

August 10, 1967

My dear Radio Listener:

I am reproducing a picture of the members of the new Presidential commission to investigate the riots. Keep this and this letter at hand for the day when their report comes to the public.

The same NEW YORK TIMES, August 6, 1967, which carried this picture, reported in a story under it that the President "had various Administration figures, including F.B.I. Director J. Edgar Hoover, assure the public that no evidence had been found thus far of any organized conspiracy behind the ghetto explosions."

NEWSWEEK, August 7, page 15, carried a picture of President Johnson at his desk, McNamara leaning over the desk, and J. Edgar Hoover with his hands crossed, standing just to the right. J. Edgar Hoover has informed Congress time and time again that the Communist conspiracy has infiltrated every area of our life, including civil riots.

John Dotson, reporter for NEWSWEEK, in his eyewitness account of Detroit August 7, said: "There can be little question that the streets were organized, despite official denials. According to one soul brother who guarded his store, rioters worked in teams to ravage several stores near him. 'First, a couple of boys on motorcycles would ride up and spot a store,' he told me. 'Then they'd leave and a couple of convertibles would drive up and smash in the storefront and grab everything. And, when they were through, one car would drive around the alley and then they'd both drive off. In ten minutes, the place would be in flames.' The devastation recorded was mute evidence of organization."

Victor Riesel, labor commentator, writing in THE POST-STANDARD, Syracuse, N.Y., Saturday, July 29, said: "The Office of Economic Opportunity (O.E.O.)" (anti-poverty) "and thousands of its tiny - sometimes store-front - headquarters are loaded with literature and promoters of street action. Some of the latter are of the new left, the independent Mao-ists, the Trotskyites, the pro-Peking Progressive Labor Party 'youth' and even Muscovite Communist Party activists including an occasional old time courier."

Even Drew Pearson admitted in his column that Detroit was a "model city" in matters of race relations.



RIOT PANEL: Members of the new Presidential commission to investigate city riots assembled last week at the White House. From left, seated: Roy Wilkins, N.A.A.C.P. director; Illinois Gov. Otto Kerner, commission chairman; President Johnson; New York Mayor

John Lindsay, commission vice-chairman; I. W. Abel, United Steelworkers president. Standing: Charles Thornton, president of Litton Industries; Rep. James Corman of California; Rep. William McCulloch of Ohio; Sen. Fred Harris of Oklahoma; Vice President Hum-

phrey; Kentucky Commerce Commissioner Katherine Peden; Atlanta Police Chief Herbert Jenkins; Senator Edward Brooke of Massachusetts; Cyrus Vance, the President's special agent in Detroit during recent riots; Attorney General Ramsey Clark.

Photographically reproduced, THE NEW YORK TIMES, August 6, 1967