

# Riots Triggered By Lower Middle Class, Not Riffraff

The conventional theory is that July Detroit riot was caused by "riff-raff"—poor, jobless single, juvenile Negroes.

It's wrong, says Irving J. Rubin, writing in the Feb. 22 issue of the Reporter magazine. Every bit of data points to a "lower middle-class rebellion" by working, married, adult Negroes.

Rubin picked up some of his data in his job as director of southeastern Michigan's TALUS (Transportation and Land Use Study). On an interview with the Observer Newspapers, however, Rubin emphasized that he was writing on his own account, not in his TALUS role.

Other data came from arrest statistics gathered by the University of Detroit's Urban Law Center.

WERE POVERTY to blame?

"The majority of the poor live in the deep core of the city, which was not the good income."

Were they criminally inclined? Two-thirds had never been convicted, and 20 per cent

Median Negro income in the riot areas was \$6,200 per family, only a shade below the city wide Negro median of \$6,400 and not much below the white figure of \$6,800.

Nearly 77 per cent of the riot area Negro households had a male head; 40 per cent own or are buying their homes in the riot area compared to a citywide Negro figure of 45 per cent and a white figure of 69 per cent.

WERE YOUNG, jobless hoodlums to blame?

Arrest records, said Rubin, showed only 10 per cent were juveniles and only 18 per cent between ages 17 and 19.

The other 72 per cent were 20 years or older. Nearly a third were over 30.

The U-D figures showed that of 1,200 non-juvenile male arrestees, 83 per cent had jobs—most in unskilled factories, indicating good incomes.

Were they criminally inclined? Two-thirds had never been convicted, and 20 per cent

had only one criminal conviction. That leaves only about 13 per cent with more than one criminal conviction.

WHAT SHOULD be done about it?

Rubin says the conventional solutions—"jobs, housing, education"—would help the really poor, but "the overwhelming majority of the rioters had good jobs, few would be eligible for low-cost housing, and only a small proportion were of school age."

Rubin's proposals are for open housing, higher police pay and standards, neighborhood

organizations and district political representation on the council and school board.

He analyzes the riots as "an outburst of frustration over unmet demands for dignity and for economic and political power" by people who had the basic necessities and were ready to move upward, but were frustrated by a lack of equal opportunity.

Franciscatti Is Soloist

Master violinist Zio Franciscatti will be featured with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Feb. 29 and March 2 in the Ford Auditorium. Concert time is 8:30 p.m.

He will play Lalo's "Symphonie Espagnole," Paul Paray, conductor-emeritus, will be on the podium.

Also on the program will be Paray's Symphony No. 2 in A major and Henri Rabaud's tone poem "La Procession Nocturne."

Changes Location

Wayne State University's Centennial Concert has been moved to the Masonic Auditorium because of the ticket demand. The concert, by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, was originally scheduled for the Ford Auditorium.

Concert time is 8:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 25.

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## EVENING PROGRAM

Fall Term 1968 Application  
Orientation Meeting

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- Persons who hold a Bachelor's Degree regardless of undergraduate major will be welcome.
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7:30 P.M., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 1968

## Security Council Needed-Sen. Kuhn

State Sen. George W. Kuhn (R-West Bloomfield), member of the Senate investigating committee on crime and riots, has introduced legislation supported by 20 senators for the establishment of a State Internal Security Council comprised of key civilian law enforcement and military leaders of the state.

This group would function much like the U.S. National Security Council, which is designed to watch over and protect the security of the country, Kuhn said, adding:

"Today's complex and grave internal power struggles have been emerging relative to our urban crises and necessitate the closest security and surveillance of all extremist groups and individuals—be they white or black—who are now engaging or planning to engage in criminal activity."

"Further, we learned from last summer's riots the necessity for the utmost coordination and planning by all law enforcement agencies to effectively combat any future unrest that may develop."

"The last crisis proved to be a 'comedy of errors,' with each police agency 'passing the buck' as far as deployment of personnel and responsibility was concerned. The protection and security of public utilities such as electrical power plants, communications, water, gas, etc., are also of prime concern."

"I propose that this Council be composed of the following nine individuals: governor, state police commissioner; commander in chief of the Michigan National Guard; officer in charge of the FBI state attorney general; two members of the Senate and two members of the House of Representatives," Kuhn said.

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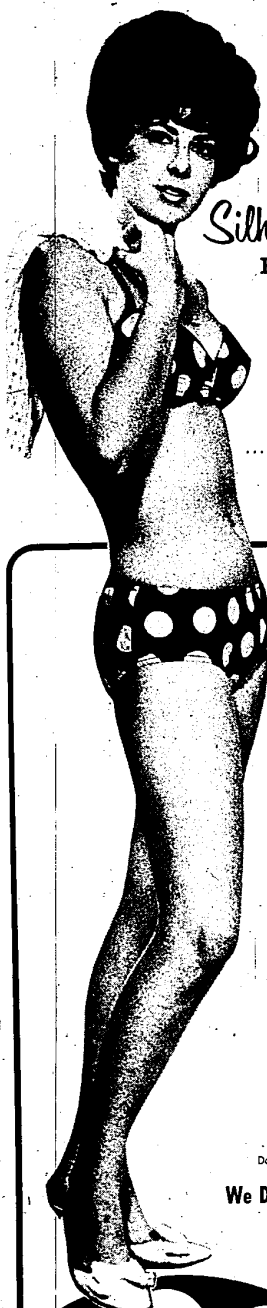
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