We  
13 give it some degree of status. The local  
14 industry gets behind it, and they are much  
15 interested and they support it.

16 BISHOP DOUGHERTY: The high school boys  
17 and girls have a certain amount of experience  
18 in work while they are taking their high school  
19 studies? particular group to do work with

20 THE WITNESS: That is exactly it. They  
21 work on the jobs and it dovetails with their  
22 studies. They might work for a month at a time,  
23 make that month up by going back to school for  
24 a few hours a day even.

25 BISHOP DOUGHERTY: The boy who drops out

1 at the sixth grade level, I would like to  
2 explore that a bit. The efforts made for him  
3 are limited just to industry? Is that the  
4 intent of your remarks?

5 THE WITNESS: Not necessarily. I think  
6 it would depend upon his inclination. The  
7 computer revolution obviously is something  
8 that if you can get them motivated in that  
9 regard there are unlimited job opportunities  
10 in that industry. It most likely is going to  
11 be the biggest industry in this country. This  
12 is a particularly vulnerable group I would  
13 think that we had to look into. They shift  
14 into a life of crime because they are looking  
15 for a means of spending money. They get  
16 caught. They are not able to get a job in  
17 reasonable business concerns. They are on  
18 dialogue, the outside looking in, and it is very difficult  
19 one person with this particular group to do much with  
20 them unless you can again indicate that they  
21 are going to move a step forward and then look  
22 to something better.

23 BISHOP DOUGHERTY: Would they be almost  
24 illiterate? Are they able to read? I gave

25 THE WITNESS: They are able to read in a

1 who would perfunctory fashion. Whether they are able to  
2 understand it is something else. Mathematics  
3 but I think they are pretty poor on. I don't even think  
4 this is the fault of the school system because  
5 those on unfortunately their attitudes or their home  
6 want to environment has been such that maybe they are  
7 newspaper not encouraged to move ahead.

8 they said. By Mr. Jaffe:

9 Q Just a few more questions.

10 A I could go back to finish up.

11 We did come back a week later in McKay Park, and at  
12 that time I hoped there more or less would be a  
13 get together, again a discussion who wanted the jobs.  
14 Again we had television people on the scene and there  
15 was a constant effort to build this up to some degree.  
16 Unfortunately the same people that we spoke to earlier,  
17 there wasn't much effort to coordinate any kind of a  
18 dialogue. I was alone in the particular area. I had  
19 one person with me, but it was difficult to talk to them.  
20 There was constant interruption, shouting. I said,  
21 "Look, I came here. I have these job applications. The  
22 thought was you people wanted jobs. And now, how many of  
23 you want them?" There was a pause, and finally one person  
24 raised his hand and said, "I would like a job". I gave  
25 him the application. At about that time a woman said

1 she would like one and, frankly, I hadn't planned on any  
2 women asking for jobs. So I was a little out of luck,  
3 but I think we got her taken care of.

4 In essence 39 jobs were not taken. We published  
5 those on the front page of the newspaper. I didn't  
6 want to put them in the wanted columns. The local  
7 newspaper published the jobs, where they were, how much  
8 they paid, and eventually people read about them and  
9 some of the people that weren't even concerned with it  
10 got out and took the job and applied for it.

11 It was an issue that was not justified. They did  
12 not want the jobs. Those that spoke about wanting jobs  
13 weren't willing to take them.

14 Q What is the prevailing wage rate in Englewood?

15 A It started at approximately \$65 or \$70 a week.  
16 It went up to in some instances \$125 a week.

17 Q What in your opinion defused the situation?

18 A Stopped it? Possibly the fact that our  
19 discussion of that one evening in talking may have had  
20 some effect. Secondly, most of these things could not  
21 be accomplished overnight. We couldn't get a housing  
22 development built for them. I had indicated that we  
23 intended to go into a community improvement program  
24 because we were unable to get federal assistance under  
25 our application. We since that time have had a council

1 meeting and appropriated \$300,000 for a community  
2 improvement program. It has been reasonably well accepted  
3 by the community and by the particular area. The  
4 emphasis was to renovate -- not to renovate, but to  
5 renew the area concerned, namely, the Jay-William Street  
6 area. That was the area that we felt needed renewal, and  
7 get that done.

8 Q Do you think the promises of these programs at  
9 this meeting just stopped the mobs from congregating at  
10 Jay and William? I know it is a difficult question.

11 A I doubt it. I am inclined to think the  
12 objectives, if they were to create a riotous situation,  
13 had not been met and it became quite apparent that we  
14 weren't going to back down on the situation or not going  
15 to give in to a riot, nor were we going to pull the  
16 police out of the area. We continued to call on them.  
17 As nights went on and we didn't need them, we just lopped  
18 off whole groups of them. We had no intention of  
19 abandoning the situation or allowing the community to go  
20 back to a situation where riots happened or a group could  
21 dictate.  
22 The behavior of particular individuals in that area  
23 continued very hostile for a period of a couple of weeks.  
24 There was rock throwing at police cars going through the  
25 area and so forth. Abusive names. The police became

1 very much aware of this and took no really strong action  
2 on it. I didn't want them to. Since that time anyone  
3 who has been engaged in this has been picked up quickly.  
4 The emphasis had reached a peak, and it was on the  
5 downtrend. Maybe church-going people.

6 There are people that think there are certain tides  
7 and you have gone through that theory, I suppose, moon  
8 phases.

9 Q That is the reason for my question. Englewood  
10 did not seem to have gone through the typical pattern.

11 A I am inclined to think again there was prompt  
12 use of police who handled themselves to my mind in an  
13 exemplary manner. They were firm. Most of the policemen,  
14 again, know the neighborhood and know the temperament of  
15 the community, and basically the people in the area were  
16 not this way inclined. They did not have grass roots  
17 support by the large population of Englewood.

18 When you are speaking of 8,800 Negro population, I  
19 am speaking of maybe 125 or 200 people and you are  
20 talking about a neighborhood of one or two percent.

21 Many, many people would sit on their porches and in  
22 their homes and just stay out of it. So I feel that,  
23 frankly, the temper of it was never such that it had the  
24 popular support and it never got off the ground.

25 Probably the reason was effective use of police support

1 when we needed it. Others that have attempted to come in  
2 and assist us, local clergy, etc., weren't of much  
3 assistance, and I have to say this because the people  
4 that were largely concerned with it were not parishioners  
5 or were not maybe church-going people.

6 ~~maintainance~~ BISHOP DOUGHERTY: Had the clergy been  
7 pretty ~~is~~ previously involved with the people or not?

8 ~~any number of~~ THE WITNESS: No. They had shown an  
9 out of ~~the~~ interest, and several of them were churches in  
10 problem. The area which had been quite hostile to the

11 ~~Again~~ administration and felt we hadn't done the  
12 ~~is the~~ right thing on housing and that type of thing,  
13 contained but they didn't become involved in it because,  
14 rid of. Frankly, I guess they realized it was beyond  
15 part in ~~it~~ their control, and it is. ~~waters, communications,~~

16 ~~transport~~ By Mr. Jaffe:

17 Q: I promise you my last question and that is this  
18 I think we ought to have your views on the record. We  
19 have heard testimony from other members of the community  
20 that the major problem facing Englewood is the problem  
21 of housing, and particular reference has been made to  
22 the fact that the plan put forth by the administration  
23 would continue the segregated housing patterns in Englewood.  
24 I wonder if you would comment on (a) do you think  
25 housing is the major problem in Englewood and (b) your



1 thoughts as to what you think the solution is.

2 through A. Housing is a problem in that we don't have  
3 the tenement type housing. These are largely two-family  
4 homes that were built maybe fifty years ago and have  
5 deteriorated over the years. We have standards,  
6 maintenance standards and health codes, and we are  
7 pretty rigid on it. We have over a period of time had  
8 any number of these types of houses demolished and put  
9 out of the way. That does not solve the overall housing  
10 problem.

11 Again we felt that the area that should be utilized  
12 is the area in the downtown business district that  
13 contained substandard homes which we would like to get  
14 rid of. The area is next to McKay Park, the largest  
15 park in the city, is near shopping centers, communications,  
16 transportation, etc.  
17 We were offering at the time plots for those who  
18 owned houses who would be affected and wanted to rebuild  
19 a home of their own but didn't have the land for it.  
20 As to perpetuating segregation, this could hardly  
21 be said because we have open housing in Englewood and,  
22 as was mentioned before, Negroes live in all areas of the  
23 city. A plan was suggested to move many of the people  
24 from this particular area to a spot known as Trumbull  
25 Park, which is in the southeast portion of the town.

1 It is right on the border of Fort Lee. Route 4 cuts  
2 through. It is right adjacent to Route 4. We investigated  
3 it carefully. It is clearly unsuitable terrain. It is  
4 solid basaltic palisades. The costs of construction are  
5 completely out of line, would not satisfy public  
6 standards. Again, the nearest shopping center is a mile  
7 and a half away. Buses infrequently go down Route 4.  
8 Not all of them go into Englewood. The area is not  
9 suited, and I frankly doubt very much if any families  
10 would move in after you get it done.

11 This is one of the suggestions made, that we put  
12 through such a plan as that to get federal funds. We  
13 put the matter on a referendum during the last election,  
14 and it was defeated and with clear emphasis for the  
15 community improvement program.

16 I might also say in all honesty some of the  
17 proponents of the plan were defeated in the election,  
18 namely, city officials representing our continuance in  
19 government. However, the plan was approved by  
20 about 1,400 votes. One person lost by fifteen or sixteen  
21 votes, the mayor, who proposed this plan, lost by about  
22 one hundred, and the other plan was defeated. There is a  
23 little divergency thinking as to which is preferable.  
24 But housing I would think, and we haven't dragged our  
25 feet on it -- I got involved in this in 1959. In 1963

1 it had been approved by the Federal Government. We had  
2 numerous studies, but again it has been foot dragging in  
3 Washington, and it has been a very frustrating situation.  
4 I would rather not go into it any further. There may  
5 have been mistakes on both sides.

6 CHAIRMAN LILLEY: Any questions from the  
7 called as Commission?

8 JUDGE WACHENFELD: I have none.

9 Q. COOK: BISHOP DOUGHERTY: No, thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN LILLEY: Mayor Volk, we thank  
11 you for coming. You have been generous with  
12 your time, and I think you have given us  
13 things that are useful.

14 I think I might say for the record that  
15 we hope when you move into your new public  
16 position in the Assembly some of this background  
17 Department will be useful and help you.

18 THE WITNESS: It certainly will, and many  
19 of the findings that come out of this Commission  
20 I would like to propose in the form of  
21 legislation if you feel it desirable, and I  
22 certainly welcome any opportunity to assist in  
23 the recommendations that are found here in this  
24 Commission.

25 CHAIRMAN LILLEY: Thank you very much. We

Police Department may take you up on that. ... almost 100% of the men attended at (Witness excused)

In shifts. We couldn't ... at one time but in shifts.

Whereupon, ... the first course, we made sure to send them to the next.

JOHN MADDEN  
and  
WILLIAM HARRINGTON

called as witnesses, duly sworn, testified as follows:

EXAMINATION BY MR. JAFFE

Q Could you please give for the record your official position, your address and how long you have resided in Englewood, Chief?

A Chief Madden, Chief of Police of Englewood Police Department; forty years in Englewood.

Q Forty years you have lived in Englewood?

A That's right.

Q Have you been with the Englewood Police Department for a good portion of your adult life?

A Thirty-six years.

Q Could you just briefly discuss with us, Chief, the kind of riot training that is given your men, the kind of introduction in handling civil disorders, what type of training you have given along these lines prior to the summer of 1967?

A We took advantage of almost every course available to us in the academy and in the Bergen County