SUBVERSIVE INFLUENCES IN RIOTS, LOOTING, AND BURNING
PART 1

HEARINGS
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES
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NINETEENTH CONGRESS, 1ST SESSION
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Mayor Torry was a Member of Congress in 1930 to 1934 and mayor of Los Angeles since 1931. His tenure in the California Legislature in the mid-1930’s gave him an opportunity to study the subject of communism. Since that time, the witness has maintained an interest in Communist activities.

In answer to a question concerning his opinion of underlying factors which caused the riots in the last few years, Mayor Torry replied:

I would certainly say that one of the factors is the constant repetition of inflammatory propaganda, the agitation, and prophecies conducted by the Communist Party within the framework of their sincere objective to break down the established government of the country, certainly for law and order, and to personalize, as they always do, this objective mainly in the police officers.

Asked if he believed these riots have been spontaneous or planned, the mayor said, “I think that there are some of both.” He added:

I think that the prophecies over the years has been so constant and at times very effective * * .

I also think there are some riots where subversive forces have actually planned * * * incidents that they would hope would spark a riot.

Mayor Torry introduced an exhibit into the record, a pamphlet entitled “The Big Lie.” The pamphlet, produced by the Los Angeles city government, contained a short history of the charges of police brutality over a period of 21 years—or since 1916, by the Communist Party.

The witness stated that law enforcement has been handicapped “by the reinterpretation, really the rewriting of the Constitution by the United States Supreme Court * * * .” He cited examples of the exclusionary rule of evidence, the rules of search and seizure, and the registration of known criminals.

Mayor Torry recalled that Lenin, in his writings, as early as 1902, had made references to police brutality and noted that he knew of no period in history where the “campaign against the police has been as effective as it is today.”

The mayor was asked if police brutality charges were made in his city during the Watts riot. He replied that an attempt was made “to blame the police for the rioting” and added: “This led to my unpleasant confrontation with Dr. Martin Luther King, who—

persisted in saying that the police were to blame for the riots. He went out and got before the cameras and everywhere and made that same charge. I felt it necessary to answer that charge and to tell him that it was very unfair to him to come out to Los Angeles and try to blame the police for the rioting for him to come out to Los Angeles and try to blame the police for the rioting.

Mayor Torry then stated that he did not “know of any case where an officer has had to be dismissed for brutality.”

The mayor noted that there were many people who made charges of police brutality whose motives was to discredit the police department and to carry on the so-called Communist struggle campaign to break down respect for the law enforcement officials and * * * eventually * * break down the ability of our Government to operate.”

The Los Angeles mayor said that:

Unfortunately, the nature of news is * * * usually negative. The bureaus make more news than the everyday hard work of law enforcement.

Mayor Torry saw a need for people to understand the Communist Party and its apparatus. He said:
The second question posed by the chairman is: "Whether or not Communism accepts and works with them in their efforts to achieve civil equality in this country.

In every country in which there exists a poor and submerged group in the country that is not the United States, the Communist Party has spent much of its appeal to the Negro population in the United States has been less than the history of Negro efforts to achieve equality is an indication that Negro citizens do not want to change the American way of life. The whole question of civil equality is one which requires the efforts of Negroes in American society.

The National Urban League welcomes this opportunity to comply with a request for information by a committee of the United States Congress. It is a professional community service organization in all areas which would further the interests of Negroes and other minorities in American life. It is nonpartisan and noncommercial in its leadership and staff.

[The Joint statement referred to on page 361 follows:]

From: Public Relations Department, National Urban League, 35 East 22d Street, New York N.Y. 1022, (212) 661-6022.

The following is the text of a statement issued jointly by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., A. Philip Randolph, Roy Wilkins, and Whitney M. Young, Jr., on July 20, 1967, and released from the headquarters offices of the NAACP, 655 West 56th Street, New York City:

[The statement is not transcribed in the image.]
and to accentuate racial lines. The riots and disorders of the past 3 years clearly highlight the success of this Communist smear campaign on racial lines. I say if you have anything to do with the Communist movement.

So, we have a pretty good authority there. I would say, certainly the best in the world, on the effectiveness of this campaign against the police.

Another statement before the Appropriations Subcommittee, which I am certain that you all recall, was made by Mr. Hoover on February 10, 1936. He said:

At a still higher level, the national headquarters of the party, on August 26, 1935, instructed the southern California party district to prepare articles in The Worker, an anti-fascist Communist newspaper. Special efforts were to be made to portray the "police brutality" angle. The district newspaper, the People's World, was devoted to the spinning in Los Angeles and its aftermath. Each article carefully followed the line set by party headquarters.

Mr. McNamara, Mayor Yorty, were police brutality charges made in your city during the Watts riot?

Mayor Yorty. Yes. An attempt was made, of course, to blame the police for the rioting. This led to my unpleasant confrontation with Dr. Martin Luther King. We had always welcomed him to our city on previous occasions and tried to work with him in the field of civil rights. But, during the aftermath of the rioting, he pushed out to Los Angeles and in a private meeting with some of his aides and our chief of police, Mr. William Parker, he began to blame the police for the rioting.

I pointed out to him that the police department of Los Angeles is run by a civilian commission; that they are actually the head of the department; that the police are from minority groups and, also, that one of the persons at the meeting with Dr. Martin Luther King was the father of a member of the police commission.

But he persisted in arguing that the police were to blame for the rioting. Then he went out and got before the cameras and newspapers and made the same charge. I feel it necessary to answer that charge and to tell him that it was very unfair for him to come out to Los Angeles and try to blame the police for the rioting.

Mr. McNamara. Your exhibit, Mayor, and various items that we have read in the Communist press over the years indicate that many charges of brutality have been made against the police in Los Angeles, as in the case of other cities.

Will you tell the committee whether or not any police officers in Los Angeles, since you have been mayor, have been dismissed for brutality?

Mayor Yorty. I don't know of any case where an officer has had to be dismissed for brutality.

We, of course, investigate every charge that is made to us of police brutality, first within the department, and then I have instructed our civilian police commission that if people are not satisfied with the action of the department that they can ask the commission to hold a hearing.

I think the best example of the big lie techniques was the case where one of the newspapers in Los Angeles, not a Communist newspaper, but one that circulates only in the Negro area, had a picture of two
SUBVERSIVE INFLUENCES IN PICTO,eloging, and Burning.

... as well as in the anti-U.S. struggle of the people of the whole world.

"The American Negro's struggle is by no means isolated. They will kill for ever more people."

Radio Broadcast, July 14, 1937.

"By its legality and its ruthless methods in suppressing the Negro movement, the Johnson administration has given a profound lesson to more and more American reactionary elements. This has greatly hastened their awakening. On the other hand, Negro leader, H. Rap Brown's speech, forcefully and positively replied to Johnson's threat when he gave a press conference and attended a mass meeting and said, 'He screamed that violence is necessary, and nothing but good. ...' His militant speech reflects the determination of the Afro-American masses in revolt."


"The swift and vigorous spread of the Afro-American people's armed struggle..."

The world, today, faces the terrible danger of a new world war.

"There is no longer any more hope that the U.S. ruling circles who are afraid of the Afro-American masses..."

"How many Afro-Americans have embarked on the road of combating police terror and armed struggle..."


"... and the level of political awareness of the Afro-American masses is daily rising."


"... and the level of political awareness of the Afro-American masses is daily rising."

organizers present virtually the whole of Harlem and the other New York ghettos soon being organized into tactical councils right now. Moreover, black councils firmly based on building councils would offer a natural base for the organization of self-defense.

SPARTACIST, MAY-JUNE 1944, P. 47

"The illusion of 'non-violence' spread by King and others is a criminal dis- crimination of black people, and is equivalent with the role of these leaders as agents of the power structure. The movement must strip these illusions away and for all and begin to organize the Negro people to defend themselves from violence."

SPARTACIST, MAY-JUNE 1944, P. 54

"It is the duty of a revolutionary organization to intervene where possible to give these ambitious [local political] direction."

HARLEM RIOTS, 1944

SPARTACIST, JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1944, PP. 4-5

"On this basis SPARTACIST raised early in July ... the bourgeois state now prepares to fight openly in the streets through its police arm against the incursions of the struggle. This prediction was strikingly confirmed on July 15 and the days that followed as race riots were a hurricane, specially trained elite police—the Tactical Patrol Force—swept through Harlem indiscriminately beating and terrorizing all who crossed their paths, while the mood of the ghetto made it clear that the killing of Bayard and James Powell by an effective police officer would not go unpunished.

James Robertson, SPARTACIST editor, discussing the role of the cops in creating the riots and in reference to attempts being made to blame the riots on Communists, said that 'unfortunately there aren't many Reds in Harlem now—but there will be.'"

REVOLUTIONARY ACTION MOVEMENT (RAM)

ORIGINS: Winter 1963

PURPOSE:

From the Ram Manifesto of 1964: "RAM was officially organized ** by Afro-Americans who favored Robert F. Williams and the concept of organized violence. ** One PURPOSE—To free black people from the universal clamps- 

chaeetor. ** One AIM—To develop black people through struggle to the highest attainable possible. One DESTINY—To follow in the spirit of black revolutionaries ** and to create a new world free of colonization, racism, imperialism, exploitation, and national oppression."

In hearings before the subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, on February 15, 1966, J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the FBI, described the Revolutionary Action Movement as a "Negro gang ** dedicated to the overthrow of the capitalist system in the United States, by violence if necessary, and its replacement by a socialist system oriented toward the Chinese Communist interpretation of Marxism-Leninism."

ORGANIZATION:

Less than 20

Freedom membership system cannot be stated within the clandestine nature of the organization. However, it should be noted that RAM does not seek mass membership. Instead, it operates on the principle of a tight-knit, highly selective inner circle of leaders who accept their time through initiation and sub-

version of other Afro-American groups, through streets, and through use of Negro weapon gangs arsenal in urban guerrilla warfare.

RAM has units in Philadelphia (same base), Boston, Cleveland, Chicago, Detroit, and New York City.

There are three levels of membership in the RAM organization: (1) field organizers, (2) active members, and (3) associate members."