

Both Short-Term And Future Goals Given Riots Panel

President Asks That Members Eschew Politics

By Frank C. Porter

Washington Post Staff Writer

President Johnson gave his new panel on riots a broad mandate yesterday to find not only short-term means to prevent and control them but "long-term measures that will make them only a sordid page in our history."

The President also advised the 11-member National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders to shun politics, keep its search untrammelled by "conventional wisdom," and work from a sense of urgency without forgetting "the danger that lies in hasty conclusions."

To Hear All Voices

Illinois Gov. Otto Koerner, Commission chairman, hinted that black nationalists and other militant Negroes will have their say in the panel's deliberations.

Advised of criticisms that such groups are unrepresented on the Commission, Kerner told a White House news conference after the group's initial meeting:

"We hope to have representatives on the staff or in some area so that all voices will be heard."

An executive order signed

yesterday by the President gives the Commission until March 1 to submit an "interim" report. Its final report and recommendations are due a year from yesterday.

The order also provides the Commission with an executive director to be appointed by the President. There was no hint yesterday of who he might be but Kerner said the panel expects his designation by the time of their next meeting, Tuesday.

Guidelines Offered

Mr. Johnson offered the Commission a welter of guidelines in the form of questions such as:

- "Why riots occur in some cities and not in others?"
- "Who took part in the riots? What about their age, their level of education, their job history, their origins and their roots in the community?"

Meanwhile, the Government declared riot-torn sections of Detroit eligible for special assistance from the Small Business Administration.

This will provide easy term loans at 3 per cent interest for up to 30 years to homeowners and small business-

See PANEL, A7, Col. 1

Text of President's statement to National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders. Page A8.

PANEL
From A1

Immediate and Future Goals

men who have suffered from the riots.

Cyrus R. Vance, former Deputy Secretary of Defense and Mr. Johnson's trouble shooter in the Detroit crisis, also disclosed that the Administration has provided funds for demolition of damaged buildings that present a hazard, and that it is supplying ammunition to Michigan state police who need it.

But Vance, who conferred with the President before flying back to Detroit, would give

no indication whether the Administration will declare burned and looted portions of the city a Federal disaster area and thereby eligible for massive government aid. "We are approaching this on a step-by-step basis," he said.

The Government is reported as anxious to avoid appearances of "rewarding" the riots with offers of assistance.

Takes Responsibility

In response to questions, Vance took full responsibility for the decision not to send

Federal troops into Detroit riot areas until late Monday night. Some Republicans have put full blame for the delay on Mr. Johnson. One GOP newsletter Friday accused the President of "unpardonable vacillation, indecision and even indifference."

Early Monday evening, said Vance, he decided the dispatch of Federal troops would be unwise despite the contrary opinions of Gov. George Romney and Mayor Jerome P. Cavanagh. Vance said that violent incidents had declined

one-third from the previous day, the numbers of National Guardsmen on hand had been trebled and his own field trip through the area resulted in nothing more eventful than a flat tire on an accompanying car.

Later Upturn Noted

"I thought if (sending in troops) might inflame the situation rather than quiet it down," said Vance. "In some situations, the overcommitment (of troops) tends to produce counter results."

Given Panel on Riots

But by 9 p.m., Vance continued, he noticed an upturn in the number of violent incidents and a half-hour later he made the decision to move three battalions from Selfridge Air Force Base to the Fair Grounds to be nearer the trouble spots.

At 11 p.m. he concluded State and city authorities could no longer contain the situation, Vance said. He then telephoned Mr. Johnson advising him to sign the proclamation that sent the troops in.

"In retrospect, if I had it to

do all over again, I would make the same decision," Vance explained.

Asked about conspiracy, Vance told reporters that "at this point there is no evidence that would suggest an organized effort behind the riots."

He said talk of organized sniping was "probably exaggerated." He noted that reports of six separate sniping incidents turned out to have come from six witnesses who saw the same streetlight shot out.

THE WASHINGTON POST Sunday, July 30, 1967

A7

Mr. Johnson's request that the new Commission seek long-range solutions to civil unrest came in the face of earlier speculation that its mission would be confined to riot prevention and control.

Kerner made clear that the Commission would take the President up on the broader mandate. He said the panel will meet again all day Tuesday and Wednesday and during that time hopes, among other things, to hear from such officials as OEO Director Sargent Shriver and HEW Secretary John W. Gardner on what their departments and

agencies are doing to aid the disadvantaged.

Vice Chairman of the Commission is Republican Mayor John Lindsay of New York City. Other members are Sens. Fred R. Harris (D-Okla.) and Edward W. Brooke (R-Mass.), Reps. James C.orman (D-Calif.) and William M. McCulloch (R-Ohio); I. W. Abel, president of the United Steelworkers of America; Charles B. Thornton, president of Litton Industries; Roy Wilkins, executive director of the NAACP; Kathrin Graham Peden, Kentucky Commissioner of Commerce; and Herbert

IBJ: 'Civil Peace Has Been Shattered'

Following is the text of President Johnson's statement at the first meeting of his National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders at the White House yesterday:

I welcome you to the White House. And I commend you for what you have agreed to do for your country.

You are undertaking a responsibility as great as any in our society.

The civil peace has been shattered in a number of cities. The American people are deeply disturbed. They are baffled and dismayed by the wholesale looting and violence that has occurred both in small towns and great metropolitan centers. No society can tolerate massive violence, any more than a body can tolerate massive disease. And we in America shall not tolerate it.

But just saying that does not solve the problem.

We need to know the answers to three basic questions about these riots:

- What happened?
- Why did it happen?
- What can be done to prevent it from happening again and again?

Beyond these basic questions there are others—the answers to which can help Governors and Mayors and citizens all over the country cope with their immediate and long-range problems of maintaining order:

- Why riots occur in some cities and not in others?
- Why one man breaks the law, while another, living in the same circumstances, does not?
- To what extent, if any,

organization in any of the riots?

- Why have some riots been contained before they got out of hand and others not?
- How well equipped and trained are the local and state police, and the state Guard units, to handle riots?
- How do police-community relationships affect the likelihood of a riot—or the ability to keep one from spreading once it has started?

- Who took part in the riots? What about their age, their level of education, their job history, their origins, and their roots in the community?
- Who suffered most at the hands of the rioters?
- What can be done to

help innocent people and vital institutions escape serious injury?

- How can groups of law-abiding citizens be encouraged, groups that can help to cool the situation?
- What is the relative impact of the depressed conditions in the ghetto—joblessness, family instability, poor education, lack of motivation, poor health care—in stimulating people to riot?
- What Federal, state and local programs have been most helpful in relieving those depressed conditions?
- What is the proper public role in helping cities repair the damage that has been done?
- What effect do the mass media have on the riots?
- What we are really asking for is a profile of the riots—of the rioters, of their environment, of their victims, of their causes and effects. We are asking for advice on:

- Short-term measures that can prevent riots.
- Better measures to contain riots once they begin.
- And long-term measures that will make them only a so-called page in our history. I know this is a tall order. It cannot be accomplished by a staff sitting in a Federal building. The staff can make investigations. It can handle the assembly of studies that will be required. But only you can do this job. Only if you come to the meetings of this Commission regularly, and put your shoulders to the wheel, can America have the kind of report it needs and will take to its heart.

One thing should be absolutely clear: this matter is far, far too important for

health and safety of our citizens—Republicans and Democrats. It goes to the proper responsibilities of officials in both Parties. It goes to the heart of our society in a time of swift change and great stress. I think the commission of this Commission is proof against narrow partisanship.

You will have all the support and cooperation you need from the Federal Government. I can assure you of that.

Sometimes various Administrations have set up commissions that were expected to put the stamp of approval on what the Administration already believed.

This is not such a commission. We are looking to you, not to approve our own notions, but to guide us—to guide the country through a thicket of tension, conflicting evidence and extreme opinions.

Let your search be free.

Let it be untrammelled by what has been called the "conventional wisdom." As best you can, find the truth and express it in your report.

I hope you will be inspired by a sense of urgency, but also conscious of the danger that lies in hasty conclusions. The work you do ought to help guide us for many years—for many summers—to come.

I have great confidence in you. You are all leaders and you, Gov. Kerner and Mayor Lindsay, are leaders among leaders.

Now I want to introduce to you a great man who, despite grievous pain and inconvenience, accepted his country's call last Monday and left a brief retirement from Government service to represent me in Detroit. I want him to speak of what he saw there. My friend, Cy Vance.