



The Editor's Notebook

Snick's Agents of Anarchy Are Fomenting Urban Riots

THE RECENT riots in Atlanta offer convincing evidence that most, if not all, of the racial violence in our large cities has been organized and led by a small minority bent upon the destruction of our society.

My authority for this statement is Ralph McGill, publisher of the Atlanta Constitution, and long a moving and militant force for equal treatment of the Negro citizen as provided by law and the Constitution of the United States.

McGill places responsibility for the Atlanta disturbances squarely upon the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (Snick) and its leader, Stokely Carmichael. Snick, according to McGill, has no more than 300 members. These have been the agents of anarchy in Watts, New York, Chicago, Cleveland and other major cities.

Snick's beginnings were more auspicious. Its early student leaders were motivated by high dedication to the civil rights cause. Now the John Lewises and other responsables are out. Control of Snick is held by the extreme radicals, of which Carmichael is the dominant figure.

As McGill says, Snick is no longer a civil rights organization but an anarchistic group which is openly and officially committed to the destruction of existing institutions.

Though small in membership, Snick appeals to all haters of the white man. Its slogans of defiance intrigue the very young as was shown in Atlanta where the mob was largely composed of youngsters in the 12 to 18 age range.

the NAACP and Whitney Young who heads the Urban League have all repudiated Stokely Carmichael and his tactics.



THE CITY of Atlanta has long enjoyed an enviable reputation for racial amity. Ironically, it was Atlanta's splendid image that the destroyers sought to tarnish.

And yet, unwittingly, Stokely Carmichael and his followers performed a useful service not only for Atlanta but for the entire nation.

For here was stripped away the myth that Negroes are always incited to riot over poor living conditions, lack of employment and denial of civil rights.

Mr. Carmichael has now revealed himself for what he is—a scheming fomenter of disorder, a mad dog who attacks all whites indiscriminately, a revolutionist who seeks to burn and destroy, a terrorist who defies law and spits upon our flag.



THE RIGHT to peaceable assembly is guaranteed by the Bill of Rights, as is the freedom

to demonstrate and to seek redress of grievances.

Together and in a spirit of constructive cooperation, the Negro and white communities must find solutions and answers to the problems which beset our cities. For they are both numerous and difficult.

A major start has been made in many areas. Where failures have occurred, the Negro is usually as much at fault as his white brother. Suspicions, distrust and fear of association have worked against the Negroes' best interests.

But the effort must go ahead if we are to enjoy the fruits of a compatible society in which there is mutuality of purpose and respect for all.



THIS NATION will not, however, permit the destroyers of society—the Carmichaels and his ranting radicals—to tear down what we have built, to burn and destroy, to defy law and order with rocks and Molotov cocktails or to hurl anarchistic slogans and imprecations at our public officials.

The Ribicoffs and the Kennedys who continue to deplore "our tragic conditions" from comfortable seats in the U.S.

Senate should visit riot areas and seek to quiet the mob, as did Mayor Allen.

If nothing else, the experience might leave them better informed and not quite so sure that all social ills can be cured by dispensing a few hundred more millions from Washington.

Plus Ca Change, Etc.

TODAY'S election in South Vietnam is largely an exercise in propaganda.

Its purpose is to elect a 117-member assembly charged with writing a new national constitution. When that is done, a legislature is to be elected next year.

The election has been neatly rigged by the ruling junta. Premier Ky's generals can change any part of the new constitution unless two-thirds of the constituent assembly objects. This means the junta could control the assembly with a third of the votes, plus one, or 40 votes.

So despite efforts of the Vietcong to disrupt the election by acts of violence against those who participate, the outcome is assured. It will be acclaimed in Washington and Saigon as a triumph for representative government.



IT IS, of course, a first tentative step in that direction. But lest we attach too much significance to the election returns, these facts should be kept in mind.

1. The balloting is not a test between the Vietcong and the non-communist nationalists, for the Vietcong

Detroit Free Press

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

JOHN S. KNIGHT, PRESIDENT AND EDITOR

LEE HILLS, EXECUTIVE EDITOR AND PUBLISHER JOHN B. OLSON, GENERAL MANAGER

Published every morning by Knight Newspapers, Inc., 321 Lafayette Blvd., Detroit, Michigan 48201

michael is the dominant figure. As McGill says, Snick is no longer a civil rights organization but an anarchistic group which is openly and officially committed to the destruction of existing institutions.

Though small in membership, Snick appeals to all haters of the white man. Its slogans of defiance intrigue the very young as was shown in Atlanta where the mob was largely composed of youngsters in the 12 to 18 age range.

There appears to be no question but that Snick's funds are supplied from abroad. One of its lawyers is a registered Castro agent. Its agitators shout Havana slogans to the effect that we must live through violence. "Black power" is but the rallying cry.

★
FORTUNATELY for Atlanta, it has a mayor who confronted the mob with rare courage. Though physically manhandled and taunted with shouts of "white devil," Mayor Ivan Allen Jr., remained upon the scene until the crowd had been dispersed.

Mayor Allen gave short shrift to charges of police brutality. "I saw plenty of brutality," he said, "but it was all directed against police officers." At his press conference, Mayor Allen stated that "if Stokely Carmichael is looking for a battleground, he has created one, and he will be met in whatever situation he chooses."

Atlanta's Negro community leaders were quick to decry the rioting and violence. The Atlanta Summit Leadership Conference, a Negro organization, denounced both Snick and Carmichael, while calling for constructive measures designed to alleviate problems which directly concern the Negro.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Executive Director Roy Wilkins of

★
THE RIGHT to peaceable assembly is guaranteed by the Bill of Rights, as is the freedom

★
The Ribicoffs and the Kennedys who continue to deplore "our tragic conditions" from comfortable seats in the U.S.

Detroit Free Press

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

JOHN S. KNIGHT, PRESIDENT AND EDITOR

LEE HILLS, EXECUTIVE EDITOR AND PUBLISHER JOHN B. OLSON, GENERAL MANAGER

Published every morning by Knight Newspapers, Inc., 321 Lafayette Blvd., Detroit, Michigan 48211

2-B

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1966



★
assured. It will be recalled in Washington and Saigon as a triumph for representative government.

★
IT IS, of course, a first tentative step in that direction. But lest we attach too much significance to the election returns, these facts should be kept in mind.

1. The balloting is not a test between the Vietcong and the non-communist nationalists, for the Vietcong have been excluded, as far as possible, from the candidate and voter lists.

2. Charles Mohr, correspondent for the New York Times, reports that in two weeks of campaigning, the candidates have not discussed the war, how to win it or how to negotiate its end.

3. While there are no prohibitions against debating government war policy, the candidates are wary of standing laws that could punish those who "hampers" the war effort.

In Saigon's election district 3, some 200 persons heard speakers from 11 slates of candidates. "Not one," according to correspondent Mohr, "mentioned the war, inflation, the American impact on Saigon or how soon the ruling junta should step down."

The wariness of issues was rationalized by one candidate who said: "We must have a constitution as a legal base for our government. With a legal base, we can solve all problems."

So when you read the optimistic post-election pronouncements to the effect that democracy is thriving in South Vietnam, leave a little room in your mind for some wholesome skepticism.

The old French saying — the more things change, the more they remain the same — has specific application to Vietnam.

JOHN S. KNIGHT