

A73WX (BT FW)

8 (320) NIGHT LEAD HOOVER-RIOTS

BY JOSEPH E. MOHBAT

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

~~SEC~~ FBI Hoo

26 Sept. 1964
434-448 PED

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 26. (AP)-J. EDGAR HOOVER SAID TODAY SUMMER RIOTS IN THE NORTH WERE NEITHER RACE RIOTS NOR THE WORK OF COMMUNISTS OR OTHER EXTREMIST ORGANIZATIONS.

INSTEAD, THE FBI DIRECTOR SAID, THEY REPRESENTED "A SENSELESS ATTACK ON ALL CONSTITUTED AUTHORITY WITHOUT PURPOSE OR OBJECT."

HOOVER REPORTED AT PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S REQUEST ON THE FBI'S INVESTIGATION OF DISTURBANCES IN SEVEN NORTHERN CITIES AND TWO RESORT AREAS FROM COAST TO COAST BETWEEN JULY 18 AND SEPT. 7. THE BULK OF HIS 18-PAGE REPORT DEALT WITH THE SEVEN CASES OF BIG-CITY VIOLENCE.

JOHNSON RESPONDED TO ONE OF HOOVER'S RECOMMENDATIONS BY ORDERING THE FBI TO MAKE RIOT-CONTROL TRAINING AVAILABLE TO ALL POLICE DEPARTMENTS IN THE COUNTRY. THE PRESIDENT ALSO DIRECTED THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT TO INCREASE NATIONAL GUARD RIOT-CONTROL TRAINING THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND TO MAKE THAT TRAINING AVAILABLE TO LOCAL POLICE FORCES.

WHILE RACIAL TENSIONS CONTRIBUTED TO THE CITY RIOTING, HOOVER SAID, NONE OF THE DISTURBANCES WAS A RACE RIOT "IN THE ACCEPTED MEANING OF THE PHRASE."

"THEY WERE NOT RIOTS OF NEGROES AGAINST WHITES OR WHITES AGAINST NEGROES," HE REPORTED. "AND THEY WERE NOT A DIRECT OUTGROWTH OF CONVENTIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS PROTEST.

"VICTIMS OF THE RIOTING WERE OFTEN NEGRO STORE OWNERS AS WELL AS WHITE. THEIR ASSAULTS WERE AIMED AT NEGRO AS WELL AS WHITE POLICE OFFICERS STRUGGLING TO RESTORE ORDER."

A77WX

HOOVER MADE SHORT SHRIFT OF CHARGES THAT THE RIOTS WERE INSTIGATED BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY OR OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. HE SAID:

"NO EVIDENCE WAS FOUND THAT THE RIOTS WERE ORGANIZED ON A NATIONAL BASIS BY ANY SINGLE PERSON, GROUP OF PERSONS, OR ORGANIZATION."

IN ALL CASES, HE SAID, MOB VIOLENCE WAS "DOMINATED BY THE ACTS OF YOUTHS RANGING IN AGE UP TO THE MIDDLE 20S. THEY WERE VARIOUSLY CHARACTERIZED BY RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE AS 'SCHOOL DROPOUTS,' 'YOUNG PUNKS,' 'COMMON HOODLUMS' AND 'DRUNKEN KIDS.'

HOOVER HAD AN ENDORSEMENT FOR JOHNSON'S ANTI-POVERTY PROGRAM AS HE DWELT ON THE "SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN WHICH MUCH OF THE NEGRO POPULATION LIVES." HE TERMED THESE "EMERGING." HE SAID

THE ANTI-POVERTY PROGRAM "AS WELL AS OTHER PRIVATE AND PUBLIC ACTIVITIES SHOULD RESULT IN STEADY IMPROVEMENT."

THE FBI CHIEF BLAMED WHAT HE TERMED "THE BREAKDOWN OF RESPECT FOR LAW AND ORDER AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE" IN PART ON "AN IMMUNITY TO PUBLIC EXPOSURE FOR SERIOUS OFFENSES AND OFTEN THE ABSENCE OF PUNISHMENT OF ANY KIND."

(WORLD)

JR434PED

SA78WX

WASHINGTON--FIRST ADD NIGHT LEAD HOOVER-RIOTS (A78-77WX) X X X
ANY KIND."

YOUNG PEOPLE -- ESPECIALLY LAWLESS ONES -- "ARE WELL INFORMED OF THEIR PRIVILEGED CONDITION," A FACTOR WHICH HAS ENCOURAGED THE GROWTH OF CONTEMPT FOR LAW, HOOVER SAID.

JOHNSON, ON RECEIVING THE HOOVER REPORT, ISSUED A STATEMENT FROM THE LBJ RANCH IN TEXAS IN WHICH HE SAID HIS ADMINISTRATION "FEELS STRONGLY THAT THIS MUST BE A SOCIETY OF LAW AND ORDER IN WHICH CITIZENS LIVE BY RECOGNIZED RULES OF CONDUCT."

TO THAT END, THE PRESIDENT SAID, "WE NOT ONLY ENFORCE FEDERAL ACTS BUT COOPERATE AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT TO ASSURE THAT CIVIL PEACE SHALL BE MAINTAINED."

JOHNSON'S REPUBLICAN OPPONENT FOR THE PRESIDENCY, SEN. BARRY GOLDWATER, HAS SOUGHT TO MAKE STREET VIOLENCE A CAMPAIGN ISSUE AND INSISTED THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONTRIBUTE TO ITS ERADICATION.

THE RIOTS INVESTIGATED BY HOOVER'S MEN OCCURRED, CHRONOLOGICALLY, IN NEW YORK CITY AND ROCHESTER, N.Y.; JERSEY CITY, ELIZABETH AND PATERSON, N.J.; DIXMOOR, ILL.; PHILADELPHIA; AND THE SEASIDE RESORTS OF SEASIDE, ORE., AND HAMPTON BEACH, N.H.

EXCEPT FOR THE VIOLENCE IN MANHATTAN'S HARLEM AND THE BEDFORD-STUYVESANT NEIGHBORHOODS OF BROOKLYN, HOOVER SAID, EACH OF THE CITY RIOTS "WAS AN ESCALATION FROM A MINOR INCIDENT, NORMAL IN CHARACTER."

SIMILAR INCIDENTS HAD HAPPENED HUNDREDS OF TIMES IN MOST OF THE COMMUNITIES INVOLVED AND RESULTED, USUALLY, IN ROUTINE ARRESTS FOR DISORDERLY CONDUCT, HOOVER NOTED.

"THE EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT HDWNEHFROM THE ACTIONS OF MINOR ORGANIZATIONS OR IRRESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUALS, THERE WAS NO SYSTEMATIC PLANNING OR ORGANIZATION OF ANY OF THE CITY RIOTS."

OF THE NEW YORK CITY RIOTS, HOOVER SAID, "THE COMMUNIST PARTY USA DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE OFFICIALLY INSTIGATED THESE RIOTS THOUGH ITS MEMBERS WERE OBSERVED TAKING PART IN SOME AND ITS FORMER MEMBERS WERE LEADERS" OF SOME SMALL GROUPS INVOLVED.

HOOVER ALSO DISMISSED CHARGES THAT THE RIOTS STEMMED FROM "EXCESSES BY THE POLICE." TO THE CONTRARY, HE SAID, IN EACH CITY OFFICERS "WERE GENERALLY RESTRAINED IN THEIR CONDUCT EVEN IN THE FACE OF CONTINUOUS INSULTS, BARRAGES OF ROCKS, BOTTLES, MOLOTOV COCKTAILS AND FIRE BOMBS.

"INDEED, THE RESTRAINT OF INDIVIDUAL POLICE OFFICERS IN THE FACE OF SUCH PROVOCATION APPEARS TO BE REMARKABLE AND WAS WIDELY PRAISED BY THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN THE CITIES INVOLVED."

HOOVER SAID THE OBVIOUS PRESENCE OF GREAT NUMBERS OF REPORTERS AND TELEVISION CAMERAS AT RIOT SCENES "PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SELF-SEEKING INDIVIDUALS TO PUBLICIZE WILD CHARGES ON TELEVISION AND RADIO AND IN THE PRESS. THESE CIRCUMSTANCES PROVIDED ADDITIONAL INCITEMENT TO THE RIOTERS AND SERVED TO ATTRACT OTHERS TO THE SCENE."

IN THE RESORT-AREA RIOTS OF THE LABOR DAY WEEKEND, HOOVER SAID THE PARTICIPANTS WERE PREDOMINANTLY YOUNG WHITES ENDING THEIR VACATION AND WHOSE PURPOSE, IN THE CASES OF SOME YOUNG TOUGHS, WAS "TO MAKE TROUBLE AND PROFIT BY IT."

JK&R2448PED