

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

EDITORIAL

(Front Page Editorial from the St. Louis ARGUS, One of the Nation's Great Negro Newspapers)

What Did The Riots Accomplish?

The destructive and bloody riots which occurred in Los Angeles, last weekend, and spilled over into this week, accomplished little except a shocking manifestation of sound and fury.

As the entire nation watched in shocked horror, picture after picture was flashed in newspapers and on our television screens showing Negro citizens venting their spleen on their righteously called White America. We weren't there, but from what our correspondents report, there was a self-satisfied air of jubilation underwriting the mob actions of the Negro citizens in the Watts area of Los Angeles who felt free to riot. They really were happy to let off steam.

We daresay that the riots in Los Angeles, in fact and substance, really amounted to the little, much-maligned Negro quickly realizing that here was his full-blown chance to show the world how he felt about his status as a citizen. How he felt about his chances as an American citizen, also how he felt about his opportunities as an American citizen. And as we now ALL know, the opinion of Willie and Bessie Doe, Negro American is that they still don't want to accept me.

Like too many of the Negro citizens in this country, the Negroes living in the Watts sector of Los Angeles felt pinned in, stifled and well nigh submerged in the sheer hypocrisy of the affluent Los Angeles Society. Surrounded by the virtual opulence

of Hollywood, San Bernardino, Long Beach, Santo Ana, Van Nuys and Pasadena, the Negro citizens felt as if they were living in a Giant pressure cooker of denial and neglect.

It was inevitable that sooner or later the pressure cooker would explode. And explode it did. The Negroes living in Watts, rarely recognized as full-fledged citizens, and rarely given the opportunity to even function as recognized Members of Society, erupted into violence.

Nor is this any feeble attempt to cloak the bloody violence and looting which occurred in Los Angeles these past seven days with any semblance of logic or reason. That flew to the winds during the first hours of the chaotic riots.

Throughout America, the real basic question that Negroes must ask themselves is just what was really accomplished by the wholesale riots in Los Angeles.

For what has really happened is that for the first time since the Civil Rights Revolution began with the Freedom Rides of 1961—Negro citizens found themselves engaged in a bitter struggle which availed them Absolutely Nothing. The Los Angeles riots marked the ONLY demonstration of recent years in which the Negro citizens gained nothing but bewilderment and sheer disgust from fellow Americans.

Was it worth it? We think not.



AFRICA in Today's World

UNITED STATES CONFIDENCE in the future of Kenya as a potential stronghold against Russian or Chinese communism in Africa is evidenced by activity at the U. S. commercial office in President Jomo Kenyatta's capital city of Nairobi.

This office on Government Rd. is the only one of its kind in Africa and one of four in the entire world which maintain rotating exhibits of U. S. products and send regular reports to American manufacturers on local interest in the displays.

Robert L. Ware, Jr., who opened the office 20 months ago, believes the outlook is good for increased U. S. exports to East African nations, despite restrictions on Japanese goods recently applied by Tanzania and Uganda. Kenya is currently negotiating with Japan on how to correct the heavy imbalance caused by Japanese sales without corresponding purchases.

"We don't have that problem--the United States bought \$81 million worth of products from East Africa in 1964 and sold only \$25 million here, two-thirds of that in Kenya," Ware said. "This is not too bad when you consider that up to five years ago, exchange controls almost completely precluded East African purchases from the United States."

Ware, in the Foreign Service since 1948, is a specialist in African economic affairs. He was chief economic officer in the U. S. Consulate-General in Tanganyika from 1955 to 1958.

"I MAY BE CRACKED on the subject, but I feel that business can do more for a developing country than a government giveaway program," he said.

As an example, he pointed out that U. S. firms are already providing jobs for 4,000 Kenyans, with a new Colgate-Palmolive soap factory and a new Singer sewing machine plant under construction. More than 400 workers will find jobs in a pineapple cannery which the California Packing Corp. is now building.

In contrast with so many African states which are rushing downhill to economic disaster in pursuit of doctrinaire socialism, Kenya is a rock of solidarity. Kenya's gross national product increased 7% in 1964 and private investment was up 12%.

"African socialism" is the official policy here, but the Nairobi government is making it clear that foreign capital and foreign enterprise will be welcome and protected and that local capital should be put to work in new projects rather than the non-productive nationalization of existing industries. Kenya has a development plan calling for \$371 million in government investment and \$526 in private investment by 1970.

"THE EXODUS OF EUROPEANS has stopped here and there is no bias against foreigners who are here for constructive purposes," Ware said. "Americans are appreciated; Kenyans want to deal with us and like our products. If we can't compete in price we can compete in quality and durability and the top income consumers here want quality."

As a classic example of U. S. promotion, Ware cited Arrow shirts, now a prestige symbol in many African countries. Currently on exhibit in the commercial center was a line of girdles and brassieres, plastic dishes, masking tape, a key-making machine, an oil stove and an ant poison, all capable of finding a market here.

A future bonanza in Kenya, he said, is tourism. The total of all visitors here in 1963 was

Draft-Dodging Call Injures Cause

BY ROY WILKINS

The most effective and widely publicized exposure of the Mississippi political picture since the days of the Sen. Bilbo challenge may have been wrecked by two eager-beaver civil rights workers.

In McComb, Miss., in late July they wrote a leaflet urging Negroes to refuse to honor the draft calls and importuning Negro mothers not to allow their sons to answer the summons. The draft-dodging call was later reprinted in the official newsletter of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, which was created by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

The young black and white militants in the civil rights movement have been straining every nerve in order not to appear to be like the old folks. Someone should have told them, however, not to tinker with patriotism at a time when their country is

engaged in armed conflict and specifically not to advocate draft-dodging as a weapon in the civil rights cause. Nor to print such advice in a political party newsletter.

Although during many periods of history the going has been rough, American Negroes are proud of their long service in the armed forces. They were in George Washington's army even though only a few of them were free men. They have

No one knows better than they what humiliations their men in uniform have had to endure. And no one senses more truly than they that the case for equality is made infinitely stronger when the gifts of loyalty and heroic service and sacrifice are already on the bargaining table.

One great trouble with these young smart-alecks of both races is that their history of Negro-white relations begins in 1960. Nothing—absolutely nothing—happened before that. In their version, the downtrodden Negro was just wasting away, waiting for rescue by the bright-idea boys and girls. These youngsters need to read Negro history, placing themselves, as judges, not in 1965, but in the times the history was made. On loyalty and

fighting ability they ought, for example, to read "The Battle of Henry Johnson" in France in World War I.

On the night of May 13-14, 1918, this Negro soldier of Albany, N.Y., and his partner, Pvt. Needham Roberts, despite many wounds, used hand grenades, rifles and a bolo knife to rout a German patrol of 24 men!

The Johnson-Roberts glory, the Dorie Miller heroism at Pearl Harbor, the all-Negro fighter plane cover for the landing of troops at Anzio Beach and scores of similar braveries all mean that the draft-dodging call is the last nose-thumbing device the wise guys should have suggested to American Negroes.

Their miscalculation of (See WILKINS, page 14)



Wilkins

fought with bravery and daring in every war since 1776.

33,933, compared with 8,985 in 1954 and the 1964 figure is expected to be much higher. U. S. visitors numbered only 851 in 1961, but by 1963 had reached 7,104.

With a U. S. flag carrier serving the area and a U. S.-financed hotel under construction in Nairobi, U. S. business will also share in this phase of Kenya's development as East Africa's attractions become better known to the world.

LAS VEGAS Voice

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