

1 know what happened. I was next to a  
2 walkie-talkie, that's the only way I was  
3 getting my information. But, I was limited  
4 because I didn't want a walkie-talkie on when  
5 I was moving up the street.

6 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: I have no further  
7 questions.

8 MR. FORTUNATO: Thank you very much,  
9 Sergeant.

10  
11 C A R M E N F. R O S A, sworn.

12 EXAMINATION BY MR. FORTUNATO:

13 Q Are you a resident of Plainfield?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q For how long?

16 A I was born and raised in Plainfield, 41 years.

17 Q What is your background and experience on the  
18 Plainfield Police force?

19 A I am going into my 18th year.

20 Q You are a patrolman?

21 A Yes, sir.

22 Q When you say patrolman, does that mean you are  
23 actually on foot or are you in a radio car?

24 A That is the rank.

25 Q What fundamentally do you do?

1 A I have been walking more than riding until  
2 recently.

3 Q Are you now riding more?

4 A No, it is about split up again. I do walk and  
5 ride. It is mostly six hours of walking and then we ride  
6 six hours to break the day up.

7 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Does that mean you  
8 are working 12 hours a day?

9 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

10 Q Can you tell us what it means to be a good  
11 police officer in Plainfield.

12 A Well, I know where I live, on my beat--this  
13 has been going on for the last two or three years--I have  
14 made many friends and I made it my business to make these  
15 friends among all groups.

16 Q Where is your beat?

17 A It is on West Front Street and part of East  
18 Front Street. It takes in Madison Avenue, North Avenue,  
19 West 2nd Street, where I would say the lower class people  
20 live with the exception of Front Street where the business  
21 section is.

2 Q You indicated that you apparently had made an  
3 effort in the last two or three years to get on a  
4 personal relationship or personal basis with these people.  
5 What did you do to have a good relationship?



1           A       I frequent the restaurants that are owned by  
2 the Puerto Ricans. I go there to study their language.  
3 They have volunteered to teach me their language so that  
4 I could communicate with them. I have done this for the  
5 last two or three years to master their language.

6           I also have one or two that I have tried to get them  
7 jobs in different restaurants. The kids, when I am  
8 working on Sundays and they see me, we spend maybe two  
9 hours out of the day together. I don't mean all at one  
10 time, but whenever I walk by their apartment houses, I  
11 make sure that they see me and that we do talk to one  
12 another whether it is in Spanish or English.

13           Q       MR. LEUCHTER: How about with the Negro  
14 walking population?

15           THE WITNESS: The same thing, sir. I  
16 Shop-Rite could be half a block away, a block, and when  
17 I would see they recognize me they will run that block to  
18 come up to me. I don't mean four or five, I  
19 mean 20 or 30. I would say the oldest one is  
20 10 or 12 years old. Even the small ones at  
21 three or four recognize me and they have  
22 learned to say my name.

23           Q       If I am in a police car, I open up the  
24 doors and they all jump in. Although I don't  
25 move the car, they are in there and I let them

1 they play handle whatever is in there. I let them try  
2 because I on my hat and what-have-you, and I know at  
3 13 or 14 times it cost me maybe 20 or 30 cents a day  
4 in the 15 in candy that I like to bring with me at all  
5 times to show them that I am very, very  
6 friendly.

7 Q What do they talk to you about?

8 A Just about each other mostly, like how one stole  
9 or cheated in a game that they were playing. That is  
10 mostly what it is all about, or they are always asking  
11 me for a nickel or a dime. Whenever I am walking around  
12 the ice cream store, I know they are always with me. As  
13 a matter of fact, this happened last night. While I was  
14 walking, I must have had eight or ten with me walking  
15 hand in hand. I helped carry their package from the  
16 Shop-Rite market because it was a heavy package for them.  
17 I would say the oldest one was nine years old.

18 Q You spoke about this age bracket. Is there a  
19 different age bracket that you also talk to? Do you have  
20 occasion to talk to teenagers?

21 A Yes, sir, up until 15 or 16 years old. I know  
22 many of them. When I worked in the radio car two or three  
23 years back up in the Elmwood Gardens, which is a housing  
24 project we have, I was known to be a very friendly  
25 policeman. I played football with them. Another game



1 they play is called 4 Square that I learned to master  
2 because I played with them. These boys at the time were  
3 13 or 14 and today they still know me. They should be  
4 in the 15 or 16 year old bracket.

5 Q Do you try and help these youths in any way?

6 A I do. I lecture to them quite a bit about the  
7 manner of their speech, manner of their dress. I do  
8 this to show them that with the proper schooling they  
9 will get an opportunity to succeed. I told them that I  
10 am not a high school graduate, that I only went to the  
11 second year of high school, but by learning on my own  
12 and taking up a different trade and learning from books,  
13 I did become a policeman. Although it is not the best  
14 paid job in the world, it did make a nice family name.  
15 My mother is respected in town and we do have a good  
16 family name in Plainfield. It did pay off not in monetary  
17 value but just being part of the community.

18 Another thing I could add, sir, is whenever we have  
19 a dance at the Mohawk Lodge, which is mostly Negro there,  
20 I usually volunteer to work it because they know me there.  
21 Many times I am recommended to work there because I am  
2 very friendly with them. One day, I think it was last  
3 Friday, I worked there for a period of four hours because  
4 they wanted me there. Whenever I am there, there is no  
5 incidents of any kind.

1 Q Has this feeling towards you changed in any way  
2 because of the disorder in July or has your relationship  
3 with the community remained the same?

4 A Not at all. I am just as friendly to them now  
5 as I was before the riot. I don't say I am more or less,  
6 because the ones that I knew then I know now. When I  
7 work football games, I usually go on the side where they  
8 are at because they know me, and they even gave me a  
9 couple of cheers one time when they played South Side  
10 from Newark.

11 Q Are there many other police officers that work  
12 the same beat?

13 A I don't believe so. I think there are just two  
14 of us that usually had this beat, three rather, when we  
15 were on eight hour shifts. Now that we are on 12, there  
16 is just two of us.

17 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Why are you working a  
18 12 hour shift?

19 THE WITNESS: Sir, we are undermanned by  
20 about 20 policemen.

21 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: You are not giving  
22 any special assignment, this is just because  
23 the force is undermanned?

24 THE WITNESS: To take up the--

25 MR. LEUCHTER: Take up the hours of the



1 week.

2 THE WITNESS: Necessitated by the shortage  
3 of men.

4 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Are you paid for  
5 these extra hours?

6 THE WITNESS: Yes, we are.

7 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Were you active  
8 during the riots in any special capacity?

9 THE WITNESS: During the riots I was one  
10 that was pinned down by gunfire at the corner  
11 of West 2nd and Central Avenue. It happened on  
12 my beat.

13 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Did you ever  
14 understand why you couldn't move about freely?

15 THE WITNESS: This was on my beat, sir,  
16 but I had been called in off the beat and then  
17 I was reassigned. I was on vacation and I was  
18 called back from vacation.

19 MR. LEUCHTER: You would not have been  
20 recognized at night, would you?

21 THE WITNESS: I don't believe so.

22 MR. LEUCHTER: You were not Patrolman  
23 Ross, you were just--

24 THE WITNESS: I was just another police  
25 officer, that's all.

1 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Did the community  
2 ever react to you as Patrolman Rosa either  
3 during the disturbance or after?

4 THE WITNESS: I do recall I think it was  
5 the day after the riots on a Monday, that there  
6 was some comment made that if we had more  
7 policemen like Carmen to come to talk to us  
8 maybe we could get more headway, but that was  
9 the last I heard of it.

10 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: You had never been  
11 used with the community in any special capacity  
12 for communication?

13 THE WITNESS: No, never at all.

14 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Has anybody in the  
15 city department ever commented on the fact that  
16 you are very close to the people and they seem  
17 to respond to you?

18 THE WITNESS: No, I don't believe so.  
19 The first I knew of anything was when the Major  
20 here approached me a couple of weeks ago and  
21 just said that my name had been mentioned in  
22 Washington for some reason.

23 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Apparently, people  
24 say you are the kind of policeman they can  
25 relate to.



1 THE WITNESS: That's right.

2 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: You have never  
3 officially been called in or criticized because  
4 of your relationship, have you?

5 THE WITNESS: No, no.

6 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Have you been  
7 criticized from any other unofficial source?

8 THE WITNESS: This is from some Negroes  
9 themselves that had come up to me and told me  
10 that they heard things, and they knew me and  
11 they felt free to tell me about it.

12 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Did any member of  
13 the Police Department react against you after  
14 the disturbance saying that these are some of  
15 your friends and so forth?

16 THE WITNESS: No, they just know that when  
17 I do go on a call, that most of the time there  
18 is not going to be an arrest especially if  
19 there is any juveniles.

20 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Why is that?

21 THE WITNESS: Because I believe in  
22 the only reasoning. I don't intend to lock up a juvenile  
23 because he stole someone's ball or a window  
24 happened to be broken accidentally. To me, I  
25 don't consider that a serious thing.

1           the image of       VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: As a result of this,  
2 do you believe your police work is effective in  
3 the community?

4           THE WITNESS: Yes, I believe so. As a  
5 matter of fact, I volunteered to work the Negro  
6 section.

7           VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: At these dances where  
8 you are assigned or where you are requested or  
9 otherwise, do you find you have had any trouble  
10 in handling any incidents?

11          THE WITNESS: Not at all. As a matter of  
12 fact, some of them go out of their way to make  
13 sure I have food and drink there. Just as soon  
14 as I come up the stairs, they say, "Carmen is  
15 here."

16          MR. LEUCHTER: On these assignments where  
17 you have been invited to patrol a dance, have  
18 you ever had occasion to arrest somebody?

19          THE WITNESS: Never, not at all.

20          Q     Have there been any disturbances?

21          A     There hasn't been any. As a matter of fact,  
22 the only time they criticized me is when some of them ask  
23 me to dance and I can't because I am on duty. It is my  
24 duty to be there to actually watch the place. I can't  
25 take it upon myself to start dancing because I would lose



1 the image of what my job really consists of.

2 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: To your knowledge,  
3 is there any community relations program in the  
4 department which could utilize this line of  
5 communication?

6 THE WITNESS: Sir, we had one last year.  
7 I believe it was a seven week course on police-  
8 community relations and we all were compelled  
9 to attend.

10 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: What happened after  
11 that? Was there any program put into effect?

12 THE WITNESS: The only thing I know of is  
13 what we as individuals have done by ourselves.  
14 We have been told by our superiors to be  
15 friendly and to promote what we call "Rocks  
16 in the roadway," which is a booklet which was  
17 issued years ago, and to be friendly and show  
18 the people that you are out there to do a job.

19 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: You need not name  
20 anybody, but are there any patrolmen whom the  
21 community particularly resent?

2 THE WITNESS: I don't know anybody by name.

3 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: I mean without  
4 naming anyone. Are there any patrolmen they  
5 resent and feel are anti-Negro or anti-Puerto

1 Rican?

2 THE WITNESS: No, I haven't heard of  
3 anybody that is disliked or hated, because we  
4 don't see each other that much, sir, anymore  
5 like we used to. It is just that you are  
6 coming in and going out with these 12 hour  
7 shifts since last July. It might be a matter of  
8 weeks before you actually see someone that you  
9 have worked with.

10 MR. LEUCHTER: Has it happened though, Mr.  
11 Ross, where people came to you and said, "Carmen,  
12 you are really a good guy but the rest of that  
13 police department, they are bad, they are brutal"?

14 THE WITNESS: I heard there was a list, sir,  
15 where there were certain ones that were mentioned  
16 that they didn't like.

17 MR. LEUCHTER: Did you feel that there was  
18 resentment in the Negro community toward the  
19 police in general excepting you or a couple of  
20 men?

21 THE WITNESS: I would say yes. I don't  
22 know whether it was anything personal but it  
23 was just because of what we were there for, to  
24 protect the public, but I guess they didn't like  
25 us even though many of us have never done anything



1 to hurt them. I would say some of us have gone  
2 out of our way to really make the contact and  
3 be friendly with them. I wouldn't know what  
4 to say in the event that I was in the middle  
5 there what they would do to me. I really don't  
6 know today.

7 MR. LEUCHTER: Do you feel that had you  
8 been at 2nd or 3rd in Plainfield on that  
9 Sunday night in the vicinity where Officer  
10 Gleason was, that the same thing might have  
11 happened to you or because they would have known  
12 you, that it would not have happened?

13 THE WITNESS: It is hard to say, sir,  
14 because from what information I received there  
15 were many outsiders there that Negroes in town  
16 didn't even recognize.

17 Q From where did you receive that information?

18 A From some of the Negro friends that I have.

19 Q They told you specifically that there were people  
20 who were non-residents of Plainfield?

21 A That's right, that they never recognized in  
22 Plainfield, that they didn't know what they looked like.  
23 They never saw them in town before in that area.

24 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Have you sensed any  
25 anti-white feeling in the Negro community or

1 against all white people?

2 THE WITNESS: I have sensed anti-white  
3 feelings and things have been told to me to my  
4 face at some of these football games that I  
5 have worked, and more recently at the teenage  
6 dances that I have worked on my time off.

7 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: What did they tell you?

8 THE WITNESS: For one thing, they all were  
9 wearing their black power buttons. I know one  
10 remark that was made was, "If we all banded  
11 together, no one would ever have a chance."

12 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: They were telling this  
13 to you?

14 THE WITNESS: Yes.

15 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: In a friendly way or  
16 threatening?

17 THE WITNESS: No, no, in a friendly way.  
18 They were not threatening me.

19 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Did they think of you  
20 as white?

21 THE WITNESS: Yes.

22 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Did they feel that  
23 they could talk to you?

24 THE WITNESS: They felt that they could  
25 have free speech when they are talking to me.



1 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: How would you explain  
2 that reaction?

3 THE WITNESS: Well, I don't know. The  
4 thing is that many of them probably felt that  
5 they were being picked on and that if they  
6 banded together they would have more of a chance  
7 of getting what they wanted than if they were  
8 individuals.

9 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: You mean a general  
10 feeling of black power?

11 THE WITNESS: Yes.

12 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: That they should band  
13 together.

14 THE WITNESS: Yes, this was told to me  
15 about two weeks ago at a dance. There were  
16 about 15 or 20 of them.

17 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: This was a general  
18 conversation?

19 THE WITNESS: Yes.

20 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Were they saying  
21 anything about an anti-white feeling or anything  
22 like that?

23 THE WITNESS: No.

24 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: It was just that they  
25 should band together.

1 THE WITNESS: Yes, that they would have a  
2 better chance.

3 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Were they talking  
4 about banding together for attack?

5 THE WITNESS: No, just if they were together  
6 they could get more things that they wanted.  
7 They didn't specify anything at all.

8 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Would you interpret  
9 that as an anti-white feeling or pro-Negro?

10 THE WITNESS: They were saying this, that  
11 in the event they wanted to take something over  
12 they felt that if they were all together they  
13 could do it. Now, whether they meant riots or  
14 voting power or what-have-you, it wasn't specified  
15 to me.

16 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: This was a dialogue  
17 with you as a white person.

18 THE WITNESS: Yes.

19 MR. LEUCHTER: Mr. Rosa, on the basis of  
20 those years that you spent in a Negro community  
21 in Plainfield, specifically the last six months  
22 or so, would you have picked up anything which  
23 you might consider to be real grievances on the  
24 part of the community? What are the things that  
25 were upsetting them other than the general



1 attitude that the black man has a tough time  
2 in this country? What were the things in your  
3 mind?

4 THE WITNESS: I noticed many of them are  
5 dropouts. In talking to the teenagers, it seems  
6 when they hit 16 years old for some reason they  
7 just quit school. I do notice the way they  
8 live. This is just on my beat, on Madison  
9 Avenue. I do notice that the way they live,  
10 I don't want to live.

11 MR. LEUCHTER: You mean they don't have jobs?

12 THE WITNESS: They don't have jobs and also  
13 they are crowded where they are living. Whether  
14 it is done because the father and mother like to  
15 have a lot of children--which is something that  
16 we can't prevent--or whether it is just that as  
17 the children get a little older they just don't  
18 care about going to high school or finishing  
19 school.

20 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Have you talked to  
1 them, Carmen, about this?

2 THE WITNESS: Yes, I have.

3 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: What do they say?

4 THE WITNESS: It is just that some of them  
5 for some reason think they are not going to go

1 any further so they just feel that they are  
2 going to quit school, and they do. Many of them  
3 are influenced by others to do wrong.

4 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Do they feel a lack  
5 of hope even if they finish?

6 THE WITNESS: I wouldn't say it is a lack  
7 of hope. I feel the way I stressed it to them,  
8 that it is up to the individual himself what  
9 he wants to do when he gets older.

10 Q How do they tell you they feel? Do they say  
11 there is no hope?

12 A They tell me they are going to do something  
13 and then I notice a year or two later they are still  
14 where they were at.

15 MR. LEUCHTER: Do you think many of them  
16 have trouble getting jobs, that because they  
17 have a black face they just don't get a job?

18 THE WITNESS: I don't believe so, sir, and  
19 I will tell you why. I am a patrolman here and  
20 there are one or two on the job that are Negroes  
21 and they attended the same elementary school  
22 that I did. Now, we have worked together for  
23 the last 18 years and they have gotten the same  
24 position in life that I have. I think they  
25 have beautiful homes, well kept. I have been



1 there on many occasions. There are two or  
2 three of them that are still on the job today  
3 and we used to go hunting, fishing--I am going  
4 back 15 years ago--and eating at each other's  
5 houses. We still do it.

6 There is one fellow that when he was on my  
7 shift whenever we played pinochle down the  
8 police station, I insisted on him being my  
9 partner and we have done that for quite a while.  
10 I know we have taken trips together. One of  
11 them, God rest his soul, has passed away but  
12 we travelled as far as Delaware and we were both  
13 partners in doubles when we were on the pistol  
14 team.

15 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Do you find an  
16 increase in racial tension in all of Plainfield?

17 THE WITNESS: I haven't noticed it, no, sir.

18 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: It is the same as it  
19 was before July?

20 THE WITNESS: I notice that things seem to  
1 be very quiet with the exception of what I read  
2 in the newspapers, that is the only thing I hear.  
3 I didn't even know what happened in the schools  
4 in Chicago and I would never have known unless  
5 I read it in the paper.

1 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: How about your local  
2 news, does your local newspaper seem to reflect  
3 what you know to be true or do they say there is  
4 racial tension when you can't feel any?

5 THE WITNESS: I believe most of it is the  
6 truth what the paper publishes. I don't think  
7 they are going out of their way and deliberately  
8 putting any lies in there.

9 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: But, you don't feel  
10 any increase in tension or feel there is any  
11 difference.

12 THE WITNESS: I didn't, not as an individual.

13 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: You live there and  
14 are there every day.

15 THE WITNESS: That's right, and they are  
16 just as friendly to me as they ever were before.

17 MR. LEUCHTER: When we were in Plainfield,  
18 when our group took a little tour of Plainfield  
19 after the riots, a month or so afterwards, some  
20 of the young fellows in the neighborhood in the  
21 area of the housing development of the low  
22 income houses suggested to us that there were  
23 two primary complaints. One was that the  
24 residents of the low income apartments ought  
25 to be able to install their own air conditioning



1 and, two, that there was a lack of recreational  
2 facilities for the upper teenage group, the 16  
3 to 20 year old group, and that there was no  
4 swimming pool in the area. They seemed to be  
5 particularly upset about this. Had you heard  
6 these specific complaints prior to the riot?

7 THE WITNESS: No, I just read about the  
8 air conditioners, I never heard about it.

9 MR. LEUCHTER: You never heard that on your  
10 best?

11 THE WITNESS: No, I just got it from the  
12 Courier News.

13 MR. LEUCHTER: Before the riots, you had  
14 none of these teenagers that said, "Carmen, we  
15 have got to have some recreational facilities  
16 or a swimming pool." They never said anything  
17 like that to you?

18 THE WITNESS: No, as a matter of fact, I  
19 know now when I make the suggestion especially  
20 to the ones where I work, I say, "Why don't you  
21 take a walk down to Greenbrook Park. You got a  
22 park there." They say it is too far to walk.

23 MR. LEUCHTER: Does it have a swimming pool?

24 THE WITNESS: No, it doesn't. You can  
25 play basketball or baseball there or soccer and

1 what-have-you, but they don't want to walk that  
2 far.

3 MR. LEUCHTER: How far is it?

4 THE WITNESS: For a young man, 10 or 15  
5 minutes.

6 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Do you ever eat at  
7 Mr. Turner's restaurant there?

8 THE WITNESS: Yes, I do. Jessie Turner and  
9 I are very good friends.

10 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: A lot of teenagers  
11 hang out in a tavern next door on that corner.  
12 Is that on your beat?

13 THE WITNESS: No, it isn't. It was three  
14 or four years ago.

15 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Did you ever find  
16 it troublesome in that area?

17 THE WITNESS: Not when I was there.

8 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Is it reported to be  
9 troublesome now as far as you know?

0 THE WITNESS: The thing is I don't read all  
1 the police reports.

2 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: So, you have no  
3 knowledge.

4 THE WITNESS: No.

5 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Do you still go up



1           Jessie's to eat?

2           **THE WITNESS:** I haven't been there for  
3 quite a while, especially now with the 12 hour  
4 shifts and my mother having a severe heart attack.  
5 I haven't been doing anything but just going to  
6 the hospital and my house.

7           **Q**     Are you married?

8           **A**     No, a bachelor.

9           **VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN:** These are all your  
10 adopted kids?

11           **THE WITNESS:** Just about. As a matter of  
12 fact, we have another place there, a Negro  
13 restaurant, and I used to call t he man "Brother  
14 Slean." As soon as I drove up to the  
15 establishment, I would turn the red light on  
16 or the blinker and he would know that it was me.  
17 He knew I wanted my southern fried chicken and  
18 he would order it as soon as he saw me coming.

19           **Q**     Do you think an active police-community relations  
20 program in Plainfield would be helpful?

21           **A**     I believe it could be the reverse. I think it  
22 should be community-police. I think more citizens in the  
23 town should take an active part in the meetings that the  
24 mayor has been holding. I know the NAACP has boycotted  
25 these meetings for some reason, but we have had three or

1 four of them. One has been on police relationship and  
2 another has been on welfare. I believe another has been  
3 on housing. I don't think in the three or four meetings  
4 they have had three dozen Negroes there.

5 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: That has been since  
6 the disturbance?

7 THE WITNESS: Yes.

8 Q Did they have these meetings before the  
9 disturbance at all?

10 A Not to my knowledge.

11 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Would this indicate  
12 to you--and just say so if you don't feel it  
13 does--that in general there is a lack of  
14 confidence in the Negro community with police  
15 intentions and police purposes?

16 THE WITNESS: I don't know whether it  
17 would be just because of the police. I believe  
18 they are actually boycotting these meetings  
19 because they have certain reasons to do it.

20 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Do you have any idea  
21 what the reasons are?

22 THE WITNESS: No, I don't. I just know  
23 that in the Courier News they said that they  
24 were going to boycott these meetings and they  
25 did. I went to this meeting that they had in



1 Madison School for police relations and I don't  
2 believe there were six or seven Negroes there  
3 at that time.

4 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Were the police there?

5 THE WITNESS: Yes, there was a few of us  
6 there.

7 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: How many police would  
8 you say showed up?

9 THE WITNESS: The thing is this, I was only  
10 there for a short time and I left.

11 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: How many did you see  
12 while you were there?

13 THE WITNESS: I know there was at least  
14 close to two dozen.

15 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Around 24?

16 THE WITNESS: Yes, but you wear civilian  
17 clothes and you really don't know unless you  
18 actually look.

19 (Discussion off the record.)

20 THE WITNESS: In fact, the day the Major  
21 came down, I know he was a busy man but I wanted  
22 him to come with me and I wanted him to visit  
23 these Puerto Rican restaurants that I frequent.  
24 As a matter of fact, I was down on the railroad  
25 tracks playing with three or four kids that had

1 large truck tires just before I got the call to  
2 come in and I wanted to show the Major that  
3 they were still there.

4 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Is there any sign of  
5 friction between the Puerto Rican and Negro  
6 communities?

7 THE WITNESS: Well, I know the night of the  
8 riot and the day after they said that they just  
9 hoped they didn't attempt to smash any of their  
10 stores. They have one or two clothing stores  
11 and one little record shop and two restaurants.

12 Q Puerto Rican stores?

13 A Yes.

14 Q They were not touched, were they?

15 A No.

16 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Do Puerto Ricans  
17 feel they have any common interest with Negroes  
18 or are they a separate community?

19 THE WITNESS: As far as I know just from  
20 on the beat that I am at, there are four or five  
21 Puerto Rican families and I would say five or  
22 six Negro families living in the same tenement  
23 house there and they seem to get along very well.  
24 I know when I work during the day up on the  
25 corner of Madison and Front, when they are



1 waiting for the school bus, I make it my  
2 business to be there with them and then I let  
3 them shoot off their steam about anything.  
4 These are only kids now, six, eight or ten  
5 years old. I want to hear what they have to  
6 complain about as far as who stole what or who  
7 took a bicycle ride from the other. That is it  
8 until about three o'clock when they come home  
9 and if I am there I usually walk them home.

10 I was there yesterday and I had a turkey  
11 sandwich because I couldn't get home to eat.  
12 At 2:30, I told one of the families I would be  
13 there and I sure was, and I had a sandwich  
14 with them in their own apartment.

15 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Thank you very much,  
16 Officer Rosa.

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