

Hoover vs. Clark on Cop Violence

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Attorney General Ramsey Clark and FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover differed sharply yesterday over use of police force in coping with mass protest demonstrations of the kind that rocked Chicago three weeks ago.

At the first closed hearing of the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence, Clark deplored excessive police action as "the most dangerous" kind of violence because he said it leaves the public unprotected.

Clark said his statement had "no direct application" to Chicago, but Hoover in separate testimony openly sided with Mayor Richard J. Daley and the vigorous tactics used by the city's police in quelling anti-war demonstrations at the Democratic national convention.

TRIBUTE

"It is a tribute to the authorities that under these chaotic circumstances — deliberately created by ruthless, lawless leaders — the convention was not disrupted, the city was not paralyzed, not one shot was fired by police at the demonstrators, and not one life was lost," Hoover said.

"If it is true that some innocent people were the victims of unnecessary roughness on the part of the po-

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J. EDGAR HOOVER RAMSEY CLARK
They differed sharply in separate testimony

Clark and Hoover

Clash of Views on Police Violence

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lice," he added, "it is also true that the Chicago police and the National Guard were faced with vicious, attacking mobs who gave no alternative but to use force to prevent these mobs from accomplishing their destructive purposes."

The FBI director accused television, radio and the press of frequently "distorting the efforts of police to preserve law and order when confronted by large, hostile mobs," as he said was the case in Chicago.

HIGHLIGHTS

"These media will highlight and magnify some acts of so-called 'police brutality' and completely ignore or minimize the premeditated and viciously provocative acts of demonstrators," he said.

In contrast to Hoover's remarks, his superior at the Justice Department refused to comment on charges of police brutality in Chicago because the department was still investigating the situation.

While avoiding direct comment on Chicago, Clark's testimony was cast in terms that fit those disorders during the convention.

"It is the duty of leadership and law enforcement to control violence, not cause it; to seek ways of relieving tension, not to look for a fight," said Clark.

DANGEROUS

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

In many parts of the country, he said, "crowds of tens of thousands have assembled and protested. Among them have been individuals intent on creating trouble, violence if possible."

But experience has shown that "such crowds can be controlled without significant violence," he said. "They can be controlled without denying rights of speech and assembly. Above all, such crowds can be controlled without excessive force and violence by police."