

# CLARK ASSAILS 'BRUTAL' POLICE

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## But FBI Head Praises Chicago Officers

By JAMES R. POLK

WASHINGTON (AP) — Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark, in apparent criticism of the bloody battles between police and antiwar protesters at the Democratic National Convention, condemned police brutality Wednesday as the most dangerous type of violence.

Clark and FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover differed dramatically on police handling of such disorders as they testified at the start of hearings before the President's special commission on violence.

Hoover praised Chicago police for preventing disruption of the convention and said "vicious attacking mobs" left police no choice other than the use of force.

Clark, without naming Chicago, said police should be told to use only minimum force necessary to curb disturbances. He said police should ease tension, not inflame it.

### 'REACTION JUSTIFIED'

"Of all violence, police violence in excess of authority is the most dangerous," Clark said. "For who will protect the public when the police violate the law?"

Dr. Milton S. Eisenhower, chairman of the violence commission, said, "It is perfectly apparent there was uncalled for action on both sides."

But the retired educator added, "If a bag of urine were thrown in my face, I think I would react."

Hoover said antiwar demonstrators deliberately provoked police by hurling abuse and human refuse at them. He said it was a tribute to the police that paralysis of the city was prevented without loss of life.

The controversy over the Chicago clashes dominated the initial hearings of the commission created by President Johnson upon the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy last June.

### SUPPORT GUN CURBS

The 13-member National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence, opening its hearings in the same building

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where the slain senator had his offices, heard only a passing reference to assassinations in its initial session.

Both Clark and Hoover surveyed the wide range of violence in America. Each spoke out strongly for gun control at the very hour when the Senate was voting down a proposal for registration of firearms and licensing of owners, 55 to 31.

Hoover endorsed licensing and said tough gun controls are "imperative for the public's safety." Clark said gun controls "will save thousands of lives, eliminate tens of thousands of serious crimes."

Clark told the presidential panel nearly half a million crimes of violence were committed in the United States last year. He said most murders happened at home and warned, "The major threat of violent crime is from family, neighbor or friend."

### 'NO ALTERNATIVE'

Hoover criticized what he termed a permissive attitude by the public toward crime, em-

phasis on violence in television shows, and attention given by television coverage to protest demonstrations.

The FBI chief said the Democratic convention was the target of deliberately disruptive tactics

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by demonstrators and told the panel:

"If it is true that some innocent people were the victims of unnecessary roughness on the part of the police, it is also true that the Chicago police and the National Guard were faced with vicious attacking mobs who gave them no alternative but to use force . . ."

Clark told the blue-ribbon group that police have the duty "to control violence, not cause it; to seek ways of relieving tension, not to look for a fight."

### 'GENERAL APPLICATION'

Asked afterwards if his comments applied to Chicago, Clark said, "They were meant for general application."

The commission excluded public and newsmen from the hearings but made public the statements presented by Clark and Hoover. Eisenhower said the hearings were closed because the FBI is still investigating the Chicago disorders.

The panel plans its own probe of the convention clashes, but Eisenhower said the study isn't under way yet because the commission is having trouble recruiting the staff personnel needed.

The panel plans eight weeks of hearings running into November. Eisenhower said he hopes the commission can complete a preliminary report by the end of this year. Its final report will be due next June.