

VOICE READERS COMPRISE A \$30,000,000 MARKET

EDITORIAL

FBI Riot Report Studied

SEVERAL STATEMENTS STOOD OUT in J. Edgar Hoover's report to President Johnson summing up the FBI's investigation of last summer's riots in predominantly colored neighborhoods of certain northern cities. Most significant, perhaps, were the following conclusions: "While in the cities racial tensions were a contributing factor, none of the nine occurrences was a 'race riot' in the accepted meaning of the term. They were not riots of Negroes against whites or whites against Negroes. And they were not a direct outgrowth of conventional civil rights protests."

The "nine occurrences" referred to took place in the Harlem and Brooklyn sections of New York City July 18-23; in Rochester, N.Y., July 24-25; Jersey City, N.J., Aug. 2-4; Elizabeth, N.J., Aug. 11-13; Paterson, N.J., Aug. 11-14; Dixmoor, Ill., a Chicago suburb, Aug. 15-17, and Philadelphia, Pa., Aug. 28-31.

Almost without exception, these "occurrences" were played up in newspapers throughout the country as "race riots." More accurately, each one of the disturbances was triggered by an incident--such as the fatal shooting of the

(From the Washington Post)

Conservative Conscience

Barry Goldwater is never more astounding than when he is talking about social welfare. Like a man looking at the world while standing on his head, he has arrived at a conclusion that the cause of crime is to be found in the excessive benevolence of the community to its unfortunates. This is much like asserting that vaccination is the cause of smallpox. "If it is entirely proper for government to take from some to give to others," he observed on Thursday in his speech at Minneapolis, "then won't some be led to believe that they can rightfully take from anyone who has more than they?" Like so many other excerpts from the wisdom of Barry Goldwater, this nugget strains credulity; it is hard to believe that anyone living in the 20th Century would utter it.

A sense of responsibility for the unfortunate--commended by Scripture alike in the Old Testament and in the New--has always been a characteristic of Western civilization. Senator Goldwater's anxiety is as applicable to private philanthropy as to governmental welfare. The latter is simply a recognition that poverty afflicts the whole community, that the community bears a large measure of responsibility for it as technological change and progress leave backwaters of unemployment as parental neglect breeds fecklessness and as inadequate education leaves willing workers without the skills they need for modern industry; it is a recognition, too, that in many situations governmental action furnishes the funds for public welfare more equitably and effectively than private action.

Crime, and the kind of civil disorder which Senator Goldwater keeps decrying as though it could be summarily suppressed, really grow in large measure out of despair, out of a sense on the part of the unfortunate that they have been cast out of the community and forgotten by it. Welfare legislation and civil rights legislation are efforts by the community to bring its castouts back within its fold--to give them a lawful means of overcoming their difficulties and a stake in the preservation of law and order. In the long run, these efforts afford the only effective antidote to crime and violence--and the only real preventive.

"Society is said to be responsible for an individual's welfare, rather than the individual himself," Senator Goldwater said scornfully in his Minneapolis speech. For one rich and well-born and comfortable to speak in this callous way of those who, for whatever reason, are wretched and hungry and hopeless is to reveal a shocking want of imagination and compassion.

Powell boy in Harlem by an off-duty police officer--or a series of irritations developed in a ghetto-like atmosphere of frustration, that was only remotely connected with racial antagonism, per se.

Once the hoodlums and other irresponsible elements took over, it didn't take long for things to get out of hand, leading to Hoover's possibly overly-simplified conclusion that: "A common characteristic of the riots was a senseless attack on all constituted authority without purpose or object."

IT ALSO WAS INTERESTING to note that the FBI report concluded that none of the riots was organized on a national basis or deliberately planned by any single organization, testifying to the spontaneous nature of the disturbances. This also should help refute allegations by white supremacy advocates in the south and elsewhere that the riots were promoted by organized left-wingers among the Negro people chiefly concerned with stirring racial unrest.

There can be little doubt that individual Communists and Red-tainted members of the Progressive Labor movement took advantage of several unfortunate situations to keep the pot boiling. But nowhere in the report could we find any indication that extreme leftists controlled the uprisings or had "captured" any sizeable segment of the Negro communities involved.

In regard to the section of the report dealing with the role of the police in the riots--in which Hoover deplored the existence in some cities of civilian review boards with authority to examine complaints against police--we are reserving judgment. We do believe that our local approach to this problem through the creation of a Citizens-Police Committee to PREVENT friction between the citizenry and the police is more desirable than the creation of a board to REVIEW complaints after the act.

You are reminded that a meeting of the Citizens-Police Committee is scheduled for 7:30 o'clock tonight, Oct. 1, at Kit Carson School. Anyone who feels there is a local condition that requires the attention of this agency is urged to attend and speak his or her mind. Now is the time to speak up.

(From the New York Times)

The Police and Minorities

Police Commissioner Murphy spoke wisely to the members of his department when he warned them that any kind of double standard, under which policemen act differently toward residents of some areas than they do toward those of others, would not be tolerated.

Unfortunately there is widespread belief in the Negro communities within the city that there is a double standard within the Police Department. Much of the violence that erupted in Harlem and the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn last July stemmed directly from the conviction that the Police Department is brutally anti-Negro. We believe this feeling is ill-founded, but the fact of its existence cannot be ignored.

Dispelling it should be one of the Police Department's highest priorities. Commissioner Murphy has already taken several useful steps toward this end. But the restoration of goodwill and mutual confidence between the police and the city's Negroes requires unremitting endeavor. It must be done for the sake of the whole community.



AFRICA in Today's World

By CHARLES I. WEST, M.D.

(The following report is a condensation of various dispatches from overseas news agencies.)

DAKAR, Senegal--What may be the most complete exhibition of Negro art ever held in Africa is methodically shaping up for this capital city next year.

Scheduled to open a three-week run on Dec. 17, 1965, the first "World Festival of Negro Art" will be repeated every two years under present plans.

A new theater seating 1,200 is well on the way to completion in the City Center at a cost of approximately \$1,600,000. Also under construction is the only museum in Africa believed capable of exhibiting the most precious works of art. Fully air-conditioned and costing \$480,000, it will hold one of the main exhibitions of the Festival--"Sources of Negro Art."

At the other end of the city, in the big law courts overlooking the sea, there will be a second exhibition emphasizing modern tendencies in African art.

A third exhibition will be devoted to the Festival's "Star Country." This honor for 1965 has gone to Nigeria.

Every evening, the historic offshore island of Goree, site of the first European settlements in the area, dating from the 17th century, will be the scene of "sound and light" performances.

The Festival organizers are also hoping for strong United States participation, especially by jazz musicians.

The Festival will award prizes, an ebony antelope inlaid with gold, for the best entries in seven fields, including the best novel by a Negro writer, the best collection of poems by a Negro, the best work on Negro art by any author irrespective of origin, and the best educational movie on Africa.

One of the main problems facing the organizers is hotel accommodation. Dakar's hotels lack sufficient rooms for the expected visitors, and a new Pan-American Airways hotel, which is being built here, will not be ready in time.

But the organizers hope to encourage calls by cruise ships during this period, thus increasing the number of visitors without increasing the necessity for hotel rooms.

The Festival's main aims are to demonstrate the contribution of the Negro world to universal civilization; to demonstrate the contribution of Negroes to present-day thought; and to put African artists in contact with editors and producers.

Members of the Festival committee include representatives from Guinea, Ghana, Nigeria, and Martinique, as well as Senegal.

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