

**Presidential Panel Opens Hearings**

# Clark vs. Hoover on Violence

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Attorney General Ramsey Clark and FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover gave conflicting views yesterday on violence in America and on the Chicago convention street battles in testimony before a presidential panel.

"Of all violence, police violence in excess of authority is the most dangerous" Clark warned—without specific mention of the bloody confrontation between police and anti-war demonstrators in Chicago.

But, in Hoover's view, the Chicago police had "no alternative but to use force" when faced with "vicious, attacking mobs" intent on destructive purposes.

The two were lead-off witnesses as the 13-member National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence opened hearings that will stretch over the next weeks.

About the only two things that Hoover and his boss seemed to agree on in their testimony were that strict gun controls are needed and that the news media did exaggerate and distort some of the scenes in Chicago.

The FBI Director vigorously endorsed the actions of Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley's police forces and clearly implied that "professional demagogues, extremists, and revolutionaries" have learned to use

See VIOLENCE, A9, Col. 2



Associated Press

Hoover on Chicago: "No alternative but to use force."

# Clark and Hoover Differ on Violence

## VIOLENCE, From A1

the news media, particularly television, to discredit law enforcement officers.

In his prepared testimony, Clark made no direct reference to Chicago but the context seemed apparent.

He stressed the experience has shown that crowds can be controlled "without excessive force and violence by police" and without denying the rights of speech and assembly. The Attorney General added that the risk of violence can be reduced by "reasonable accommodation" to requests to assemble and speak.

## Requests Turned Down

During the Democratic convention in Chicago, city authorities turned down most permit requests from the anti-war demonstrators to hold large rallies.

After warning that police violence "in excess of authority" is the most dangerous of all different types of violence, Clark asked:

"For who will protect the public when the police violate the law?"

In the end, Clark emphasized, it is the duty of law officers to control violence, not cause it, and "to seek ways of relieving tension, not to look for a fight."

Both Clark and Hoover gave their testimony in a closed session before the presidential panel appointed after the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

## News Reports of Clashes

Later, questioned by reporters, the Attorney General said there have been "exaggerations" of both police and crowd conduct in news reports of the Chicago clashes. Some people, he observed, have been quite ready to judge without having facts.

Milton S. Eisenhower, chairman of the Commission, said that one reason for the closed hearing yesterday was that the FBI investigation of the Chicago disorders is still going on.

From the news accounts that he saw, Eisenhower said it was apparent that there were "uncalled-for actions on both sides."

"If a bag of urine were thrown in my face, I think I would react," he told a reporter.

## Hoover Praises Police

Pressed on whether he would react to the extent of the Chicago police, Eisenhower said he wasn't going to make any judgments before the Commission hears the evidence.

In his praise of the Chicago police, Hoover told the Commission that they were taunted, spit upon, called "pigs," and made the target of "bags of excrement and urine." It is a tribute to the police, he added, that the convention was not disrupted, no one was killed, and no shots were fired by law officers.

Hoover told the Commission that "pre-convention plans went so far as to involve assassination plots against Vice President Humphrey, Senator McCarthy, and some prominent Negroes."

A Federal grand jury called to investigate rumored assassination attempts found no evi-

dence of plots against public figures during the Chicago convention week.

## Inquiry Planned

Lloyd Cutler, the Commission's executive director, said he hopes to start the Commission's own investigation of the Chicago disorders next week. One delay, he said, has been in recruiting a competent staff, particularly trial lawyers, who are free for immediate assignment.

The Commission today will hear from academic experts in such fields as sociology, psychology, government, and biology. The "cram course" began at the afternoon sessions yesterday.