

The Commission's coverage on police conduct has long been implemented in the Atlanta Police Department. The rules and regulations of this department cover every phase mentioned in the report. From time to time, I am sure there are minor violations of this rule. I have instructed the District Supervisor to give cars in the slum areas of the City closer supervision to see that these regulations are carried out.

Selecting the right officer for ghetto duty was put in effect when our Crime Prevention Bureau and our Task Force was implemented. It has been a practice of this department to re-assign and re-train officers when poor judgement has been used and to credit officers doing a good job. We have not always put our finest officers in slum areas. We have always tried to give negro areas as good, if not better, police protection than white areas since most of these areas are where our high crime rates are.

The Commission reported one city report showed it took four times as long for police to respond to a negro area than a white area. We have instructed all of our officers to answer all calls immediately.

The Commission recommended that grievances by citizens should have some external review. We have an Internal Security Squad that investigates all complaints against police and reports directly to the Chief of Police and the Police Committee. A city attorney also is assigned to make investigations within the City government. The Grand Jury and Solicitor General has the

authority to look into any police misconduct. The FBI is also charged with this responsibility. I believe that any citizen can get justice from one or all of the above investigative bodies.

The Commission recommended written departmental policy for discretion and judgement in ghetto areas. Every situation that arises in these areas are different. A lot of these matters have to be left up to the judgement of the patrolman or his superior officer. Each officer is instructed when he has a situation that is in question to notify his superior officer immediately. This practice has worked successfully in the past.

The Commission recommended that we increase negro officers within our department and re-assign more negro officers in slum areas. This has been done. This department has hired all = qualified applicants for years without regard to race, creed or color. They also recommended the creation of community service officers from ghetto areas and that these officers be hired on a ratio of one for every ten police officers. We are now covering ten EOA Centers and we understand there will be 62 schools, 40 parks and 20 play lots made available this summer. To police these places, it would be necessary for us to have our allotted 85 community service officers by summer. Our Crime Prevention Bureau and these community service officers could work hand in hand and assist the neighborhoods in all City services. They are now working with school counselors on absenteeism and school drop outs, assisting youth and adults in employment, meeting with civic neighborhood groups and hearing and eliminating complaints on

police service and working with our youth in recreational activities. We might go one step further and also explain to the people the Police Department's enforcement program in an effort to show them that we are trying to better their community.

The Commission has stated that preserving civil peace is the first responsibility of the government. This we plan to do. They point out, however, we must not mistake a peaceful or lawful demonstration as a riot. Maintaining civil order is the responsibility of the entire community.

The initial incident in most cases started from routine arrest. How the police and community respond to and deal with such, may well determine whether they remain a minor police problem or escalate into a major disorder.

If a situation arises that has racial overtones, our officers are instructed to notify their superior officer immediately. They are also instructed to notify the commanding officer of the Crime Prevention Bureau to move his entire squad into the area and attempt to settle the disorder. We feel that these men have been working in these areas day in and day out and they know their grievances and complaints. If this fails, we then plan to move in our Task Force who have been giving these areas good, tough police service. They too, have been in and out of these areas each day and know the problems that exist there.

The Commission has recommended that the police, when sent in the areas, should know the underlying tensions and

grievances and we believe that these two squads do. Naturally, if these two prevention squads fail, the riot squad will follow.

The Commission speaks of basic factors and causes and mentions crowded ghetto living, worsen by summer heat and a large amount of young people on the street. They do not think these two problems could be remedied by the police. They also mentioned hostility to police which we feel that we are trying to remedy with the Crime Prevention Squad. They also mentioned delay in police response in negro areas and I believe that with the coverage we have in these areas now, this is not the problem here. Rumors and inadequate information in areas of this type always hurts the police. We plan to use Crime Prevention men, loud speakers and ask the news media for their assistance.

The Committee asks, "What are your control capabilities?" A survey by them showed that only 13% of the uniform patrol are on duty from 4:00 P.M. to 12:00 P.M. This is when 86% of all the disorders occurred. Again, we have tried to look ahead. Plus our Evening Watch Uniform and Evening Watch Traffic, we have our Crime Prevention Bureau and our Task Force working these hours. We place a high premium on prevention of disorders.

On training, the Commission survey shows that most police departments only give riot training to their recruits. The average hour training for these departments were 18 hours per man. The National Guard requires 32 hours per man and 16 hours for their commanding level officers. We have covered riot training in recruit school on a limited basis and given our older officers

Training Keys on riot training. The FBI has published riot and mob control in their bulletins. Our district supervisors have discussed with their men what action should be taken in case of a disorder. Discipline and command on the scene is one of our most important factors. You lose radio contact with your officers and they must be disciplined to stay within your command and carry out your orders. Rocks and bottles being thrown can provoke an officer into unilateral action. Of the disturbances that we have had in Atlanta, the same tactics were not used at each disorder. Depending on tactics used decisions must be determined by the commanding officer on the scene.

The Commission asked when should and how much force should be used? Should a looter be shot? This is something that is already covered by State Law. The commanding officer and sometimes the patrolman would have to determine this. The Commission does recommend however, that the use of gas should be used first in an effort to stop disturbance, looting, etc. Most departments have used what is regularly called "CN". The Commission highly recommended "CS" gas as do other riot manuals.

What assistance can we expect from the community? We believe that good law abiding citizens do not want riots and disorders. They usually pass information that they hear along to the police department. We have trained intelligence officers that keep us informed on tensed situations. Our Crime Prevention Bureau and our Task Force are in these areas daily and nightly and gather a lot of information from citizens. Community leaders

in the past have helped us considerably in minor disorders and we welcome their help. The Commission spoke of the police withdrawing from an area and letting community leaders try to quieten a disorder. This should be determined by the commanding officer on the scene.