



MANION FORUM

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THE NORTHERN REBELS

A few years ago, when certain politicians discovered they could attract Northern votes by promising to end segregation in the South, most people thought that civil rights problems were confined to Dixie. Northern Liberals took up the banner of "equality for all" in the South.

It was argued that State laws requiring segregation in certain areas of life were unconstitutional laws. Much was said about the thesis that laws which are "immoral" need not—and should not—be obeyed. (In the flurry righteously to disobey immoral laws, whole mobs of people sat down and blocked rush-hour intersections. Did they decide that traffic laws were immoral?)

The Northerners pontificated about the evils of the Southern "system." Demonstrations in Southern cities were televised to Northern audiences, who shook their heads and wondered how the people of Dixie could be so terrible.

And then it boomeranged. Today it is the North—where "segregation" is not legally imposed; where the "immoral" laws do not exist—it is the North where trouble is taking place. The action center is now in cities like Cleveland and Chicago and Los Angeles, and smaller cities as well. There are "demonstrations"—a gentle word for what has happened in some places—everywhere.

The leaders of these incidents would like the public to believe that the outbursts are merely the spontaneous reaction of downtrodden people. Yet, reports seep through the propaganda—reports of outside agitators who never set eyes on the local "downtrodden" people before. During the Hough uprising in Cleveland, there was evidence that many of the rioters came from out of town, and that they came specifically to create a disturbance.

The House Judiciary Committee is scheduled to launch a probe into the question of whether a pro-Castro organization had anything to do with the Cleveland incidents. The House Committee on Un-American Activities may hold hearings to discover the details of the "Revolutionary Armed Movement" (RAM) which is said to hold "Black Power" workshops in various cities. By merest coincidence, these workshops precede riots by a week or so. There is suspicion in some quarters that the RAM may be very much connected with Robert Williams, who broadcasts out of Havana in programs designed to agitate American Negroes into an uprising.

A side effect of the civil rights demonstrations in Chicago has been an alarming increase in crime. The police superintendent says this is due to the fact that the police force is obliged to protect the civil rights marchers during their continuous marches—and the rest of the city is left with insufficient police protection. The facts support the superintendent's contention: During the recent period of daily marches, serious crime increased in the city by thirty per cent. In other words, the time has come when a vocal minority can not only cause civil strife by invading private neighborhoods, but can deprive all citizens of police protection against assault, rape, robbery, and murder.

Perhaps it is time for the majority of citizens to demonstrate for their rights.

Quotes in the News

"...through some 15 Federal agencies administering some 70 programs, (the Federal Government) has invested 96 billion dollars over the past decade in city and State aid... We have all these programs and yet we keep slipping further and further behind... We are reaping a whirlwind of violence."

—Senator Abraham Ribicoff (D-Conn.)

"The riot-scarred ghetto of Watts will once again erupt in flames if the militant—and predominantly white—leaders of the Progressive Labor Party have their way.

"The PLP was founded several years ago by Milt Rosen and Mort Scheer, self-proclaimed revolutionaries who left the Communist Party, U.S.A., because they were convinced it was lacking in ideological zeal. Scheer, the newer group's vice president, is currently directing West Coast operations. PLP leaders are working closely with black nationalists to keep the Watts cauldron boiling. When a white policeman shot and killed a Negro motorist earlier this year, PLP agents turned out thousands of 'Wanted for Murder' posters that bore his picture.

"The handbills were distributed throughout Watts by white-hating Negro militants. These same black nationalists are now circulating a PLP petition entitled 'The Revolt in Watts and the Coming Battle.'

"This particular tome drives home the point that Los Angeles is 'the hub of a mammoth industrial complex... The greatest fear of the imperialist enemy is that the black people in the south Los Angeles ghetto will shut down the factories... The black people of south Los Angeles possess a weapon more powerful than 22,000 guns! And black people can choose their own time and places of battle.'"

—Bill Schulz, King Features Syndicate,
as quoted in Human Events

"The United States office of education has just reported to Congress its two-year study on equality of educational opportunities in the nation, and it's about as unsurprising as possible.

"The study concluded, primarily, that predominantly Negro schools aren't as good as predominantly white schools. Although the report itself contained no recommendations, the public statements of Harold Howe II, the commissioner of education, indicate what he wants to do. He wants to rearrange children so that as many schools as feasible will have some sort of 'racial balance.'

"That will not be easy for Mr. Howe. The fact is, a lot of Americans want their children to go to school in their own neighborhood—and for reasons that have nothing to do with prejudice...

"But Mr. Howe has a major weapon—spell it Money. The Federal Government is more and more a direct financial supporter of education; it is legally committed to encourage desegregation, and its leaders seem firmly convinced that they have the right and duty to use financial leverage toward that end...

"There may be something to lose in breaking up one of the keystones of American education. Such a course could help fracture the society."

—The National Observer

"Politics is a curious trade in which at all times it is the constant aim of its practitioners to have their cake and eat it too. This is the reason why President Johnson has thrust himself into the contradictory position of encouraging and discouraging civil strife at one and the same time. During his years in the House and Senate, Johnson voted against every single civil rights message that came before Congress... When Johnson succeeded to the Presidency upon Kennedy's sad and untimely death, he became the strongest supporter of civil rights in the White House... The official encouragement cannot be blamed for inciting all the civil strife that has followed, but it did not deter demonstrations."

—Walter Trohan, in the Chicago Tribune

All honest reports picture Watts as far from a Ghetto but containing street after street of neat, well kept houses