

Senator Hart Expresses His Views On Costly Riots

(Remarks on the Senate floor by Senator Philip Hart, Aug. 2, 1967.)

THOUGHTS FROM A DETROIT NOTEBOOK
Mr. President: Twenty-four years ago Detroit said, "It will never happen here again." But last week, despite all the sincerity and effort that backed up that vow—it did happen again. Somehow, the model city failed.

It is a time then for questions, for soul searching, for determination to learn the lessons available from such noble efforts coming to such an ignominious end. This is a project not for one city. It is a duty for the nation.

Scores of persons much more qualified than I will be immersed in the search for these answers for months ahead. This is as it should be.

But this time we cannot, I think, we must not, "port." This time we must recognize the emergency situation. This time we must recognize that many of the answers will not come from statistics but from honesty and common sense.

Today, then, I offer some of my reflections as I toured the devastated city in the hope that mixed in them may be a gem of an idea which can grow into steps to prevent other Detroit.

What can be done now to stop this domestic anarchy? The dismal answer seems to be that there may be nothing that can be done to stop it at once. It is possible that people who have neglected the whole assessment of social ills for a hundred years can't wholly escape the consequences of this failure and folly. But we can and must—take steps to maintain law and order and to punish to the full extent of the law those who do criminal acts.

Why did the riot happen? A popular answer these days is that this was an uprising of the "have-nots" against the "haves." That is probably at least partially right. But surely it is not that the rioters are more "have-nots" than the "haves" are. They belong to no world but their own.

Indeed it is true that there is a world view of hope, of expectation, of satisfaction, of stability. It is a world where the police can arrive in five minutes, but it takes months to get the building code inspector in.

It is a world where the inhabitants feel every rent day is a looting day. It is a world where you learn to distrust outsiders because somehow, somehow, they always mean bad news to you.

Mostly the rioters are those "left out." Some progress has been made in developing cohesiveness in our cities today. Gradually members of the Negro community have moved into the Establishment. Detroit is a city to have two Negro Congressmen.

There is a Negro on the City Council, Negroes in the State Legislature and other decision-making bodies. Sargent and Flint, two civil cities which experienced civil disorders, have Negro mayors.

But, just by virtue of the way the Establishment works, the people who join it do not come from the corner of 12th Street and Virginia Park. And the residents of the ghettos, as Congressman John Conyers who represents the Virginia Park district said, do not identify with him, or their government, or their school boards, or their police departments.

It is entirely possible that only when interaction between all people in a city takes place will we be entirely safe from alienation. I disavow plans for alienation.

Could we have seen it coming? This is where we must be scrupulously honest. It couldn't happen in Detroit because they had been working for 24 years to prevent it. Two hundred fifty million dollars had been put into urban renewal and the poverty program.

But a recent survey in the hardest-hit riot area showed that 81 per cent feared being robbed and 69 per cent wanted to move out. Only 17 per cent of the residents owned their own homes, compared to 80 per cent in the city. That is a very high percentage of Detroit's Negroes were at the poverty level and

15 per cent of the whites. But the Negroes were concentrated—crowded into exactly the area that exploded.

The fact is that we should have seen it coming. Statistics but not only these statistics but eminent men who were warning us of the development of a new and massive class filled with dissatisfaction and frustration.

So we could have forecast Detroit. And certainly we can forecast that other cities stand in line for such havoc.

Were there outside agitators? So far no one has uncovered evidence that there were. But this is one area we must have a thorough investigation by experts—not with hunters. It may be that some of the participants will turn out to be from other Detroit.

But even if we find that we must realize that if these same trouble-makers went a few miles out of Detroit to, say, Grosse Pointe or Bloomfield Hills, they could have agitated and agitated, and there would have been no riot.

What is the lesson in Detroit? Many. But the most

important is that we must recognize the emergency that faces us just that. And we must understand that many of the solutions put before us will cost money. But riot cost money. About \$300 million in property was destroyed in Detroit.

Adding the business losses, the final figure may be fattened to \$1 billion. Early estimates only from the state and county—with city and federal figures not in—on costs of fighting the riot are close to \$5 million.

Faced with such book-keeping figures we must ask ourselves which is the better economy—prevention or re-

storage? We must move quickly and with a sense of urgency. We must develop new and imaginative solutions and be able to shrug off ill-fated projects and initiate better ones—just as we do with ill-fated Space projects.

This means a hard look at our War on Poverty—beef-

ing up the best programs and adapting the others so they will work better.

It means we will fail—and more than once. But we will also succeed.

Failure is no crime; it means that you are trying, and when you try and try, sometimes you succeed. This country has a good batting average on domestic projects. We have every reason to expect that—given the same dedication we have devoted to winning other wars, we can win this one.

That is one big message Detroit holds: That we must listen, learn and act.

But there is another—one many of us have been learning the past few years and which we must not now abandon: No group must be considered for the actions of its members. We must remember that it was an individual who tossed each fire bomb and another individual's home was burned. It was an individual who squeezed the trigger and another individual who was injured.

If we forget this—each man must be judged on his worth—we will go from one big to still more horrible disasters.

EDWIN J. GLEZA, Chief of Police

Rep. McDonald Tells Of Positive Steps

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following letter, written by 19th District Congressman Jack McDonald, discusses what action has been taken by the Michigan Congressional delegation in the aftermath of the riots in Detroit. The letter, by Mayor Cavanagh referred to in the letter include Federal designation of Detroit as a disaster area, which would qualify the city for certain types of aid in rebuilding.)

Editor: After reading your editorial this week concerning the riots in Michigan, I feel it is necessary to call your attention to some of the positive steps that were and are still being taken to assist the violence-ridden areas of our State.

"On Tuesday, July 25, the entire Michigan Congressional Delegation met to discuss the possibilities of securing immediate and long range federal assistance for the riot-stricken communities. There was widespread interest and deep concern expressed by all of the legislators, regardless of whether they were from the tranquil countryside of the Upper Peninsula or the burning streets of Detroit.

"At the outset it was unanimously decided that we would not make this disaster the basis for any political maneuvering. We agreed we were not going to become involved in any controversies that might arise between the state and Administration officials.

"Our sole objective was to determine what constructive action we as a group could take to relieve the tensions and problems in the urban centers of our State. After we reviewed the requests of Mayor Cavanagh and others, we reached unanimity in pledging our full support to help expedite the flow of needed relief to the cities.

"Now that order had been apparently restored, our next task is going to be working with Detroit officials in setting up priorities for the projects that will be required to rebuild that city. The bipartisan weight of the Michigan delegation will continue to be extended to the various bureaus and agencies that will participate in this redevelopment program.

"In reference to the disturbances in Pontiac, while I did not return to the district, I was in constant communication with Mayor Taylor who kept me apprised of the situation.

"Furthermore, on August 9 I will meet with Mayor Taylor, Senator Hart, and officials from the Federal Housing Administration, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development in an attempt to facilitate prompt consideration of the city's grant application now pending before these agencies. It is hoped that with the approval of these long needed projects, further unrest in Pontiac may be thwarted.

"I am very pleased with

the action taken by the Michigan delegation to assist Detroit and the rest of the State in their time of need. I am confident that this need for action will continue to help convince and promote many positive reforms in the future."

Sincerely yours
Jack McDonald
Member of Congress

Neighbors Lend Hand

Editor: After reading your story in the August 2, issue I chose to write. In your column it stated among those making contributions to Mrs. Palmater's home were Mr. and Mrs. Bodden. This is not true. However, we did do something on our own, but want no credit.

We do feel that you should know what our neighbors here on Collingham Street did.

At my husband's (Dundee Bodden) suggestion we went out collecting money from our neighbors to purchase food for the Policemen, Firemen and National Guardsmen who were working the clock around guarding the troubled area in and around Detroit.

We collected a total of \$41.50. Mr. Bodden then went to the Detroit Police station, 18th Precinct asking for a list of the things most needed for these men.

Then we purchased the following: Ham 10-lbs., Instant Coffee 3 1/2 lbs., Bread 20 loafs, Instant Cream 3 lbs., Butter 2 lbs., Sugar 2 Cans, Mustard 1 lb., Jar, Cookies-Cake 10 lbs., Book Matches 2 Boxes.

My neighbor, Mrs. K. Sonenberg helped me make over 250 sandwiches. We boxed all items purchased with the exception of Instant Coffee-1 Jar, Instant Cream 1 Jar and 1 box Sugar which was sent to our local Firemen and Policemen here in Farmington Township.

Mrs. Bodden took the things to the Detroit Police station, 18th Precinct. We (Dundee and Barbara Bodden) want no credit for this, as it was done out of the goodness of our hearts. However, we do feel that our fellow neighbors here on Collingham Street should at least receive acknowledgement for Good Citizenship.

Dundee & Barbara Bodden
21330 Collingham Farmington

Touring Europe

Frank Williams, 13380 Harrison, Livonia, is in Europe on a trip with Ford of Canada dealers. He will go to Geneva, Switzerland and Belfast, Ireland. Frank is the son of Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Williams Jr.

He is a 1966 Bentley graduate and presently attending Wayne State University where he is a member of the Men's Glee Club.

Likes Editorial

Editors: You are to be commended for the observation you made in the editorials of July 30. It would have been so easy for you to have lamented the situation, and proclaimed that things in our community at least have not been blackened or marred.

In a sense, many of us, including myself, have moved to the suburbs with the hope that we

might escape the growing problems of the city. You have helped to make it quite clear that things which happen to the central city do have a direct effect on us, and that in a sense, we are dependent upon the health of the city.

May you be granted the insight that you will need in order to continue with responsible news coverage and editorializing.

Rev. Ralph C. Ridout

Redford Twp. Chief Writes Notes

Thanks To All For Co-operation

Editor:

As Chief of Police of Redford Township Police Department, I wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the manner in which the people of Redford Township conducted themselves during the recent riot emergency. Without the community support, during the curfew hours, the effective patrol of the streets would have been impossible.

I realize that many were inconvenienced, but I feel that the lack of personal injury and property damage in the Township, attests to the fact that there was great concern for the safety of every

one, by every citizen of this community.

The lack of traffic on the streets during the curfew hours, made the patrol activity much more efficient. To those who were stopped and searched, I can assure you that the protection of the community was the foremost intent of the officers.

I also wish to thank all the citizens who offered their assistance to the Police Department. I especially wish to thank the members of the Redford Township Volunteer Police Reserve, who conducted themselves so professionally, while on patrol duty.

Last, but by no means

least, I wish to express my deepest gratitude to the many businessmen, housewives and organizations, who so kindly donated food to the police officers, during the long, tense duty hours. I speak for the entire Department, when I say, that your kind consideration, touched us all, very deeply. It is indeed, a great honor, to serve such a fine community.

In closing, I wish to thank the Redford Township elected officials, whose great concern for the safety of the community and Police Department, was reflected in their support.

EDWIN J. GLEZA, Chief of Police

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