

# LBJ Panel <sup>Post</sup> To Probe <sup>9/15/68</sup> Chicago

President Johnson's Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence in the United States announced yesterday that its first project will be an investigation of the street battles during the Democratic National Convention in Chicago last week.

The Commission Chairman, Dr. Milton S. Eisenhower, said the Chicago episodes were "a case of serious and mass violence in numerous respects".

Accordingly, he said, a special task force of professional staff members will "devote first attention to last week's events in Chicago and other recent events such as the outbreak of shootings in Cleveland".

Eisenhower's announcement came as new controversy—including a prolonged Senate debate—erupted over what happened in Chicago and how the events were reported by American news media.

Chicago Mayor Richard Daley again demanded and was again denied time on national television "for the purpose of balancing the one-sided portrayal of the controversial events that were telecast."

Daley has repeatedly charged that the news media—television in particular—distorted the clashes between demonstrators and police in Chicago and falsely created

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the impression that the police were guilty of "brutality".

He has asked all three networks—NBC, CBS and ABC—for an hour of prime evening time on Sept. 11 or 12 to defend himself and other authorities for the handling of the convention.

NBC offered to have him on "Meet the Press" for one hour on September 13. But Daley turned the offer down, saying "there is no need for a panel of reporters" to question him.

CBS also refused Daley's request yesterday. The network president, Frank Stanton, said "CBS news gave fair and ample coverage to the several sides of the events surrounding the . . . convention."

ABC had no immediate reply.

### Long Attacks Networks

The action by the networks provoked Sen. Russell Long (D-La.), assistant Democratic leader, to declare that television coverage of the convention was "distorted, one-sided, completely biased with people trying to put words in everybody's mouth . . . Mr. (Walter) Cronkite (of CBS) and Mr. (Chet) Huntley (of NBC) had a whole week to present a distorted picture. The least they can do is give Mayor Daley an hour."

Long also praised Daley as one of the "Nation's finest mayors" and accused "Kennedy people" of staging floor demonstrations at the conven-

tion to damage Vice President Humphrey's chances.

In rebuttal, Ohio's Democratic Sen. Stephen Young declared that "democracy was clubbed to death by Mayor Daley's police" during demonstrations in which 583 persons were arrested and scores were injured.

"Chicago under Mayor Daley," said Young, "is a police state."

### 'Black Days' Ahead

Young's viewpoint, however, was by no means universal. His Ohio colleague, Democratic Sen. Frank Lausche, defended Daley and his police and declared:

"Black days lie ahead. If I were Ho Chi Minh, I would pay to have the people's con-

fidence destroyed in their police."

Rep. Roman Pucinski (D-Ill.) blasted the "one-sided" coverage of the convention and said "never have so many been so badly misinformed by so few." He added: "Thank God we have Mayor Daley!" Rep. Wayne Hays (D-Ohio) said the demonstrators included "hard core Communists." House Speaker John McCormack defended the handling of the convention but House Republican Leader Gerald Ford called it a "pretty disgusting" affair.

Outside Congress, Mayor Joseph Barr of Pittsburgh and Quinn Tamm, head of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, sided with Daley.

Said Barr: "The television networks didn't let the people see or hear the filthy unspeakable things that were being done by some of the mob."

### Media Charges

Tamm accused the news media of bad distortions and said the police mission of "law and order" cannot be achieved if "self-elected messiahs and hard-core subversives can flagrantly violate the law and be condoned in their actions by a sympathetically biased press."

All of these charges and the events that provoked them presumably will be explored by the President's Commission which was created after the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

"We will welcome and evaluate the facts developed by any group," Chairman Eisenhower said.

Hearings are to begin on September 18. A preliminary report on the Chicago affair and other aspects of the Commission's work may be given the President at the end of the year, with a final report scheduled for next summer.

Mayor Daley has appointed his own commission to explore the various confrontations between authorities and demon-

strators. It is composed of city officials, and is expected to make public its findings later this week.