

And Now We Come To The Hardest Part: What To Do About What Went Wrong?

By PHILIP H. POWER, Publisher

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To Black Racists, 'Law And Order' Are White Men's Subversive Ideas

About now, perhaps you're tired of hearing politicians say that one way to prevent riots is to teach "respect for law and order" or "respect for authority."

Gov. Romney says it more than anyone. President Johnson says it a good deal, too. Vice President Humphrey said it. Jim O'Neill, the Republican State Board of Education member from this area, says it.

It won't work, gents.

Take a look at the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee's little pamphlet, "We Want Black Power."

To the Black Power fanatics, "law" means "white man's law." To them, "authority" means "police force with 97 per cent whites in a city with 60 per cent whites."

To them, "order" means whites disrupting a friendly Negro gambling-drinking party at three in the morning, an hour or more after the white-imposed 2 a.m. closing time for bars.

"The black man in the ghetto . . . is already living outside the value system white society imposes on all black Americans," says SNCC.

That's pretty sociological stuff.

The "white society's value system" to these chaps means the white man's ideals of working, saving, investing, not wasting money on gambling; it means Christian ideals that aren't always practiced; it means white-owned banks, white-owned stores, white personnel directors in the plants.

"The white man controls everything that is said in every book, newspaper, magazine, TV and radio broadcast," says the Black Power pamphlet. "Even the textbooks used in the schools and the Bible that is read in the churches are designed to maintain the system for the white man."

That's why it won't do any good to preach "law" and "order" and "respect for authority."

The Black Power pamphlet is emphatic that it wants to burn down white values. What values

the Black Power group will substitute—other than a frank admission of Voodoo—aren't spelled out.

So if it's useless to preach about "law and 'order'" to the rioters, what can you preach? We don't know.

We're saying Romney, Johnson, Humphrey, O'Neill and the other politicians are wasting their breath, but we don't have an alternative. At least not yet.

Rebuilding the damage done

WHY did 42 people die? Why were over 2,250 men, women and children hurt. Why did Detroit flame for nearly a week?

Of course, the temptation is to say that we know why it happened, to give simple and solid answers to soothe our troubled consciences.

Equally, once we have found out why it happened, we can start passing out the blame.

That's right. Get it off your chest.

Outside agitators. Communists. Socialism. Failure to get tough at the start. A plot. Political shenanigans.

But that isn't true. None of

these simple things are true. WE really don't know why they rioted in Detroit. We may have a few ideas, but we really don't know.

Particularly if buildings have been falling down in Detroit, and Newark, and Tampa, and Watts, and just about everywhere we have cities in this country.

There does seem, however, to be some evidence which hints at what may be one of the causes, and it comes out of looking at the sort of people who have rioted.

Daniel Moynihan, the director of the Harvard MIT Joint Center for Urban Affairs and one of the most thoughtful men now studying the sickness in our cities, has suggested that the people who did the rioting came from the "urban under class."

Moynihan says that this class is sharply, even radically different from anything known in suburbia.

The basic conditions that would appear necessary for the formation of such a class have clearly existed in our cities for a generation now," he says. "First, and uppermost, is unemployment. The depression has never ended for the slum Negro.

To unemployment, add low wages, add miserable housing, add vicious and pervasive forms of racial discrimination, compound it with an essentially destructive welfare system and a social scientist would have every ground on which to predict violence in this violent country."

Moynihan adds that of the Negro youths reaching 18 in this class, some six out of 10 have been at some time supported by Aid to Dependent Children programs. He also points out that perhaps two-thirds of the families in this class have been broken up.

This may or may not be true, like all generalizations.

But if Moynihan is even partially right in claiming that the riots are involved with people in this new class, we might think about two things if we're going to do any rebuilding worth anything at all:

1) If this is a new class, its members are going to feel more allegiance to their class than to American society in general, particularly if we reflect that our society has had a lot to do with bringing them to the grim position they are at now.

This is perhaps a partial explanation of the real thrust of the black power advocates, who claim that the Negro's only real allegiance can be with other Negroes.

2) If this is a new class, and if it's as angry and dispossessed as Moynihan feels, then it will clash sharply with the rest of our supposedly classless society.

Karl Marx, in writing about the working class, predicted a never-ending escalation of conflict between the capitalists and the workers. He argued that the only way the workers could get justice was by revolution.

Many countries proved him wrong. Society evolved, and members of the "working class" found themselves able to make a better and better life for themselves, to the point where they were able to feel themselves fully a part of their society.

I wonder if our society will have the flexibility, the caring and the simple humanity to evolve in the same way?

And the ladies and gents who sniff the haughtiest at the Cavanaugh domestic problems could better check their own. From the gossip, you'd believe Jerry Cavanaugh has no friends.

I see one every morning shaving.

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THE FIRES ARE OUT, the looting is over, the troops are gone . . . so what does a shattered society do next?

Plymouth Attorney Woes: Nonsense Wins Again!

There's a lot more nonsense than sense in the doings of the Plymouth City Commission—a situation that has existed for much too long. Perhaps it's time the voters looked into a rather perplexing problem . . . one that needs answering.

The big question is how can one group of men, elected to set the policies for the city government, drag their feet so long before making a decision and second how can Plymouth City Commission justify going out of the city to hire top men for the various administrative and legal positions.

The most nonsensical action was taken Monday night when the Commission, with one dissenting vote and one member absent, went to Garden City to hire controversial Charles Lowe for City Attorney.

In effect what the Commission has said is that there aren't any lawyers in the City capable of handling the city's legal affairs. We doubt that this is true. It would be our opinion that most of the lawyers in Plymouth—and there are plenty of good ones—wouldn't touch the post with a 12-foot pole. The harassing tactics used in badgering Thomas Healy, who resigned effective a week ago, are well known to the members of the Plymouth legal profession.

Perhaps the truth of the matter is that the Commissioners, who can't seem to agree on anything, couldn't get together this time and then went outside of the community to approve a recommendation of Mayor James Jabara of the Garden City attorney, who has offices in Southfield.

There isn't any question that Lowe is a controversial figure. He is a former Garden City Mayor and City Clerk and was defeated as a candidate for a judgeship last fall. He was one of the key witnesses in the much-publicized case involving the site purchase for the present Garden City municipal building. The case finally went to the Grand Juror.

It was Lowe, who called the attention of officials to some discrepancies in the land deal. We aren't disputing the fact that Lowe is a respected member of the bar and an excellent lawyer, we are only calling attention to the fact that the City Commission has hired a controversial figure and created additional controversy by going out of the city for legal counsel.

It most certainly appears strange that the Commission hasn't been able to find a resident of Plymouth for any of the top positions filled in the past three years.

Just to elaborate—the Commission went to Marysville, O., to hire City Manager Richard Blodgett, after having Kenneth Fisher, who also served as Police Chief and Director of Public Safety, fill the position for almost a year. Again we have no quarrel with the present City Manager, but we do believe the Commission wasn't entirely right in the way it handled this situation.

The Commissioners couldn't find a City Clerk anywhere in the area or the state, they had to go all the way to Denver to hire Eugene Slider. Of course, the fact that he had served in Ann Arbor may have taken out some of the sting of the appointment. But when one wonders whether there wasn't someone in the City who could have qualified.

The Commissioners were unable to find a suitable candidate for Police Chief, following the resignation of Fisher, and once again went out of town to Flint to bring in Robert Corrington. It appears to be a good choice but it most certainly has discouraged career policemen.

And now, the Commissioners couldn't agree on either of two candidates, Patrick Foley and J. Rusling Cutler, both city residents and taxpayers. Both are qualified, each is known to be an excellent lawyer and each would have liked the work. But the grass always appears to be greener on the other side of the road as far as the City Commission is concerned.

Perhaps it might be wise to point out to the Commission that there are persons in the City available for these jobs and most would prefer to make a living in the city of their choice.

Then again, it might be smart for the Commission to explain the criteria upon which it makes its selections and why it feels it has to go out of the city to fill the vacancies.

R. T. Thompson

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