

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Victor Palmieri
Stephen Kurzman

FROM : Charles E. Nelson

SUBJECT: Team-Produced Examples

DATE: November 7, 1967

Team members are currently producing selected examples, based on gathered data, to serve as illustrations in the interim report. Attached for your information are four such examples, showing our format and style.

Attachment



5010-108

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

EXAMPLE OF RIOT CONTROL PROCEDURE (NEW HAVEN)

The chief of police in one of the cities experiencing 1967 racial strife suggested to Commission interviewers a riot control procedure which he believed would help reduce looting of stores. During the riot in his city police supervisory personnel on the scene often made arrests using patrolmen assigned to guard particularly vulnerable stores. This procedure left the stores temporarily unguarded and allowed looters to enter. The chief suggested that on-the-scene police supervisors should be made aware of the hazards of such a procedure and instructed to make arrests, whenever possible, using men without specific guard duties. This simple change in procedure, he thought, would substantially reduce the likelihood of damage by looters.

References:

1. Interview of New Haven Chief of Police McManus, September 22, 1967, by Weiner and Waldman (New Haven Interview Reports A-2, page 10).
2. New Haven Draft FRR, page 65.

Prepared by: Dennis Barrett
Team Leader: Dennis Barrett
Date: November 7, 1967

EXAMPLE OF ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE DURING CIVIL DISORDER
(ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS)

Mass arrests are often incident to civil disturbances, and because a separate trial of each defendant is likely to tax the police department, there may be a tendency in some cases for the court to ignore the individual's right to a separate trial. For example, in one city the judge who presided at the trials of individuals arrested for disorderly conduct during the 1967 civil disturbance there stated to Commission interviewers that on several occasions individuals were tried in groups of three, four, or five and that selection of those to be tried together was made on the basis of their having been photographed together at the scene of the disturbance. The judge stated that this procedure was adopted as a practical measure to reduce the time arresting officers, whose testimony might be required at the trials, would have to spend in court.

Reference:

Interview of Judge Edwin J. Kotche, Magistrate Division, 17th Judicial Circuit, Rockford, Illinois, by John Boswell, October 13, 1967. (Rockford Interview A-2, page 2)

Prepared By: John Boswell
Team Leader: John Boswell
Date: November 7, 1967

EXAMPLE OF FAILURE IN HOUSING CODE ENFORCEMENT (TAMPA)

Enforcement of the local housing code can sometimes fail to alleviate a tenant's grievances. In one riot city, for example, legal sanction against a landlord violating the housing code consists of a \$25 court fine. It is often cheaper for a landlord in this city to pay the fine than to make repairs and very often he does just that.

Reference:

Interview of Pete Hevia, Director of Bureau of Minimum Housing Standards, Tampa, Florida, by Waldo and Birenbaum, October 4, 1967 (Tampa Interview Reports IA-8, p. 1-2)

Prepared by: Everett Waldo
Team Leader: Ike Hunt
Date: November 7, 1967

EXAMPLE OF NEWS MEDIA RELATIONSHIP WITH POLICE DURING
CIVIL DISORDER (TAMPA)

In one riot city, the news media set up offices in a room directly across the hall from the sheriff's command post, which was in charge of directing the operations of enforcement units during the riot.¹ The sheriff stated to Commission interviewers that news representatives, because of their proximity to the command post radio, could overhear all situation reports and reported all that they overheard as fact, without qualification or verification.²

References:

1. Interviews of Hillsborough County Sheriff Beard, by Waldo and Birenbaum, (Tampa Interview Report IA6, page 5)
2. Interviews of police by Waldo and Birenbaum, (Tampa Interview Report IA3, pages 11 and 12)

Prepared by: Everett Waldo
Team Leader: Isaac Hunt
Date: November 7, 1967